

Who are your Councillors?

Osborne Ward: Cllr Peter Lloyd (Mayor), Cllr Jane Rann (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Simon Walker, Cllr Michael Paler

North Ward: Cllr Margaret Webster, Cllr Stephen Hendry, Cllr Karl Love, Cllr Bob Packham

FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS:

at the Town Hall

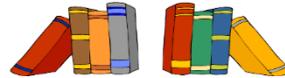
1st April 10.00 am Facilities, Projects and Events Committee

18th April 6.30 pm Full Council

Did you know?

- ❖ The Town Council employs a Town Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Facilities Officer, 2 Caretaker/Handypersons, a Toilet Cleaner and Library Co-ordinator and part fund an Environment Officer from the IW Council
- ❖ All employees are part time
- ❖ Agendas for Council meetings are displayed on the noticeboard outside the Town Hall 3 clear days before the meeting and the public are encouraged to attend
- ❖ Community groups are encouraged to participate in the Annual Town Meeting held on a date between 1st March and the 1st June – Look out for more news on this

Library Update



Things are moving apace with preparations for the relocation. Redecoration and electrical works are complete. By the end of February work had begun to cut through the new dedicated accessible library doorway. The Library service is busy organising the logistics for the move and shelving will be delivered to the Town Hall by mid-March. Along with 4 town council employees, 10 library volunteers gave up their time to take part in fire extinguisher training. The Library opening is planned for 1st April at 12 noon. Members of the public are welcome to come along.

Library opening hours will remain the same

MONDAY 9.30AM-12.30PM

TUESDAY 1.30PM-4.30PM

WEDNESDAY 9.30AM-12.30PM

THURSDAY 1.30PM-4.30PM

SATURDAY 10.00AM-1.00PM

Island Planning Strategy

At the Full Council meeting held on 21st February Councillors discussed the draft Island Planning Strategy. The Town Council have objected to:

The total number of houses the Government requires to be built on the Island and, specifically, in East Cowes; The Columbine site being used for housing development

The protection of a green belt between East Cowes and Whippingham.

Strong representations were made about preserving local green spaces in our town.

EAST COWES TOWN CRIER

Thank you to everyone who entered our newsletter name competition...hope you like the chosen name!

Opening of the Well Road Red Funnel car park



Thank you to Councillor Paler for the image above showing the official opening of the car park by Mayor Peter Lloyd on Friday 22nd February. It is hoped that this will ease parking problems in the town and be a useful facility for Red Funnel customers, local people and visitors.

“ROYAL” EAST COWES?

Councillor Michael Paler has been looking into how the town could be known as Royal East Cowes. Having contacted the Lord Lieutenants

office he has now received a list of criteria that must be satisfied. A working group to include Councillors and members of the community will be meeting soon to pursue this. More to follow.....



YOUR COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

Groups and residents are invited to join

Councillors for

A LITTER PICK

Saturday 6th April 10.30am-12.30pm

Collect your tabard, litter picker and bags from the town hall and help tidy up our town!

ENVIRONMENT OFFICERS

Robin Reed and Debbie Chambers are Environment Officers serving East Cowes. At the last Council meeting they reported on actions taken since November. Mostly related to dog fouling. No fines have been issued in East Cowes to date but, following a poster awareness campaign, it is hoped that future culprits will be fined. Intelligence from the public would be welcomed.



What every dog owner should know:

Under The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005) and Dog Orders made by the Isle of Wight Council a dog owner **can be fined £75** for:

- not immediately cleaning up fouling by their dog in all public open spaces
- failing to keep their dog on a lead on any road, pavement or verge
- taking or allowing a dog to enter a prohibited area such as a beach

If this is not paid a Magistrates Court can impose a fine of up to £1000. Most dog owners act responsibly – don't be in the minority.

The last month has been a busy one with several guests attending Council meetings to report on matters concerning East Cowes residents. Here is what they had to say....

WIGHTFIBRE AND ISLAND ROADS

Representatives of Wightfibre and Island Roads were invited to attend the March meeting of the Facilities, Projects and Events Committee to respond to concerns about their works in the town. John Irvine (CEO Wightfibre) explained that East Cowes was one of the first areas on the island to receive the network starting in Autumn 2018. He acknowledged that progress had been slower than they would have liked and apologised to residents for the disruption. Works are ending soon. The good news is the broadband being installed will serve the town for at least the next 30 years.



Kevin Burton (Island Roads Network Manager) explained the inspection process whilst work is in progress and at completion. He has been concerned that interim works have not been up to standard in East Cowes. Island Roads now have 2 dedicated inspectors covering East Cowes. He encouraged residents to alert Island Roads about poor quality or unsafe work by using their 24hour helpline (01983) 822440.

Community Groups



Community Spirited run 2 regular groups from Parkside Pavilion, Vectis Rd, East Cowes to bring people together.

Wednesday is the **crafty, knit & natter** day, making items to sell. All the money goes back into the community group.

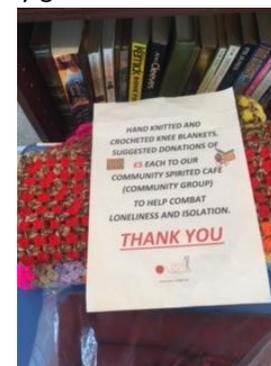
Thursday is the **older persons youth group**.

Traditional and new games and a bacon sandwich for an extra £1. Sessions are weekly 10:30am-12.30pm, £2 each session. More sessions planned. Why

not come along meet old friends and make new ones. Tel: 296592 for more details.

FREE Monthly Youth Group at St James' Church Weds 3rd April 7.00-8.45pm for 12-18years Interesting games, refreshments, new people to talk to and food for thought. Please come along!

Contributions to this newsletter from the community are welcome. If you are involved with a local group, project or event please email an article and a photo to: assistantclerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk



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