

Isle of Wight Councillors Report for January 2010

Paul Fuller

Independent Isle of Wight Councillor

for Cowes West and Gurnard.

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Surgeries:

11 - 11.30am, Thursday 14th January at the Woodvale Inn, Gurnard.

4.30 - 5pm, Monday 25th January at the Portland Inn, Gurnard.

5.30 - 6pm, Monday 25th January at the IW Community Club, Cowes.

6 - 6.30pm, Wednesday 3rd February at Northwood House, Cowes.

6 - 6.30pm, Tuesday 9th February at the IW Community Club, Cowes.

11 - 11.30am, Wednesday 17th February at the Woodvale Inn, Gurnard.

6 - 6.30pm, Wednesday 3rd March at Northwood House, Cowes.

Due to the winter opening times at the **Outlook Café**, my surgery is due to move to the **Woodvale Inn**. I would like to place on record my thanks to Daev and Zanna for being absolutely brilliant in accommodating me, and look forward to recommencing my surgery at the Outlook in the spring.

In the meantime, I look forward to meeting residents at the Woodvale, which I hope will continue following the Outlook Café reopening. Residents are always most welcome to come along and see me whether it is for any concerns you have, or just to chat; Also, I always welcome the opportunity to visit you at your convenience- This is what I am elected to do and one of my favourite aspects of your being ward councillor!

Planning Applications.

The revised application for Plot 3 on the **Brambles** site in **Egypt Hill**, was approved by the Planning Committee on 15th December by 5 votes to 4. Members of the Planning Committee who wished to see this application turned down, cited the fact

that the application would still dominate the street scene, albeit to a lesser extent to the Watch Tower, previously turned down by the Committee in August, whilst I argued that a property on four floors would set a precedent for future applications in this area.

However, members approved the application, as they did not consider that the four floors argument was not relevant to the previous hearing.

I am anticipating that in the coming months **The Moorings** revised application, at Egypt Hill and the **76 Baring Road** applications to be determined by the Planning Committee. I have requested the application at Baring Road, be called in given the interest made by the Town Council and local residents.

In Gurnard, Peru at **5 Shore Road** was approved on appeal by the Inspector, and failed to pick up on objections made by myself and the Parish Council. The only condition called upon by the inspector was for the applicant to replace the metal clad walls. The residential application for **Solent Lawns** is due to be heard later this month.

Adverse Weather.

The snow falls in January saw both Cowes and Gurnard grind to a halt.

The Council focused its efforts to first clear the primary links between the main town centres of snow, and this was followed by the clearance of the same roads from ice.

Queens Road and Egypt Hill were closed by the police following icy conditions and six days on from the initial snowfall, Rew Street is due to be reopened. I received requests to make Cockleton Lane and Church Road safe, following Gurnard School reopening.

Prior to the Christmas Break, I reported pot holes in Parklands Avenue and were surprised to find these were fixed within two hours of being reported.

Because of the Christmas break, the weather conditions and the potential effects which the thaw is likely to have upon highway conditions, there remains a number of highways matters locally which remain outstanding. I ask that residents are patient and mindful of how busy the Highways Department are, and look forward to a respite in the weather conditions, to allow these long-standing issues to be resolved. If residents can advise me of pot holes which appear following any thaw(!), please let me know so these can be reported as a matter of urgency.

Parental Parking, Cowes Primary School.

Before Christmas, I received a number of complaints from residents of Edinburgh Close and surrounding roads about bad parental parking.

I have contacted the police about some of the problems and am building up a constructive relationship with the new Head Teacher, who has surpassed even my wildest expectations in tackling this problem.

In the longer term, I am hopeful that I can call a meeting between residents, the school, the Police and the Council. In the meantime, I am anxious to see with what success the new Traffic Orders will be met. I am also intending to investigate the practicalities on providing some street lighting for Blackberry Lane.

Crossfield Avenue.

Last month, I reported that I had received a complaint concerning a fence which had been erected between properties on the Crossfield Estate.

With the Crossfield Estate, there seems to be several anomalies that have arisen. One such anomaly is that within the context of title deeds, residents are not permitted to park off the highway. I have requested clarification about this and other established uses which have arisen over the passage of time, and where this leaves residents who live on this Estate.

Do the Planners have a view, and what are these and could this change the future character of this and other open planned areas on the Island? I am still awaiting a response...

Independent Group.

In December, I took over as the Co-ordinator of the 10 strong Group of Independents. This position is to be alternated between members on a 6 monthly basis, and will prove to be challenging for me!

Refuse Collections.

The Council advises household refuse should not be left on the road side until 7am on the day of collection. If refuse is left out too early residents can be given a fixed penalty. In exceptional circumstances it may be recognised householders may need to leave refuse out (after 7pm) the evening before. If this is the case, please ensure refuse is contained in a dustbin to deter animals.

Gurnard School Site Community Asset Transfer.

The second meeting of the Working Party tasked into investigating options for the Gurnard School site, if the Isle of Wight Council considers this surplus to its requirements, once the school relocates in 2011.

Members of the working party are investigating the commercial viability of options which include the creation of a Community Hub/ Village Hall/ Post Office, Affordable Housing Project, Allotments/ Market Garden Scheme and creating a Family Learning and Pre-School facility whilst maintaining (or not) the swimming pool. Please let me know if you require further information.

Street Mapping.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Forum have completed their consultation in Gurnard. Gurnard's priorities focus very much on Parking, Speeding and other concerns which

relate to highways and transport issues. A fuller report on this features will feature in Gurnard News.

The Police are currently undertaking a survey on behalf of residents of Cowes. Once I have details of the findings and how the Isle of Wight Council are likely to deal with these, I'll let residents know.

Combating Junk Mail/ Telephone Services.

Although No Cold Calling has been rolled out throughout Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood. I still receive complaints from residents concerning Junk Mail and Telesales. By enrolling with the Mailing Preference Service and the Telephone Preference Service can prevent a great deal of unsolicited mailings being sent to residents.

Residents can apply to be taken off mailing lists by contacting the Mailing Preference Service direct on:

Mailing Preference Service (MPS), DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London, W1W 8SS; By phoning the MPS Registration line on **0845 703 4599**, or by accessing the website www.mpsonline.org.uk

Residents can apply to be taken off telesales lists by contacting the Telephone Preference Service direct on:

Telephone Preference Service (MPS), DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London, W1W 8SS; By phoning the MPS Registration line on **0845 070 0707**, or by accessing the website www.tpsonline.org.uk

Don't risk broken bones during the bad weather.

(Email received from IW Council Communications Team)

With temperatures staying near freezing and roads and paths covered in ice, NHS Isle of Wight continues to urge local residents to stay in, keep warm and not to go out.

Mary Bound, A&E Matron at St. Mary's Hospital said: "I'd urge Islanders and visitors to think twice before venturing outside during this bad weather.

If people do need to go out I'd ask them to be very careful and ensure they are wearing appropriate footwear. We had 70 people attend A&E on Friday (8th January) of which 45 were the result of slipping on the ice. The same pattern was repeated on Saturday 9th January. A fracture can have a major impact on your life. You'll be in plaster for at least six weeks and will then need rehabilitation for a couple of weeks, so that could mean you are out of action for two months. A broken ankle could see you out of action for three or four months. So please think about the repercussions on your life before stepping out in the freezing conditions.

Be safe and only go outside if you really need to."

During this bad weather it is important to remember:

- Stay in and only go out if it is urgent. Many injuries, such as broken bones, can potentially be avoided if you stay away from icy paths.
- Only call 999 if it is a genuine emergency.
- Outpatient appointments and community clinic appointments were cancelled on Monday 11th January unless you have been advised directly by your nurse or doctor to attend. Only travel to appointments, such as GP and hospital appointments, if it is safe to do so. If you can't get there safely your appointment will be rearranged.
- There is a range of NHS service you can contact for advice or treatment.
- Keep a watchful eye on any vulnerable neighbours, friends and family.

For life threatening emergencies, always call 999. For less urgent matters, it is important to be aware of the choice of local NHS non-emergency services available including:

- NHS Direct - for round the clock, confidential health advice. Tel: 0845 4647 or log on to www.nhs.uk
- Your local Pharmacy - for expert advice on common illnesses and the best medicines to treat them. Keeping a well stocked medicine cabinet can help with self treatment of minor illnesses.
- GPs - providing a range of services by appointment, including medical advice, examinations and prescriptions for illnesses.
- If you need to see a dentist urgently, please contact the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Dental Helpline on 0845 050 8345.
- Out of hours the Island Health Line can be contacted on 0845 6031 007.
- The Beacon Health Centre - for treatment of minor injuries such as cuts, stings, muscle and joint injuries without an appointment – 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week.
- Accident & Emergency (A&E) or 999 - for serious and life-threatening emergencies. If someone is seriously ill and in need of immediate emergency care, call 999 and ask for the ambulance service.

District Nurses are making essential visits only. These include essential injections, syringe drivers, catheters. Patients requiring an essential visit will be seen at some point today - District Nurses are travelling on foot. District Nursing arrangements will be reviewed daily. Anyone concerned can contact the District Nursing Team on 552456. Some practical steps which Islanders can take to minimise the risks to themselves during periods of cold weather:

- Have regular hot drinks and at least one hot meal a day. If possible, eating regularly helps to keep energy levels up during winter.
- Wear several light layers of warm clothes
- Keep as active as possible
- Remember to wrap up warm if you need to go outside on cold days.