



## In this issue

Mayors Quarterly Report **P.1**

Meeting Guests Report **P.2**

New Library Activities **P.3**

## Mayor's Quarterly Report

Here we are again with news from East Cowes Town Council. I do hope you have all managed to keep safe and well during this last quarter with the stormy weather. At times I felt quite scared, with hail stones battering the windows, the wind gusts up to 70 mph and the torrential rain... I am hopeful that we have seen the last of this atrocious weather and we can look forward to good weather ahead.

Approximately 80 volunteers, representing 30 voluntary groups and charities, attended a tea party reception, which I hosted on behalf of East Cowes Town Council. The tea party, held on the afternoon of January 24<sup>th</sup>, was to say "thank you" to all those individuals and groups who voluntarily give their time on a regular basis to improve and enhance the lives of others. Organisations were asked to nominate volunteers to attend the tea party. All age groups from the community were represented from Beavers and Rainbows to the RNLI, Red Cross and Age UK. I began by thanking everyone for their dedication, time and commitment which was invaluable and, without which, the East Cowes community would be a much poorer place. A good time was had by all and, the volunteers who attended, said how nice it was to be recognised in this way.

Finally, to round off proceedings, I presented each volunteer with a certificate of appreciation for all their hard work and commitment, on behalf of East Cowes Town Council.

The Town Councillors have been discussing how untidy the town has become. This is largely due to the decline in services as a result of the IW Council reducing frequencies of the Island Roads contract. In an effort to keep our town looking smart as the gateway to the Island the Council have agreed to fund the provision of extra litter and dog bins, additional emptying of these bins and the cutting of the grass verges in the Town. The cost of this is covered by the precept we raise each year and which we consult you on annually. Details can be found in the minutes of the Full Council meetings.

It is clear from the results of our consultations that the community want the town to remain a clean and safe environment. We hope that these extra measures will make a difference which will be welcomed and visible to us all. Can I please ask dog owners to refrain from putting dog waste in litter bins. Island Roads have asked that dog waste is put into the dog bins provided around the town. May I also encourage everyone to use the litter bins. If visitors and workers travelling to and around East Cowes see that we are litter free, they are more likely to follow suit and put their rubbish in the bins provided. May I specifically thank the efforts being made by Wight Shipyard owner, Peter Morton, for employing someone to clear the rubbish around this area. It really does make a huge difference.

Please note the Annual Town Meeting – not a Council meeting but rather a meeting for organisations and groups in the town to celebrate their achievements, will be held on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April at 18:30 in the Town Hall. Should you wish to share your group's activities by taking part in this meeting, please contact the Clerk [clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk)

We shall be celebrating VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Friday, Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May. Various activities, lots of fun and entertainment to enjoy. Please read posters and pick up a programme of where and when things are happening at your local shops and Town Hall.

Please look out for the East Cowes Town Map, another project the Council has undertaken to assist residents and visitors alike. It will be circulated around the island to encourage more visitors to seek out our wonderful town.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Town Crier. If you have a few minutes to spare would you be prepared to deliver our magazine in your area? If you would please contact the Clerk, email address above, or speak to your local Town / Ward councillor. This would be so much appreciated – THANK YOU.

*Jane Rann*

## Council Meeting Dates

2020

Members of the public are welcome to attend. All meetings take place at East Cowes Town Hall. Time is set aside at the start of the meeting for public questions relating to items on the agenda.

### FULL COUNCIL - 7pm

2020

19<sup>th</sup> March

16<sup>th</sup> April

21<sup>st</sup> May

18<sup>th</sup> June

### FACILITIES, PROJECTS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE - 7pm

2020

2<sup>nd</sup> April

4<sup>th</sup> June

### PLANNING COMMITTEE -10am

Arranged from time to time as applications arise

Agendas are published 3 clear days before the meeting on the town council website and on the noticeboards outside the Town Hall, at the Bumblebee Play Area and at the Parkside Pavilion.



## Community Hub

Wonderful news! Planning permission has been granted for this project. The town council is meeting regularly with the architects to move this forward. It will be funded by a Public Works Loan and a s106 Grant. Watch this space.....

## News from Council meeting Speakers

The Town Council often receives requests from outside agencies, local charities and projects to share information about matters affecting the town. At most Full Council meetings there is a presentation from a guest speaker. Here is a summary of what recent speakers had to say:

### Environment Agency

A £5million project will be going ahead in East Cowes due to the flood risk along the Esplanade and town centre. This will include the erection of temporary barriers and the funding of flood resilience measures to properties likely to be affected. Some of you may have attended the Drop In session at the Town Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

### Slipway Plans

Representatives of Cowes Harbour Commission and UKSA are working on a proposed new slip way on East Cowes Esplanade. The Town Council supports the project in principle and 2 councillors were nominated to serve on the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee which has put the proposal forward.

### Age UK

Age UK came to speak about the Ambassadors scheme. The Ambassadors are a team of volunteers who spend a few hours each month raising awareness of Age UK services, distribute the quarterly "Living Well" newsletter, attend events and help with fundraising. They also advised the Town Council about the Social Prescribers. They are experienced professionals based in GP Surgeries - including East Cowes Medical Centre - who can help with practical and emotional support to help improve physical and mental health for anyone aged 18 or over. Ask your GP about what they can offer.

### Southern Water

"Unflushables" was the subject of their presentation all about how we can all help reduce blockages in the sewerage system. The awareness campaign hopes to address the problem of many items being flushed away or poured down sinks. If you attend a social or voluntary group, school or other organisation that would like to hear about this, take part in activities and receive goody bags get in touch via their website [www.southernwater.co.uk/keep-it-clear](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/keep-it-clear)

## EAST COWES COMMUNITY LIBRARY ARE YOU INTERESTED?



### READING GROUP

We are about to start a Book Club/Reading Group (or 2 depending on numbers).

The group(s) will meet once a month in the Library at the Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes

I would love to hear from you and whether you prefer for mornings or afternoons

A chance to exercise our "little grey cells" and chat about what we have read!



### RHYMETIME

We are also planning to start rhymetime sessions for babies and pre-school children in the Library

Bring your child/grandchild along

A chance to socialise and get involved in half-hour sessions once a week

## NEWS

### Crossways

#### Update

The Crossways Planning Application was considered by the Isle of Wight Planning Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllrs Hendry and Love attended in their capacity as Isle of Wight Ward Councillors. Planning Consultant Martha James spoke on behalf of East Cowes Town Council. The decision was deferred. iWight Developments are now considering how the details of the plan can be changed to be in line with what is needed in the town.

### New website launched

The new website is now up and running. Hopefully everyone is finding it easy to navigate. Please have a look and pass the word around.

[www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk)

You can find details of meetings, minutes and agendas, council documents, information about Town Council facilities, the town map, what's on each month and this newsletter!

## Getting to know your Town Councillors

Karl Love



Stephen Hendry



Karl is also Isle of Wight Ward Councillor for East Cowes and Stephen represents Whippingham and Osborne



## LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER FUN

The Paddling Pool is going to be refurbished during March by our caretaker and will be up and running by the beginning of April in time for some lovely late spring days.

There are many LOVELY OUTSIDE SPACES to enjoy in East Cowes as well as FREE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES such as the skate park, outdoor gym and Morris Barton games area. The town council makes weekly inspections of all the parks and play areas it looks after to make sure that they are safe and inviting for everyone.

Pictured here the Paddling Pool on the Esplanade and Bumblebee Garden at Beatrice Avenue.

## Classic Boat Museum Volunteers wanted



### PLEASE GIVE YOUR TIME AND EXPERIENCE

The Classic Boat Museum is run by volunteers. We need more! We offer a fun, exciting and growing opportunity for those interested in helping to preserve and continue the maritime story. We have two sites, a coffee shop and a restoration programme. If you would like to find out more please call the team on Tel:244101

## HOW TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Clerks Office  
East Cowes Town Hall  
York Avenue  
East Cowes  
Isle of Wight  
PO32 6RU

Tel: 01983 299082

Email: [clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk)

Website: [www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk)

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](mailto:assistantclerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk)

Copies of the newsletter are available from the Town Hall lobby, retail outlets in the town, Queensgate Primary School, Holy Cross Primary School as well as on the Town Council website

**DISCLAIMER:** This newsletter is produced by East Cowes Town Council. All articles are taken in good faith. We cannot take any legal queries resulting from these. Submitted articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Town Council. We reserve the right not to print submitted articles.