



## **Spring Edition 2018 from Councillor Paul Fuller – Cowes Town Mayor Tel: 289595**

### **Mayor's Report** Cllr Paul Fuller, Tel: 289595

Since my last report, I've continued to meet with residents, businesses and visitors to discuss queries, questions and suggestions made to make our Town better.

I attended a number of commemorations and events which took place in and around Cowes during Remembrance Day and throughout Christmas. The highlights for me are always discussing the thoughts and aspirations of our young people, who are a credit to both their families and the schools which I had the good fortune to visit in the last few months. Thank you so much Lanes End Primary School and Cowes Primary School for the invitations!

During this winter students from both Cowes Primary and Gurnard Primary Schools relayed their suggestions to upgrade and add some colour to The Cut. Hopefully the designs will remain for several years, and this area can be used as an important feature for our town.

In addition, it has been brilliant for Cowes Town Council to work alongside, in support of the dozens of volunteers who give up their time selflessly to support our services and initiatives. Thank you!!

One of the major focuses of 2018 is very much the theme of reducing waste and recycling. This has not only been enthusiastically picked up by Cowes Town Council, but also by organisers of Cowes Week and Isle of Wight Day celebrations taking place later this year. Elsewhere, a number of Councillors are working alongside stakeholders on initiatives that will regenerate Cowes. Again, please let me know if you wish to become involved.

A vacancy has arisen in the Cowes West Ward. If you want to know more please let Debbie, our Clerk know by emailing [townclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:townclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk), or calling 01983 209022.

In the meantime, please let your Councillors know how we can make our Town better. As Mayor, please feel free to drop in to one of my surgeries. These are held frequently throughout the Town and need no appointment. For details please visit: [paulfullercc.blogspot.com](http://paulfullercc.blogspot.com).

### **Cowes Mobility Forum** Cllr Jean Bartrum, Tel: 717210

Following a break to my ankle in 2015 I became very familiar with just how difficult it was to get around Town and access the shops I needed to go in, and realised just where I could and could not access easily. I also knew the paths that did not have dropped kerbs!

As a Councillor, I was determined to address this problem and try to improve on what we already had in the Town. I had been told of a company called Isle Access, based in Ryde, who could come along and do a comprehensive access audit that would be able to advise us as a Council what we needed to do to make our Town accessible to all; I put this to the Projects Committee and eventually to full Council and they agreed it was a very important audit, as we want everyone to enjoy Cowes and for everyone to have equality. This audit covered all disabilities, including sight impairment to pushchairs, wheelchairs and scooters etc.

Cowes Town Council agreed unanimously to the audit and we proceeded to have a walkthrough of the Town with representatives from Island Roads, the Isle of Wight Council and Isle Access.

We have achieved much by recognising what needs to be improved and look forward to taking ideas forward. Island Roads now agree to include access in all future works.

We are looking into forming a mobility forum where we can work together with residents to discuss access issues. If you would like to be on the forum, please email me at [jeanmbartrum@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmbartrum@gmail.com) or our Assistant Town Clerk, Kate at [assistanttownclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:assistanttownclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk).

**News from Cowes Library** supplied by Joyce Blizzard and Cllr Linda Brown, Tel: 295222

It was a successful and busy few months for Cowes Library in the run-up to Christmas. Our regular activities and clubs for both children and adults have been well attended, as well as various events such as ones during Celebrating Age Week and National Libraries Week in October, together with our involvement with the IWLF Schools Programme.



We now have a friendly family historian who offers one-to-one family history sessions in the Library, and a Digital Support volunteer who can help people with basic computer and internet skills. Children's author Jules Marriner held a popular event reading her latest story and children made owls for their Christmas tree. The Christmas Craft Fair was a great success with a great mix of arts and crafts available to buy. A competition for the best Christmas Fairy Cakes or Mince Pies took place and there were lots of fun activities for children.

Our Supporters help us to put on many of the events throughout the year and the Fair was a great joint effort. All monies raised go purely to supporting Cowes Library.

The Library is also being used regularly for Dance Fit sessions, Glass Workshops, and Drawing and Art Courses. We are submitting a Lottery Bid for computer tablets and iPads which will be a great asset to enable members of the local community to become more engaged with touch-screen equipment.



We want to thank those who use the Library in different ways. We want the Library to remain a thriving community hub.

*Cowes Town Council would like to thank all those who volunteer their time and energy to keep this much needed community hub open for public use.*

**Vandalism** Cllr Anni Adams, Tel: 07715 253556



Town Councillors are appealing for witnesses after damage to the children's playground and skateboard park at Northwood Recreation Ground.

Fences have been cut and pulled away from posts and attempts to set fire to wood on the children's play areas has been found.

The person or people responsible for this mindless vandalism do not realise the knock-on effect of their actions. Not only could it stop the use of the park facilities for families and their children, but the cost of repairs has to come out of local residents' council tax.

The Town Council have already begun efforts to repair the damage but finding money in an ever demanding budget is a concern.

Another hotspot for vandalism are the Town's public toilets. Please note these facilities remain open because they are funded through our Town Council precept for the benefit of residents and visitors to our Town. Once these become damaged, the repairs can be very costly, and means that funds cannot be spent improving our services and facilities.

Councillors are asking residents to please report damage the Town Clerk (Tel: 209022 or 07502 444883 out of hours). Members of the public have been vital in passing on issues to the Town Council including the recent discovery of a 5ft Christmas Tree wedged into the toilet pan at Northwood Rec (minus decorations!).

## **Finance, Acquisitions & Staffing Committee Report** Cllr Amanda Glendinning, Tel: 243169

The Precept for 2018/2019 was approved by Councillors in December. It was agreed to increase the precept to £299,800, an increase of 25p per week on a Band D property.

Several priorities were identified including public toilets and staffing levels. The Town Council took over responsibility for funding the public toilets following the decision by the IW Council not to continue financial support for a number of discretionary services. Although the Town Council has funds set aside for maintenance and refurbishment across the four sites, a significant shortfall was identified and it was agreed that the precept should be increased to cover this. The increase will enable a phased programme of works to be undertaken over the next 3 – 4 years.

Staffing is increasingly under-resourced as our Council takes on extra responsibilities. Councillors agreed to increase staffing levels to 1.5 full-time equivalent, which represents ⅓ of the precept. This compares favourably with similar councils who spend between ¼ - ⅓ of their precept on staffing.

Maintenance of the skate park, MUGA and outdoor gym is also a significant cost and we have re-allocated funds to create a Northwood Rec. Maintenance Fund to support the annual budget.

Councillors are committed to ensuring that the precept is spent on services and projects which represent value for money and are for the benefit our community. We would like to hear your feedback and comments on any matters of interest and welcome your attendance at our meetings, details of which can be found on our website or noticeboard in the Town.

### **Cowes Town Council Approved Budget 2018-2019**

| <b>Item</b>                                | <b>Budget</b> | <b>Item</b>   | <b>Budget</b>   |
|--|---------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Expenditure: General Administration</b> |               | <b>Expenditure: Discretionary Services</b>                        |                 |
| Town Clerks' Salaries/NIC/Tax/ Pension     | £46,000       | Northwood Rec. Grounds Maintenance                                | £7,400          |
| Office Rent                                | £8,100        | N Rec. Skate Park/ MUGA Maintenance                               | £6,000          |
| Office Cleaner/ Sundry Expenses            | £1,000        | N Rec. Toilets cleaning, electricity etc                          | £10,200         |
| Stationery & Office Supplies/ Software     | £500          | Northwood Park Grounds Maintenance                                | £10,000         |
| Office Equipment/ Photocopier              | £1,000        | Northwood Park Toilets (Cleaning)                                 | £4,200          |
| Telephone/ Broadband/ Website              | £1,500        | Nrthw'd Park + Cowes Area Dog/Litter Bins                         | £5,500          |
| Postage                                    | £300          | Other Grounds Maintenance in Cowes                                | £5,000          |
| Travelling                                 | £200          | 4 x Public Toilet cleaning/ other costs                           | £49,000         |
| Conference Fees                            | £500          | Cowes Library: Proposed Contribution                              | £22,400         |
| Training                                   | £500          | Cowes In Bloom  | £4,000          |
| Hire of Meeting Rooms                      | £300          | Environment Officer   | £2,600          |
| Subscriptions                              | £1,500        | Discretionary Services Contingency                                | £12,000         |
| Insurance                                  | £2,500        |   |                 |
| Audit and Accountability                   | £1,600        | <b>Expenditure: Town Improvements/<br/>Grants/ Special Events</b> |                 |
| Mayor's Allowance                          | £2,000        | Street Furniture maintenance                                      | £2,000          |
| Newsletter/ Publicity                      | £4,000        | Civic Xmas Trees/ Lighting/ Bunting                               | £16,000         |
| Elections/ Admin. Contingency              | £2,500        | New Projects  | £4,000          |
|  |               | Grants, Events & Good Causes                                      | £24,000         |
|  |               | Remembrance Sunday/ Charity Donat's                               | £1,500          |
|  |               | Public Toilet Refurbishment                                       | £40,000         |
|  |               | <b>Total</b>  | <b>£299,800</b> |

### **Cowes Floating Bridge Update** Cllr Paul Fuller, Tel: 289595

Since the last report the IW Council has continued to address concerns over the depth of chains and the noise which are the key factors that has impacted upon the new Floating Bridge.

Following a meeting of the Town Council, both the Leader and Officers from the IW Council seemed confident that these ongoing issues can and will be resolved. This should ensure the crossing is more reliable and reconnects both towns. In the meantime, we continue to watch this space and work alongside colleagues from East Cowes Town Council.

## **Northwood House**

Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Ltd, which manages Northwood House and the 23 acre Park, has benefitted considerably from the support of Cowes Town Council.

Cowes Town Council took responsibility for the cost of grass cutting, hedge trimming, cleaning of the Park toilets and the provision and emptying of the bins. This has given the Trust the opportunity to allocate funds to projects elsewhere.

Recent projects undertaken in the House include the refurbishment of upstairs rooms for use as office space. This has been an expensive exercise but provides the Charity with steady income.

The Carriage House, which is the oldest building on the Estate, was in a sorry state of repair, letting in water and on the verge of collapse.

Use of funds has enabled us to save this important building, by removing the unsafe chimney, erecting a metal structure inside the Barn to hold up the walls and making it water tight for use as a storage area.



We have been very fortunate to have a beautiful carpet donated to us by Carnival UK Plc which has enabled us to re-carpet the main corridor, bar, staircase, Ballroom and Dining Room. The Drawing Room will be done very soon. We did however have to pay for transport and laying costs, but the result really is amazing.

## **Projects Committee Report** Cllr Paul Taylor, Tel: 295222

Projects Committee is always a lively affair, discussing a variety of issues connected to town improvements. We have made great steps towards making The Cut a pedestrian precinct within the town centre and are working closely with Island Roads to see if our proposed enhancements are affordable.

Repairs to the public toilets in the town have been ongoing since the Town Council took over responsibility for them from the IW Council in 2017. We know there is a lot more work to be done, and are looking at ways to improve them. The public toilets at The Parade/Bath Road have a badly leaking roof and a primary structural survey is due to be undertaken to identify any issues that need addressing.



The Shelter along Egypt Esplanade has been fitted with foot rails so now our shorter-legged residents and visitors can sit far more comfortably.

An extension to the operational hours of the prohibition of traffic in the High Street pedestrianisation zone has been approved. New signage will be implemented shortly.

National Tree Week was celebrated by organised tree appreciation walks at Northwood Cemetery and Northwood Park, and a dressing of the old English Yew at the path crossing near the end of the church wall. Tree planting has been carried out at Northwood Park where 5 trees were planted, 2 at The Green at Crossfield Avenue, and 4 at Northwood Recreation ground.

We are looking at various ways to promote Cowes Town Council and are happy to work with other bodies with similar interests.

## **On-street electric car charge points**

Around a third of homes in England do not have off-street parking, making it extremely difficult to charge an electric vehicle overnight. The Department for Transport's On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme offers funding for local authorities to buy and install electric charge points. Please let us know if you feel there is a need for a charge point in an on-street area near you.

**Cowes Heritage** Cllr David Jones, Tel: 298445

Now in our 14th year, Cowes Heritage is committed to researching, recording and exhibiting the history and heritage of Cowes and district.



A small group of volunteers have provided annual exhibitions on subjects including Cowes at War, Schooldays, Transport, Churches and last year asked “How much do you know about Cowes?”. A feature of the exhibition was information about local brickmaking. Locally made decorative roof ridge tiles (left) are easily spotted.

Recently we were pleased to receive a donation from the estate of the late Charles Taylor - a well-respected and highly knowledgeable local historian. Once this significant archive of Island history has been catalogued it will be available to researchers during one of our open days.

Once the warmer weather arrives Cowes Heritage will recommence regular open mornings at our store in Three Gates Road. Details will be available at [www.cowesheritage.co.uk](http://www.cowesheritage.co.uk) and our Facebook page.

**Recycling and Waste Report** Cllr Roger Bartrum, Tel: 717210

Eighteen months ago I was supremely proud of the huge pile of recycling I was putting on the kerbside every two weeks – now it is troubling me. I struggled to throw the water bottle away but I had to - I already have a few I refill and reuse. The answer is not to buy any – anymore – ever again. If we all do this they will soon disappear off our shelves.

The IW Council Garden Waste scheme is under way. The optional fortnightly scheme will allow householders to subscribe online for a 240-litre wheeled bin or three hessian sacks to be picked up from the kerbside for a total cost of £60 per year.

It will make gardening easier and save having to load the car up with heavy bags of wet garden waste and make trips to the household waste centre to dispose of it. If you don't think you generate enough garden waste to warrant it, you could always sign up first and share the cost with a neighbour.

You can sign up online at [iwight.com](http://iwight.com), or with a valid email address via the following link at: <https://www.iwight.com/MyAccount/SignUp.aspx>. If this is not possible, please call the IW Council's waste helpline (01983) 823777, with your credit/ debit card details.

If you would rather try some home composting or are interested in forming a community composting scheme, please let me know!

**Friends of Northwood Cemetery** Cllr David Jones, Tel: 298445

The Friends of Northwood Cemetery will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Easter Saturday with an open day in the Cemetery from 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March.



The last 5 years have been monumental in getting us to the successful outcome we see today thanks to the partnership the Friends formed with the IW Council, the landowners. The chapels have been rescued, with the west chapel becoming a Heritage Resource Centre and available for hire to community groups. The Isle of Wight Family History Society has taken residence on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings and Saturday mornings. The east chapel is now a fully functioning chapel for funeral services.

As well as saving the chapels, many other initiatives have been undertaken: a new natural burial ground has been created, a gazebo erected, colourful signage and documentation has been produced for the first time in the Cemetery's 160 year history. Within the grounds, new benches and litter bins have been installed and the main roadways and paths have been resurfaced.

A dedicated group of conservation volunteers have cleared decades of bramble and undergrowth so that visitors can now see nearly all of the headstones of the graves throughout the cemetery's 17 acres. The burial records have been digitised and finding aids produced so that families can locate the resting places of their loved ones. We have been very careful not to disturb the natural habitat and the increase in the sightings of red squirrels in recent years suggests that wildlife has also benefitted from the attention the volunteers have given to the grounds. There is still plenty to do, so if you would like to help us on a Wednesday or Saturday morning, there is always a warm welcome for new faces who join our happy band of workers.

The Friends are planning guided walks, a family trail to involve the younger children of the community, exhibitions, craft demonstrations and suitable live music on its 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday. A raffle and light refreshments will be available throughout the day and of course a birthday cake. The restored chapel bell will be rung at midday to commemorate this special day.

### **Planning & Licensing Committee Report** Cllr David Jones, Tel: 298445

The Planning & Licensing Committee is different from the other Cowes Town Council subcommittees in that it has delegated decision making powers, meaning that any decision reached does not have to be considered and voted on by the full Council. These delegated powers have been agreed because of the short period (about three weeks) allowed to comment on planning applications; this also means the committee meets more regularly than any of the other subcommittees on a date determined by the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Committee.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and have the opportunity to comment and ask questions about planning and licencing applications.

At the meeting the Chairman presents plans provided by the IW Council's Planning Department, with comments posted online also being considered. While the majority are relatively straightforward and the committee has no reason to object, sometimes more contentious applications are considered. If the committee decides to object on behalf of the Town Council they can only use clearly defined planning guidelines.

While our comments carry some weight, the ultimate decision rests with the IW Council.

The committee also raises concerns regarding issues in the Town. A recent example was a listed building which was showing signs of neglect. By alerting the IW Council, the owners were contacted and they have agreed to take the necessary steps to rectify past neglect.

Currently there is a large application to develop Medina Yard (the old J S Whites site) waiting for a decision. Given concerns about its impact on marine industries and the High Street, and access issues, members of the Planning & Licensing Committee voted to object to the current proposals. We will continue to monitor and comment on this proposed large development.

Another part of the committee's remit is to consider licensing applications; any comments have to comply with criteria: namely the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

### **St Mary's Roundabout** Cllr Paul Fuller, Tel: 289595

Cowes Town Council met recently to discuss concerns raised over proposed arrangements to reconfigure the St Mary's Roundabout between Cowes and Newport. This work is due to start in the coming months.

At the meeting it was resolved to raise an objection given proposals do not support pedestrians and cyclists, whilst concerns were also raised that proposals may create further congestion rather than reduce this. The full response which also mirrors the views of Newport Parish Council can be found here:

<http://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Minutes-Extraordinary-Town-Council-Meeting-19-February-2018.pdf>

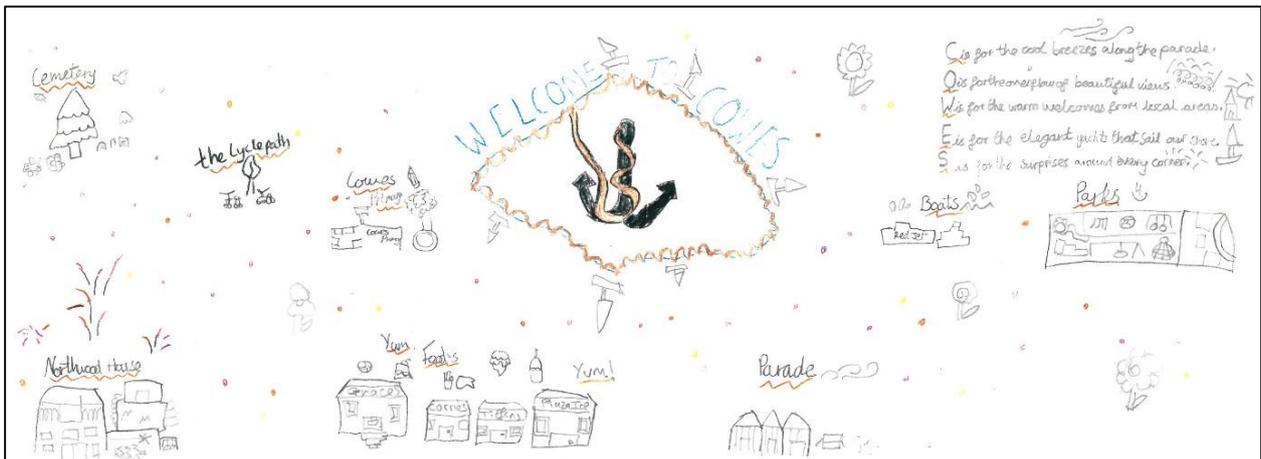
**The Cut Mural - Please let us know your views** Cllr Paul Fuller, Tel: 289595

A very big thank you to students from Cowes Primary and Gurnard Primary Schools who have shared their ideas for brightening up (and updating!) the mural in The Cut.

Because there were so many fantastic suggestions being made, it was very difficult to shortlist the 22 pictures received to the 3 seen below.

Our initial thought is that the Town Council would like to incorporate the very best aspects of all of the pictures into the final design to be worked up with our local artists...

Please see the shortlisted selection below, and let the Town Council know your thoughts!!



## USEFUL NUMBERS.

**Cowes Town Council Councillors:** (\* Also Isle of Wight Councillor)

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

**Town Clerk:** Ms Debbie Faulkner, Town Council Office, Northwood House, Ward Avenue, Cowes. PO31 8AZ  
[townclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:assistanttownclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk) Tel: 01983 209022.

**Cowes Town Council Emergency Out Of Hours Number:** 07502 444883

|  | <b>Tel. Number</b> |  | <b>Tel. Number</b> |
|--|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| St Mary's Hospital   | 01983 822099       | Isle of Wight Council  | 01983 821000       |
| Cowes Medical Centre   | 01983 295251       | Bob Seely (MP)   | 01983 220220       |
| Emergency Services (all)   | 999                | Red Funnel Ferries   | 0844 844 2699      |
| Ambulance/Fire/Police (non emergency)  | 101                | Rail Enquiries   | 03457 484950       |
| NHS (non emergency)  | 111                | Cowes Primary School   | 01983 293261       |
| Isle of Wight Police   | 101                | Lanesend Primary School                                      | 01983 293233       |
| Crimestoppers  | 0800 555 111       | Gurnard Primary School                                       | 01983 295713       |
| Environment Agency   | 0800 807 060       | Northwood Primary School                                     | 01983 293392       |
| Floodline  | 0345 988 118       | Cowes Enterprise College                                     | 01983 203103       |
| Gas Leaks  | 0800 111 999       | Cowes Library  | 01983 293341       |
| Electricity Emergency  | 0800 072 7282      | Citizens Advice Bureau                                       | 0344 411 1444      |
| Southern Water   | 0330 303 0368      | Age UK (IW) (Advice on benefits/grants and handyman service) | 01983 525282       |
| Island Roads   | 01983 822440       |  |                    |
| Homestart - Support for families with young children   | 01983 533357       | Foodbank   | 01983 292040       |
| IW Fire Service - Free home fire safety check<br><a href="mailto:fire.communitysafety@iow.gov.uk">fire.communitysafety@iow.gov.uk</a>                              | 01983 407075       | Social Services (Adult)                                      | 01983 814980       |
| Jigsaw Family Support - community based for everyone affected by family separation<br><a href="http://www.jigsawfamilysupport.com">www.jigsawfamilysupport.com</a> | 01983 639 793      | Social Services (Child)                                      | 0300 300 0117      |
| Pension Service (Pension Credit entitlement check)   | 0800 99 1234       | Samaritans Isle of Wight                                     | 01983 521234       |
| Warmer Wight (Footprint Trust Energy Saving Experts)   | 01983 822282       | Storeroom (Furniture project)                                | 01983 298679       |