

## EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL

### THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY 2021 Mayor's Report

May I take this opportunity in wishing you all a happy, healthy 2021.

Working with the community is an essential part of our role and which, over the years as a Town Council, we have strived to achieve. May the Town Council continue to move forward with its various projects, supported by the community and in partnership with our many stakeholders. We have come a long way and achieved a great deal, and our journey is not yet complete. We have a number of exciting projects to tackle which we hope will benefit our community. Despite the challenges the pandemic has brought we have continued in our efforts and we need to thank all of our staff team, for their resilience and commitment, in supporting the Council under the leadership of our Clerk, Sue Chilton.

Sadly, Covid 19 is still with us. Vaccinations are taking place, with some of us having been called by the Dr's surgery whilst others still wait. Councillors, we need to reassure our residents and ask them to be patient and wait for the surgery to contact them. Many people are phoning the Surgery asking, "when will it be my turn"? The surgery is asking that residents **please do not** phone the at peak times about vaccinations, as this just delays other essential medical services. All the details about vaccinations can be found on their website and they will be contacting residents when it is their turn.

Lockdown is a difficult time for many of us. This is the third time and perhaps the hardest time, in my opinion, with the grey days and the cold, rainy weather. For those who are vulnerable and shielding it must seem never ending. However, East Cowes Town Council are extremely fortunate in having Michael Paler, coordinating the Volunteer Support Hub from his home. Ably supported by Cllr Love and his team of loyal volunteers. Not only are they dealing with requests for shopping and medication, but they are also now arranging transportation for our most vulnerable residents to receive their vaccine shots. I am sure I speak for the whole council and the community when I say a massive THANK YOU to Michael, Karl and the volunteers for supporting the community in this way. My thanks also go to all the many groups who are helping residents who are struggling, by phoning the lonely, writing letters, sending out craft packs and many other services.

I do hope everyone is trying to get their daily exercise whilst continuing to socially distance. I have been out most days, walking the streets and roads of East Cowes and Whippingham and have been saddened by the number of disposable masks and gloves I see discarded onto the roads and pathways. As a Town Council, in my opinion, I believe we need to deal with this increasing problem. It is extremely dangerous for anyone picking up PPE and these items not only damage our environment but endanger people and wildlife. PPE needs to be discarded safely and appropriately. Ideally placed inside a bag and left for 72 hours before leaving out for collection. If you see any of this hazardous detritus in our streets, please report it to the Clerk, so that it can be collected and disposed of safely.

Town Councillors we need to THANK our volunteer litter pickers for the wonderful job they are doing in collecting rubbish littering our streets and hedgerows.

East Cowes seem to have an increasing problem with inconsiderate dog owners who do not take responsibility for their dog's waste. It has been extremely noticeable on our streets lately. Again, may I ask that you report this to the Clerk.

The COVID rules are changing every day, and now that we are seeing a massive surge in cases here on the island, please encourage everyone to help the island and its health service safe by keeping to the rules.

I look forward to working with you all and achieving much during 2021.

Take care and keep safe. Jane