



Autumn Edition 2017 from Councillor Paul Fuller – Cowes Town Mayor Tel: 289595

In May, it was an unexpected honour to be appointed as the thirteenth Town Mayor of Cowes!

Following May's Election the Town Council bid a fond farewell to a former long standing Councillor and Mayor, Geoff Banks, as well as our Deputy Mayor, Mark McNeill and former Town Councillors John Corby and Jacqui Spalding. From the Town Council's perspective, I wish to say thank you to our current Councillors and my Mayoral predecessor Cllr David Jones for their ongoing enthusiasm!

Since then it has proved to be a hectic few months for both myself and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox, who was also appointed as Chairman of the Isle of Wight Council.

During the summer, Cowes commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Blitz, where the ORP Blyskawica defended our town from the events of 1942. In addition, our town has enjoyed an eventful Cowes Week, Round The Island race, Fastnet race and the Cowes Classic Powerboat Festival.



In addition to our links with Deauville, friendship links between Cowes and Chesapeake, Maryland (commemorating the Ark and Dove's stay in Cowes before sailing to America in 1633) were strengthened, whilst friendship links between Cowes and Bulls, New Zealand have been forged.

Cowes Week enabled myself, Lora and others to talk to the sponsors, and promote our town! At this year's Mayor's Reception I had the opportunity to say a very big thank you to local residents who go above and beyond the call of duty supporting their neighbours and our wider community!

Myself and Councillor colleagues enjoyed the opportunity of listening to and meeting shopkeepers and businesses in town during the distribution of our Cowes Cashpoint updates. Following feedback received, this has assisted strengthening links between our Town Council, the business community and stakeholders using and visiting our town.

I also had the pleasure of joining the Lord Lieutenant and other dignitaries when visiting the team at Cowes manufacturer, Spinlock who were presented with the Queen's Award for Enterprise, in recognition of the development of their Deskvest Lifejacket. Well done, to all concerned!



On a sadder note, we experienced the loss of both banks and the Post Office counter service from our town centre, as well as the frustrating delays on the redeployment of the new Floating Bridge.

Since funding for public services from the IW Council has become more limited, I'm very proud that Cowes Town Council has willingly stepped up to the plate to support our Green Spaces, our public toilets, Environment Officers and our Library.

What I've noticed since these issues have arisen, is the desire, enthusiasm and resilience of the Town, its residents and businesses to work together to support our town's growth and to find solutions. As Mayor, I would like to pay a huge debt of gratitude to residents for their support and patience.

Finance, Acquisitions and Staffing Committee Report Cllr Amanda Glendinning Tel: 243169

Cowes Town Council has now taken over responsibility for funding public toilets and the Library in Cowes. This is a significant financial commitment for the Town, but our members agree it is important to make. It is likely that financial support for other services may be considered in the future.

The Committee considers recommendations for funding from the Projects Committee (see Cllr Taylor's report) and has supported the Tree Planting programme (£1,250) and urgent maintenance of the toilets (£1,500), as well as smaller sums such as £50 to follow up the recent Town's Access Audit.

In partnership with the IW Council, the Town Council provided 50% funding for six new metal picnic benches at Mornington Green to replace the badly damaged plastic ones. We will also take over future maintenance of the new benches. We hope this will enable residents and visitors to continue to enjoy the picnic area and the fantastic views over to the beach and beyond.

Funds are set aside for capital projects to support 'The Cut', with any balances being held for other capital projects. A programme of works for maintenance and upgrading of the public toilets in Cowes is being prepared and funds are set aside to support these works. If you have any suggestions for projects the Council might support in the future, short or long term, please let us know!

We want to continue to support local organisations and allocate an amount specifically for grants in the budget each year. We welcome applications for consideration from groups whose aim is to improve our local community. Applications can be for all or part of an event, project, activity or item. There is a simple application process and details can be found on the website. If you need assistance to complete the application or have any queries, please contact our Town Clerk.

Grants have been awarded this year to the IW Literary Festival's Youth Zone Programme - £5,000, the British Power Boat Club - £2,000 and the Cowes Open Bowls Tournament - £400, as well as others.

Cowes Town Council Approved Budget 2017-2018.

Item	Budget	Item	Budget
INCOME: Precept and Grant	£244,700	EXPENDITURE: Discretionary Services	
EXPENDITURE: General Administration		Northwood Rec. Grounds Maintenance	£7,400
Town Clerks' Salaries/ NIC/ Tax/ Pension	£30,000	Northwood Rec. Skate Park/ MUGA	£5,000
Office Rent	£6,600	Maintenance	
Office Cleaner/ Sundry Expenses	£1,000	Northwood Rec. Toilets. Cleaning, Elec etc.	£10,000
Stationary & Office Supplies/ Software	£1,000	Northwood Park. Grounds Maintenance	£10,000
Office Equipment/ Photocopier	£1,000	Northwood Park. Toilets - Cleaning only	£4,000
Telephone/ Broadband and Website	£2,000	Northwood Park/ Cowes Area Dog/ Litter	£5,000
Postage	£500	bins	
Travelling	£400	Other Grounds Maintenance, Cowes	£4,900
Conference Fees	£600	4 x Public Toilets Cleaning/ Other Costs	£48,000
Training	£500	Cowes Library: Proposed Contribution	£22,400
Hire of Meeting Rooms	£500	Cowes In Bloom	£4,000
Subscriptions	£1,500	Environment Officer	£2,600
Insurance	£1,300	Community Bus Contingency	£1,500
Audit and Accountancy	£1,500	Discretionary Services Contingency	£12,000
Mayor's Allowance	£2,000		
Newsletter	£4,000		
Elections/ Admin Contingency	£2,500		

		EXPENDITURE: Town Improvements/ Grants/ Events	
		Street furniture maintenance	£2,000
		Civic/ Festive Lighting/ Xmas Trees	£16,000
		New Projects	£4,000
		Grants	£20,000
		Destination Cowes marketing budget provision	£5,000
		Remembrance Sunday and Charity Donations	£1,500
		The Big Lunch	£2,500
		Total	£244,700

Budget 2018-2019: Please let us know your views!

Discussions will begin in the autumn for next year's budget and we want to know your comments, suggestions and proposals as to what our Council's financial priorities should be. Please tell us your thoughts, and we will ensure your views are considered.

Projects Committee Report Cllr Paul Taylor Tel: 295222



This Committee embraces a wide spectrum of town improvements. A snapshot look at important projects include: -

The Cut: After many years, we are well on the way towards providing a pedestrianised area adjacent to the High Street with delivery access. Benefits from that include possibilities of market stalls and a Christmas market.

At **Mornington Green** six Picnic Benches were replaced.

On Cowes seafront along **Egypt Esplanade** our new shelter has received positive feedback from residents and visitors.

Former Mayor of Cowes, Mr Geoff Banks, performed the official opening of the Shelter on Saturday 1 July.



Northwood Recreation Ground. At the **Skatepark** recent defects were notified and the required repairs are being costed. The planned addition of a Junior Skatepark has been put on hold while this is being done.

Thanks to the continued efforts of Cllr Linda Brown, Northwood Recreation Ground now boasts a beautifully equipped **Outdoor Gym** for use by youths and adults. PLEASE NOTE this equipment is not suitable for children under the height of 4 feet 7 inches. If young children are using this equipment we ask that they must be supervised. The Town Council is not responsible for accidents caused by disregarding this notice. The Gym was installed and will be maintained by Cowes Town Council.



Tree Planting and Appreciation: We have a member of the Town Council specifically tasked for this important project. We are awaiting delivery of 5 trees for Northwood Park which has been agreed by the Northwood House Park sub-committee: 3 unusual Oaks, a Ginkgo Biloba and a weeping Copper Beech. Another delivery is being planned for The Green in Crossfield Avenue and Northwood Recreation Ground.

Tree Appreciation was promoted by talking to years 5 and 6 at Lanesend Primary School, combined with a practical exercise where children draw or stick "leaves" to an A3 bare tree picture.

November 6th 2017 is the 800th anniversary of The Charter of the Forest, which Henry III issued as an accompaniment to the Magna Carta. Government policy has paid little attention to trees and woodland in their planning policies over the years. The Woodland Trust, backed by 70+ environmental organisations will launch a major offensive against this trend and will plant a tree for every leaf drawn by a child. Adults can sign the Tree Charter with the same effect.

Access Audit of the Town: An excellent audit of the town to look at disabled access was undertaken by Isle Access and the results have been sent to the IW Council and Island Roads.

Planning Update Cllr Paul Fuller Tel: 289595

Cowes Town Council's Planning Committee continues to meet regularly to consider Planning Applications. These are referred to the IW Council's Planning Department who has the final say on applications.



Recently, myself and Planning Committee Chairman, Cllr David Jones responded to a consultation for potentially revising the Island Plan.

Following recent feedback, the Town Council referenced comments to safeguard Cowes' Maritime Industries and Green Spaces whilst concerns were expressed regarding infrastructure and the requirement for developers to contribute towards schemes.

Floating Bridge Update Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox Tel: 645765

I attended a recent meeting with Cllr Neil Oliver, East Cowes Town Council, the Leader of the IW Council and Senior Staff where the following was stated:

The FB 6 is not working. 'It is not fit for purpose'. During the commissioning process, 'problems' were found. A number were able to be 'tweaked' but others needed more work. The key issue is the chains and the tensions, particularly at certain tides, whilst the noise on landing, especially at Cowes, is still an issue, as is for some low cars. A decision was taken to 'take it out of service' until all issues are corrected. At a budget setting meeting it was stated that the FB 6 replacement, the Jenny Lee, was costing a lot of money.

The priority of the IW Council was to ensure children and core workers could cross. The Senior Officer agreed a Ferry Taxi would be allowed to operate at other times to fill the gap.

There is a review process imminent to work out exactly what has gone wrong.....!

Price Waterhouse Cooper have completed their report. This is with the Executive Member at the IW Council, Cllr Ian Ward, and a briefing will take place with the Leader and Chief Executive.



BTCG (the designers), Mainstay (builders of FB6), the Chief Executive and the Council's Leader will co-operate with one another to address the issues. All part of the review above.

The money for FB 6 was government money from Solent Local Economic Partnership and they are also asking questions. The Leader also agreed to address, as part of the review, the 20 questions from local residents in East Cowes.

At a recent meeting of Cowes Town Council, as the local IW Councillor, Cllr Lora Peacey Wilcox was requested to meet with East Cowes representatives to be kept informed on how things are progressing, and to ensure we are all working together for a solution.

We would like to thank Red Funnel for stepping in to sponsor the additional evening crossings for the Water Taxi for a one month period. Thank you to residents on both sides of the River for their patience.

Cowes Library - A Community Hub For further details contact Joyce Blizzard Tel: 293341

Cowes Library has been serving residents and visitors of our town for over 75 years. It is a hub for the community, filled with activities, information, clubs and hire space, while fulfilling the needs of locals and visitors not only through maritime, local, community and tourist information, offering both free internet access and wifi facilities. This service is supported by Cowes Town Council in partnership with the IW Council.

In recent years the staff, Joyce and Adam, with support from the Supporters of Cowes Library, have created a central hub with events for residents of all ages that help with confidence, health and well-being, information support and lots more!

What the Library Offers:

Books, DVD's, Spoken Word CD's, audio-plays, Story-times, Rhyme times, internet access, printing, photocopying, reading groups, clubs, tourist information, community news, health signposting, workshops, school visits, museum days, quiet work space, Maritime Museum, Maritime Collection, Green garden waste bags...

WEEKLY EVENTS	FORTNIGHTLY EVENTS	MONTHLY EVENTS.
Cowes Manga Club (Monday) Rhyme Time (Tuesday) Story Time (Saturday)	Adult Cards & Games Club (Monday)	IOW Volunteer Centre- 1 st Monday Children's Games Club 1 st Saturday Colouring Club- 2 nd Friday Lego Club- 4 th Saturday Philo Café- Various dates.



Opening Times

Monday: 10am-12:30pm and 1:30- 5pm
Tuesday: 10am-12:30pm and 1:30- 5pm
Wednesday: Closed.
Thursday: Closed.
Friday: 10am-12:30pm and 1:30- 5pm
Saturday: 10am-12:30pm and 1:30- 4:30pm
Sunday: Closed.

Supporters of Cowes Library: Volunteer Roles

The Supporters of Cowes Library are seeking volunteers to support staff and activities at our library. These include members to join:

- **The General Committee**
- **Children's Activities Assistant - Supporting library staff.***
(To assist demand, especially during school holidays. These include crafts, storytimes, Lego/Games Clubs)
- **Rhymetime Assistant - Supporting library staff.***
(To assist parents and carers to interact with babies and toddlers using rhymes and songs)
- * *Please note children are always accompanied by a responsible adult*
- **Digital Skills Assistant - One to One Support**
(Passing on skills helping residents to enjoy life on line)
- **Job Club Assistant - Supporting library staff.**
- **Refreshments / Tea and Coffee Mornings Volunteer**
- **Event / Activity Organiser**



75th Anniversary Commemoration of the defence of Cowes By former Cllr, Geoff Banks

The 4th - 7th May 2017 welcomed commemoration events celebrating the defence of Cowes and East Cowes by Cowes built Polish destroyer **ORP Blyskawica** in May 1942, as organised by **The Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society**.



The Polish **ORP Gniezno**, a large tank transporter, entered Cowes waters for the duration of this event which brought to Cowes and East Cowes some 21 public events.

Cowes and East Cowes Town Councils provided support for these historic commemorations. Cowes was bedecked with Polish flags; shops and restaurants displayed Poland's red and white national colours in support of the event, ably assisted and supported by **Cowes Business Association**.

Events included:

- **Talks** on the Blitz at St. Mary's and St. James' churches prior to the event.
- **Exhibitions** on the towns' defence of May 1942, held both sides of the river. (The Cowes exhibition was provided by **Cowes Heritage** at **Cowes Library**)
- **The Yacht Club of Poland** held a very successful event at **Cowes Yacht Haven**.
- **The Royal London Yacht Club** hosted an organised race where prizes were awarded at an evening event at the **Yacht Haven**.
- A **Photographic Exhibition** at Cowes' **Regatta Office** providing sixty photographs of Polish Navy warships which participated in the Second World War (including photographs not previously publicly displayed).
- A **Gala Piano Recital** by **Eva Maria Doroszkowska**, granddaughter of **Capt. Francki** who commanded ORP Blyskawica at the **Royal Yacht Squadron**
- A **Polish Navy Band Concert** held at **Cowes Yacht Haven**.
- A re-enactment of the laying of a **Mile of Pennies**, which took place in wartime in support of the crews of ORP Blyskawica and her sister ship ORP Grom, (also Cowes built), held in **The Cut** by cadets and officers from our sea cadet corp, **T.S. Osborne**
- **Francki Place** saw the re-dedication, presided over by the Revd. Andrew Poppe, of two replacement commemoration plaques provided by **Cowes Town Council**.
- **Blitz Walks** were held in Cowes and East Cowes. Those attending were shown the extent of the devastation caused by the blitz and the consequential loss and suffering.
- The exceptional performance by the **Ave Verum Choir** at **St. Mary's Church**. The choir comprised around 25 music enthusiasts of Polish descent, delivering an eclectic mix of music.
- A service was held at **Northwood Cemetery** with participating members of **The Friends of Northwood Cemetery**, at the communal grave for the many Cowes residents lost in the blitz.
- A **Radio Link** was set up on **Cowes Parade** to enable members of the public to make direct contact with Blyskawica in Poland where she's a floating museum ship.
- The formal part of commemorations began at the war memorial in **Northwood Park**. Followed by a service at **St. Mary's Church**.
- In **East Cowes** the Society provided a **Polish food stall** and organised Polish dances by the **Karpaty Dancers** with performances from **Polish schools** in the town square.
- In the Town Hall a students' **Painting Exhibition** was held and latterly a **1940's Dance**. A service to the civilian loss of East Cowes took place in **Kingston Cemetery** in the presence of Polish officers from ORP Blyskawica and the Royal Navy.
- **The Friends of the ORP Blyskawica Society** entertained their navy guests with a coach trip around the Island, entry to concerts, receptions and the Polish Navy Band's visit to Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard where they performed. An historic boat trip along the River Medina for our guests related the towns' shipbuilding activities prior to and during the war.



Cowes Support for Sport Cllr Paul Taylor Tel: 295222

For the next Financial Year the Projects Committee will be considering opportunities to improve Sports participation in facilities for the Cowes area.

In recent months a number of suggestions have been made to improve Skate Park provision for younger children and increased sports facilities at Northwood Recreation Ground. The results of the recent Survey showed support for the following facilities:

Outdoor mobile gym - approved, installed and in use

- Junior Skatepark
- Toddlers Climbing frame
- A Climbing Wall
- Swings for younger children
- Additional Gym equipment
- A marked out running track
- Climbing Towers joined by safety walkway netting



Please let us know what facilities you would like. We are exploring the use of other green spaces for sports facilities.

WE ARE HERE TO LISTEN TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS, SO PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ANY SUGGESTIONS.

Are these projects you feel that Cowes Town Council should be supporting, or do you feel that this part of the Town's precept should be spent on other projects?

Public Toilets in Cowes Cllr Roger Bartrum Tel: 717210

Cowes Town Council took over the running of 4 public toilets in Cowes back in April 2016. The IW Council had pulled their support for toilets across the Island and we were one of several towns in danger of losing these important facilities. The toilets in question are The Cut, Mornington Road, The Parade and Medina Road (Floating Bridge).

The Town Council recently formed a working group to oversee the day to day running and for future improvements.

The most disturbing problem we are encountering is mindless vandalism. If you witness acts of vandalism please report to the Police by dialling 101. Any other problems with the above toilet blocks please call the Town Clerks on 01983 209022.

Tip for Tat Cllr Roger Bartrum Tel: 717210

To save you a journey to the Lynnbottom (or Afton Marsh) Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) there is a mobile version which visits towns across the island.

The mobile HWRC will visit Cowes Community Club on Park Road on the 4th, 19th, 31st October between 10am and 2pm.

The following items will be accepted:

- Batteries (household)
- Small electrical appliances (i.e. toaster, hairdryer, mobile phones)
- Bulbs/fluorescent tubes
- Paper/cardboard
- Magazines
- Printer cartridges
- CDs and video tapes
- Scrap metal (Max 1m in length and 30cm width)
- Plastics
- Textiles
- Paint tins (lids must be on)



Please note: Any items not listed here will not be collected including black bag waste, green garden waste and wood.

USEFUL NUMBERS.

Cowes Town Council Councillors:

Name	Address	Tel No./ Mobile/ Email	Ward
Jean M Bartrum	7 Granville Road, Cowes PO31 7JD	01983 717210; 07842 143593 jeanmbartrum@gmail.com	Medina
Roger A Bartrum	7 Granville Road, Cowes PO31 7JD	01983 717210; 07717 532508 rogerbartrumjnr@gmail.com	Medina
Lynn Hammond	28 Love Lane, Cowes PO31 7ET	01983 282308; 07803 161272 lynn.hammond21@btinternet.com	Medina
David J Jones	194 Newport Road, Cowes PO31 7PU	01983 298445 davwin@talktalk.net	Medina
Lora J Peacey-Wilcox* (Deputy Town Mayor)	29 Pallance Road, Northwood PO31 8LW	01983 645765; 07970 424214 lora08@sky.com	Medina
Anni L Adams	39 Alexandra Road, Cowes PO31 7JT	07715 253558 anni.adams@outlook.com	North
Paul M Bertie*	39 Crossfield Avenue, Cowes PO31 8HP	01983 243100; 07711 255000 cldr.paul.bertie@btinternet.com	North
Paul A Fuller* (Town Mayor)	74 Wyatts Lane, Northwood PO31 8QA	01983 289595; 07935 090835 paulfulleriw@gmail.com	North
Neil G Oliver	156 Park Road, Cowes PO31 7NE	01983 291179; 07969 258366 neil.sue.iow@gmail.com	North
Wendy Wardrop	20 Granville Road, Cowes PO31 7JD	01983 298687	North
Linda Brown	38 Crossfield Avenue, Cowes PO31 8HN	01983 295222; 07443 335107 lindymlou47@gmail.com	South
Stuart Ellis	10 Elm Grove, Cowes PO31 7HB	01983 246352; 07721 606934 bigstu2006@hotmail.co.uk	South
John U A Nicholson*	Sunnyside, Pallance Lane, Northwood PO31 8LT	07918 757843 cldr.john.nicholson@btconnect.com	South
Amanda J Glendinning	July Cottage, Bars Hill, Cowes PO31 7QP	01983 243169; 07753 615843 amandaglendinning@btinternet.com	West
Vanessa M Slade	164 Park Road, Cowes PO31 7NE	01983 297791; 07753 607608 nessslade@hotmail.com	West
Paul G Taylor	38 Crossfield Avenue, Cowes PO31 8HN	01983 295222; 07443 332497 duirpaul@yahoo.co.uk	West

* Also IW Councillor.

Town Clerk: Ms Debbie Faulkner, Town Council Office, Northwood House, Ward Avenue, Cowes PO31 8AZ townclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk Tel: 01983 209022.

Assistant Town Clerk: Mrs Kate Gibbs, Town Council Office, Northwood House, Ward Avenue, Cowes PO31 8AZ assistanttownclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk Tel: 01983 209022.

Cowes Town Council Emergency Out Of Hours Number: 07502 444883

	Tel. Number		Tel. Number
St Mary's Hospital	01983 822099	Cowes Library	01983 293341
Cowes Medical Centre	01983 295251	Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 411 1444
Emergency Services	999	Red Funnel Ferries	0844 844 2699
Isle of Wight Council	01983 821000	Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
Bob Seely (MP)	01983 220220	Cowes Primary School	01983 293261
Isle of Wight Police	101	Lanesend Primary School	01983 293233
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Gurnard Primary School	01983 295713
Gas Leaks	0800 111 999	Northwood Primary School	01983 293392
Southern Water	0330 303 0368	Cowes Enterprise College	01983 203103

