



In this issue

Mayors Quarterly Report **P.1**

Library Drop Off & Collect **P.2**

Community Support **P.3**

Mayor's Quarterly Report

The weather has been glorious this summer, as a town we have been through so much change and our lives taken over due to COVID-19. This pandemic has possibly changed our lives forever. It certainly has made me think more about our environment, how we treat others, keeping our family safe and appreciating all the ordinary things that comfort us every day which we take for granted.

As Islanders how lucky, in my opinion, having the Solent keeping us moderately safe. We have a beautiful island, with East Cowes, our fabulous seafront, being one of our most treasured possessions.

It was regrettable that the toilets/playpark had to be closed for a while, your safety was paramount, but East Cowes Town Council (ECTC) managed to open them, obviously with certain restrictions. Unfortunately we were unable to open the paddling pool this year, I know this must have been a disappointment to you, again the ECTC read the rules and advice under COVID-19. It was decided that your health and wellbeing was our first concern, we had no choice, but to remain closed.

I appreciate it has not been easy for some of you, hopefully you were able to take advantage of the East Cowes and Whippingham Covid Support Hub. The Government has recognised that all the hubs have been working first class with everyone working together. Congratulations to the volunteers taking part in delivering medication and shopping and specifically to Michael Paler as the Co-ordinator.

On behalf of the ECTC, I thank every one of you so much for social distancing and keeping to the COVID-19 guidelines. You all deserve an award in keeping East Cowes a safe place for all.

The Town Hall is beginning to open with some activities back for you to enjoy. During lock down the East Cowes Town Council kept going with council business by introducing Zoom meetings, which on the whole were very successful. As soon as we are permitted to do so, we will be resuming our meetings at the Town Hall.

The Town Forum is working on our Town /Neighbourhood plan for the for

the next 15 years. Thank you for letting us know your views via the questionnaire.

Red Funnel and the ECTC continuing chatting together to ensure the new yard works for everyone.

ECTC look forward to working with the IWC (Isle of Wight Council) and other relevant parties to shape Venture Quays into an area we can all be proud of.

The Community Hub/Library is moving forward at a steady pace.

Have you noticed the new dog/rubbish bins; DO NOT FEED the seagull signs; social distancing sign for those visiting our town?

Please read the notices on ECTC notice boards advertising our forthcoming meetings. Please come along. I hope to see you there.

Finally, keep smiling, take care and keep safe

Jane Rann

Mayor of East Cowes

EAST COWES LIBRARY



Drop off and
collection service
Town Hall main
entrance
MONDAY
10am - 1pm
You can order books
by emailing
eastcoweslibrary@gmail.com, or phone
718662 and leave a
message, or post a
request in the Town
Hall post box.

If you visit please:
Observe Social
Distancing

Use the one-way
system

Only 2 in foyer at once

Use the non-contact
thermometer and hand
sanitiser on arrival

Provide Track and
Trace contact details to
Library Coordinator

Place returns in the box
provided

Pick up bagged
collections from the
table



Community Hub

The Public Works Loan Application has been successful. It is anticipated that building work will begin by the end of the year. The Town Councillors are meeting regularly with the architects as decisions have to be taken about all aspects of the project. This building will be an exciting addition to the town.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS BY ZOOM

During lockdown the government brought in new regulations to allow town and parish councils to meet remotely. Several meetings have been held on Zoom by East Cowes Town Council and they will continue to meet in this way for the time being.

Meeting agendas are published on the website, Facebook and the town council noticeboards on the Friday before the meeting is due to take place. Members of the public are welcome to join these meetings as normal and details of how to join the meetings can be found on the agenda.

Planned Meeting Dates:

3rd September – Facilities, Projects and Events Committee 11am
17th September – Full Council 6pm
15th October – Full Council 6pm
5th November – Facilities, Projects and Events Committee 11am
19th November – Full Council 6pm
17th December – Full Council 6pm

HALL HIRE

The Town Hall is beginning to welcome back hirers to the town hall for regular bookings with appropriate covid-19 measures in place. Slimming World was the first group to return on 12th August and the Library ran its first Drop Off & Collection session on Monday 17th August. Although various other groups would like to return they are unable to at the moment as the social distancing regulations are unworkable with large sociable groups.

Currently the hall capacity is limited to 30 people with the exception of hire involving physical activity when the limit is 20. Anyone wishing to hire the hall needs to complete a booking form and sign special conditions of hire. A non contact forehead thermometer and hand sanitiser is provided in the lobby, only 2 people are allowed in the lobby at once and a one-way system is in operation.

East Cowes and Whippingham Volunteer Community Support Hub

Michael Paler, Coordinator has kindly provided the following update:

“We are at the end of the 2nd stage – Maintenance and Transmission. We have volunteers who are taking shielded people for a short walks and taking them to shop, as part of getting them back to some sort of a normal routine. Letters to the shielded have been sent to let them know what help will be available to them. Some hubs will be pairing up, due to the number of people making requests and numbers of volunteers available. We are still in a good position for volunteers. The IW Council will be looking at a plan to transfer the community hubs to Community Action IW when we reach the next stage - Recovery and Transition. A plan will be put forward with our volunteers.”

Information on how to access support is available on the East Cowes Town Council website www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk or you can call the IW Council Helpline on 823600 from 9 – 5 Monday to Sunday.

Getting to know your Town Councillors

Bob Packham (North Ward)



Simon Walker (Osborne Ward)



TOWN COUNCIL THANKS FORMER COUNCILLOR MICHAEL PALER

The Town Council was saddened to receive the resignation of Michael Paler and wish to place on record their very grateful thanks for his very valuable contribution to the Town Council. Michael was co-opted to the Council in October 2018 and he has also served as Deputy Mayor since May 2019.

Michael is a well known figure in the town and over his term of office has taken part in numerous civic and community events.



Michael represented the Town Council on a number of outside bodies including the Isle of Wight Branch of the Association of Local Councils (IWALC), Cowes Harbour Commission Advisory Committee, Floating Bridge User Group, Local Area Forum (LAF), East Cowes Community Partnership and at Cowes Town Council meetings. More recently he took on the role of Coordinator for the Volunteer Support Hub, which has been doing a fantastic job of supporting those members of the community who were shielding during the lockdown period. Michael is continuing in that role (see his update above).

The Town Council wish to extend their sincere thanks to Michael for all of his support and hard work on behalf of the Town Council, and wish him well in his endeavours for the future.

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that your Town Council has provided additional litter bins and dog bins around the Town and pay for more frequent emptying. They also pay to have the grass and rural verges cut more often following the reduction in service by the IW Council.

TOWN COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Would you like to take a more active role in your local community? Do you have a friend, neighbour or family member who has time and energy to devote to benefit your town? Following the resignation of Michael Paler the Town Council has a vacancy for a Town Councillor. It is an exciting time to get involved with all sorts of new projects in the pipeline. So, who is eligible?

- A local councillor must be 18 years of age or over and a British subject or qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of another Member State of the European Community
- He/she must also fulfil at least one of the following criteria: -

i) During the whole of the 12 months before nomination occupied land or premises as owner or tenant in the parish area, or,

ii) During the same period resided in the Parish, or within 4.8 k.ms (2.98 miles) thereof, or

iii) During the same period had his/her principal or only place of work in that Parish, or

iv) At the time of nomination be registered as a local government elector for the administrative area of the Parish.

The person should not be disqualified from being elected by reason of any disqualification set out in Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972, or any decision made under section 79 of the Local Government Act 2000

Would you like to represent your community, do you have good ideas and useful knowledge and skills to bring to the role? Are you interested in making East Cowes a better place to live, work and play? If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Town Councillor and you would like to know what is involved why not apply? The Notice for Co-option will be advertised in Council Notice Boards and on the website.

www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk on 25th September. For more details email the Town Clerk at clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor chains of office have recently been repaired and regilded by Thomas Fattorinin Ltd, a specialist company based in Birmingham, with very pleasing results.



HOW TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Tel: 01983 299082

Email: clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

Website: 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

Copies of the newsletter are usually 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 and Facebook.

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.