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Mayor's Report

Many of you will already know me but I would like to officially introduce myself as the Mayor of East Cowes. I was elected Mayor at the first meeting of the new council following the election in May.

Now that we are beginning to emerge from the pandemic it is an anxious time for some but hopefully, we can all start the journey into the new normal. The Community Support Hub for East Cowes and Whippingham that was formed to support people through the virus continues to operate and is planning to carry on until April 2022. I am hopeful that the people of East Cowes can look forward to better times.

At the June Full Council Meeting the Council received information from Kay Smith from Community Action IW about how in some ways the pandemic has brought people together. Following a successful bid for funding Kay has been appointed Co-ordinator of the Resilience Project for the Cowes Area (which includes East Cowes, Whippingham, Gurnard, Northwood and Cowes). This 18-month project is already bringing together organisations such as Mountbatten, Southern Vectis, Age UK and Sovereign Housing to support the vulnerable and those who have lost their confidence or mobility as a result of having to isolate at home.

I would like to bring your attention to an event that will be taking place at the Town Hall on Saturday 2nd October – “Meet the Neighbours”. 16 local employers are already signed up to take part. This will provide the opportunity to meet with local businesses (many of them operate across the globe), learn more about what they do and find out about careers. In talking to them about the event it has been clear that they are optimistic there is a bright future for our town. Please come along on 2nd October – watch out for more details on the Town Council website and Facebook page.

As we look to the future, caring for the planet must be part of everything we do. At the next Full Council meeting on 16th September there will be a presentation about a Sustainable Climate Change Garden for East Cowes. As well as improving our surroundings this will also present opportunities to for the local community to get involved – getting to know others and spending time out in the fresh air maintaining the garden.

The Town Hall is now signed up as a drop-off point for the Terracycle scheme. So far there are boxes in the

entrance of the town hall for recycling your bread bags and ring carriers. Hopefully once we have space in the new building there will be scope for increasing the number of different schemes that we can participate in. Mountbatten is the chosen beneficiary for points collected through the scheme.

As you can see from the photograph below demolition work has begun on the old town hall annexe and Osborne Road Toilets so that the building of the new Community Hub & Library can begin.



After many months of work behind the scenes completing the Public Works Loan application, designing the building, and gaining planning permission it is wonderful to see things happening.

*Clr Michael Paler
Mayor of East Cowes*

EAST COWES LIBRARY

The library continues to operate in the Town Hall until the new community hub is completed

Pop in to drop off and collect books!



OPENING HOURS

MONDAY
10.00am–1.00pm

TUESDAY
5.00–6.00pm

THURSDAY
9.30am-12.30pm

NEW Mountbatten volunteers “pop-in group” second week of the month 10am-12pm

Order books by emailing:
eastcoveslibrary@gmail.com

Phone: 718662

Post: Pop a request in the Town Hall post box

Community Hub Update

During July in accordance with the requirements of the Tree Officer the trees in Osborne Road were removed. They will be replaced with mature trees. Site fencing was erected and the electricity supply capped off. Demolition began in early August. Local contractors DN Associates were successful in tendering for the build. The site is challenging but every effort will be made to allow all the regular hirers and activities to continue throughout the build.



Town Hall toilets are available for the public to use from 8am-1pm Monday to Friday, the Esplanade toilets are open daily 8am -8.30pm or dusk whilst the new building is being erected. Red Funnel are also happy for the public use of the toilets in the terminal – these are available 24 hours a day. The Town Council has commissioned a local designer to produce interpretation boards which will be attached to the site fencing to keep the public informed about the project.

VOLUNTEERS NOTICEBOARD

Library Assistants Many thanks to all those who have helped make the Children's Reading Challenge happen this summer

Litter Picking: It was wonderful to welcome almost a dozen volunteers to a meeting in June. Everyone was issued with a high visibility “ECTC Volunteer” tabard, litter picker, bags, gloves, mini first aid kit and hand sanitiser. One volunteer was back within the hour with her first bag of rubbish! You are all doing a wonderful job. Thank you!

Community Cinema: Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest in volunteering for the Community Cinema. There have been a few delays in the installation of the equipment but as soon as this is completed volunteers will be invited to the Town Hall to learn more about the project and how their time and expertise can be used. Watch this space.....

A colorful advertisement for the pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast' at Amy White Theatre. The title is in large, stylized gold and red letters. Below it, it says 'The Panto' in a cursive font. The dates '11-12 DECEMBER 2021' are prominently displayed. A circular badge says 'Tickets on sale soon!'. At the bottom, it includes the Facebook link 'facebook.com/amywhitetheatre' and the location 'East Cowes Town Hall'. The background is a dark purple with white stars.

TOWN COUNCIL FACILITIES

York Avenue playground - safety surfacing installed



New equipment for Esplanade awaiting installation



Whilst the operation of the paddling pool this year has been challenging and frustrating for staff and disappointing for the public the Town Council is committed to improving this area for the future benefit of local people and visitors alike. Please take part in the forthcoming Public Consultation (see below).

COMING SOON

East Cowes Town Council
Public Consultation in the Town Hall
Friday 29th & Saturday 30th October

Due to the pandemic the Town Council was unable to run its annual consultation in 2020. Now it is back! The online questionnaire will be available from Monday 25th. Why not attend on 29th or 30th? At the event you will be able to have your say, find out more about what the Town Council does and meet your Town Councillors. Check the website or Facebook page nearer the time for more details.

When completing your survey online or on paper please provide contact details if you wish to be entered into the prize draw for taking part – a £50 Waitrose voucher could be yours!

Mural Competition Winner Announced

At the Full Council meeting in July Chris Ashman (Isle of Wight Council Director of Regeneration) attended to present winner Isabelle of Holy Cross Primary School with her Wight Card vouchers - £50 for herself and £100 for her school.



Mr. Ashman took the design away to be made up into a new sign for the wall at the corner of Columbine Road and Maresfield Road. Thank you to our local schools for their support and to all the children who entered. The entries were displayed during Library sessions in the Town Hall during the first week of the summer holidays.



Isle of Wight Council Public Consultation Draft Island Planning Strategy (IPS)

The public consultation runs for a nine-week period from 9am Friday 30 July 2021 until 5pm Friday 1 October 2021. The documents can be found at www.iow.gov.uk/planthewight.

For those without access to the internet a response form can be obtained from Isle of Wight Council or East Cowes Town Council.

Specific questions on the process or accessing any of the information email planning.updates@iow.gov.uk

What's On in the Town Hall?

Lots going on every week – visit the Library, why not try out line dancing, Zumba, Short Mat Bowls or badminton, pop in to the monthly Alzheimer Café, join the Canine Society, Bingo or Slimming World.....



The Short Mat Bowls club has just invested in two brand new mats! They are thrilled to be back in the hall on Wednesday and Friday mornings. If this might be something you'd like to try please pop by to see them in action sometime!

Southern Water Presentation

Keith Herbert (Area Manager, Southern Water) and Laura Moran (County Customer Manager (IW) Southern Water) attended the Full Council meeting in July and gave a presentation about the combined sewer system in East Cowes.

It was explained that water passes through a 12mm screen filter. Pumping out to sea only occurs when it is necessary to stop homes flooding. What is pumped out consists of 99% water and is a combination of storm water, runoff and household wastewater and has a dilution rate of 8.5 times. Everyone can do their bit in looking after the pipes by following the advice below.



What can I do?

Small changes can have a big impact

Clear your plates
Scrape any leftover food or grease and fat residue from plates, pans or cooking utensils into the bin



Use containers
Butter tubs, yoghurt pots or jam jars can all be used to collect cooled fat and oil – then just put them in the bin



southernwater.co.uk/keep-it-clear



Town Council Meetings and Events

Dates for your Diary

September

2nd Facilities Projects and Event Committee (6pm)

16th Full Council meeting (6pm)

October

2nd Meet the Neighbours – employment opportunities event

15th - 17th East Cowes Crafters Exhibition

29th - 30th Public Consultation

21st Full Council (6pm)

November

4th Facilities Projects and Events Committee 6pm

18th Full Council (6pm)

HOW TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL

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SEND US YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS!!!!

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 delivered to every household in East Cowes and available from the Town Hall lobby as well as on the Town Council website and via 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.