



Autumn Edition 2019 from Councillor Lora Peacey Wilcox – Cowes Town Mayor

Parade Toilets

Faced with the decision do we lose the Parade toilets or do we take them on from the IW Council, it was a “no brainer” – we had to take them on. After arranging a survey of the building it was decided that immediate action needed to be taken, which included arranging for an architect to draw up a specification for emergency repairs to the roof, ceiling and internal lighting.

Following the tendering process, Emerald Construction (IW) Ltd were contracted for the project, which cost in excess of £63,000. The original roof was removed and replaced, along with a new internal ceiling and lighting system. At the end of the project Emerald Construction also repaired and repainted the Bandstand roofing and benches to generally smarten up the area.



CCTV at The Cut

Following substantial and frequent episodes of vandalism the Town Council decided to install CCTV at these public conveniences. Footage from the cameras has already assisted the Police with their enquiries. The system cost approximately £1,130 to install.



Watch House Shelter



Again faced with the decision to take on the Shelter or lose it, the Town Council are taking over the ownership of the Shelter from the IW Council, following partnership working with the IW Council and Trevor Jones Contracting. We thank Trevor Jones Contracting, and in particular Gowan Ruler for bringing in a number of contractors to complete the quality refurbishment of the Shelter for the enjoyment of residents and visitors for years to come. Sincere thanks to the entire team.

Poppy Day Launch

This year's Royal British Legion Poppy Day launch is on **Saturday, 26th October at 11am** at The Bandstand, Cowes Parade.

Cowes has been chosen to host the event this year. The Royal British Legion and the Town Mayor welcomes everyone to come and give their support.



The Cut Mural

Our thanks to the shortlisted students from Cowes Primary School whose designs were taken forward to make the new mural design. The project wouldn't have been able to be completed without the hard work and dedication of Chris and Maddy Dobson who gave their time freely during the design, drawing and painting of the mural on the wall at The Cut.

We also extend our thanks to Red Funnel and Amey who provided staff to assist with the painting.

The official unveiling of the new mural will be held on **Tuesday, 29th October at 10am** at The Cut. All are welcome to attend.



Finance Committee Report

From April 2019 we have helped many local events and clubs with a grant. These include:

- Wight To Be Happy Ltd – IW Festival of the Mind, 6th October 2019
- Cowes Open Bowls Tournament – Cowes 65th Open Bowls Tournament
- Northwood Cricket Club – Shed, base and mobile nets
- Victim Support – Purchase of security items
- Isle of Wight Community Club – Replacement external lighting
- Cowes Cricket Club – Mobile nets
- Cowes Medina Bowling Club – Clubhouse refurbishment works and new mower
- Lanesend Primary School – Sensory Garden
- BPRC Event Management – 59th annual powerboat race



Cowes Town Council give community grants to help with events or projects to help the local community (subject to meeting our criteria). For more information please either call the Town Council Office or check out the Town Council's website.

Light Up A Life Christmas Carol Service

This year's Light Up A Life Christmas Carol Service in aid of *Mountbatten Isle of Wight* will be held on **Thursday 5th December at 6.30pm in Cowes Methodist Church, Birmingham Road**. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served after the service. We hope you will be able to join us.



Planning and Licensing Committee

The function of this committee is to inspect planning and licencing applications, advising the appropriate departments of the Isle of Wight Council whether we support an application or oppose them. We can only oppose planning applications following national planning guidance, although we can suggest areas of concern.



Since May the Committee has met seven times during which the Committee has objected to a proposal because of inadequate parking, another was considered out of keeping with the surrounding area, and another for overlooking the neighbouring properties.

Application for a Licence, whether to sell alcohol, play live music or placing of street furniture can only be objected to because of the following:

- The prevention of crime and disorder.
- Public safety.
- The prevention of public nuisance.
- The protection of children from harm.

While most licence applications seem reasonable, late night music is a potential public nuisance. The Committee have opposed applications for street furniture in the High Street, only when the application is to erect tables before 10.00am, as prior to that time the High Street is open to traffic. After 10.00am tables and chairs are welcome additions to the High Street.

The Committee's role is purely advisory, the final decision is made by the Isle of Wight Council.

While other sub-committees make recommendations to be ratified at a full Town Council meeting, the Planning and Licencing Committee has delegated powers to make decisions on behalf of the Town Council. This is because time allowed to comment on applications is quite short, with the potential to miss some in regular monthly Town Council meetings.

Cowes Heritage

This year's annual exhibition is "Made in Cowes".

The exhibition is on display at Regatta House, Bath Road from **Saturday, 19th October to Sunday 10th November, 10am to 4pm daily**. Free admission.

Cruise Ships Welcome

I am delighted to have welcomed a number of cruise ships into Cowes this year, along with our Harbour Master, Captain Stuart McIntosh and Ian Griffiths from Visit Isle of Wight.





"MADE IN COWES"
REGATTA HOUSE
BATH ROAD
COWES
19TH OCTOBER
to
10TH NOVEMBER
10 am to 4 pm
Open every day
Free Admission.

Thursday 28th November
Festive Lights Switch On Event at 5pm
AND
Cowes Late Night Shopping Event
Cowes High Street.

Tree Wardens Sought



A volunteer tree warden is sought by Cowes Town Council, to complement the two Town Councillor tree wardens and one volunteer.

Duties are getting to know the trees in your allotted area, keeping a simple database of trees and their condition, or a handwritten list. A bit of walking at your own pace is required. A good tree guide is available from wardens. Simple training can be given.

Please contact Kate Gibbs, Assistant Town Clerk, email: assistanttownclerk@cowestowncouncil.org.uk or Cllr Paul Taylor, email: paul.taylor.9393@gmail.com for further details.

National Tree Week 2019

Cowes Town Council became a Woodland Trust Tree Charter House at the Tree Charter Launch in 2017 on the 800th anniversary of the Royal Forest Charter.

National Tree weeks have been going on for many years nationally to raise public awareness and appreciation of trees and their importance for the environment and Cowes Town Council is proud to be part of it.

Sunday 24th November 2019 is the anniversary of that launch and is known as Tree Charter Day and events should be planned for that day and for the rest of the National Tree Week.

On Sunday 24th November, starting at 11am, a tree in Northwood Park will be dressed and it is hoped that as many Tree Wardens and other Town Councillors will help, along with members of the public.

During National Tree Week there will be a guided tour of the notable trees in Northwood Park and an explanation of why the Park is botanically nationally famous. This will be led by Cllr Paul Taylor.

Trees are dressed in any colourful or meaningful way. Coloured rags can be attached to branches. Colourful ribbons can be used. Latex balloons can be tied on. Notices like "I love trees" or "Trees Please/ Please Trees" can be attached, or personal dedications can go on the tree. Please have a think and be inventive. We would love to see you there.

At this time of year acorns are a good topic for young minds because each type of acorn is specific to the type of oak, of which there are 8 or 9 varieties. If your school or group would be interested in a guided walk or dressing your own tree please contact Cllr Paul Taylor or the Town Council's office for further information.



Cowes Week 2019 and Sailing Regattas



Cowes Classics Week, Cowes Solent Series, Rolex Fastnet Race, Kings Cup Regatta, Cowes Week and Sail GP - All of these events meant that Cowes was busy for three weeks. There appeared to be much confusion over car parking arrangements, road closures, diversions etc. The Town Council are looking to ensure that things go more smoothly and the public are more aware for 2020.

Although the weather contributed to lower attendance levels, our thanks go to those businesses, visitors, locals and volunteers who supported this year's events.

Free Parking for Mainland NHS Patients

The scheme instigated by the Town Council, for Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Limited to provide four free parking spaces in Northwood House Car Park for Island residents attending NHS mainland hospital appointments re-started from September 2019 for a further six months.



The take-up of the permits for September has been high due to improved publicity undertaken by Northwood House Charitable Trust Company Limited. Proof of appointment is required before a permit can be issued. Thanks to the Town Clerks for administering this vital role.

Vandalism

It is disappointing to once again have to report vandalism of facilities in the town that the Town Council maintains. Public toilets are regularly targeted and the Skate Park has needed a number of repairs. It is tax payers' money paying for these ongoing repairs.

We are always open to suggestions for ways to counteract vandalism. Please let us know your thoughts.



Your Opinion Matters – Best for you !

This newsletter is published three times per year. Do you think this is a good way to communicate with you or would you prefer monthly or bi-monthly articles in the Beacon or another publication? Please, please can you let us know your thoughts and suggestions. Please email the Town Clerk or telephone the Town Council's office because we desperately need to know how best to communicate with our residents.



Cowes Parking 200 for 2020

Please see ideas, suggestions and questions to create and rethink extra capacity to increase car parking for residents, visitors and commuters.

- **Reconfiguration of existing residents parking zones.**

Where residents parking exists, the bays or boxes exceed 4.8 metres (the maximum car length), whereas most vehicles actually measure less (around just over 4 metres). By removing painted bays I estimate the creation of 8-9% extra space within parking zones could be created.

- **Better use of private off road parking, garages and former car parks.**

By offering privately managed spaces (i.e driveways and garages) to commuters, would assist taking commuter spaces off the road. One concern for commuters is the lack of secure parking, which commuters suggest they are prepared to pay for. I would suggest there is considerable scope for householders to come to a private arrangement to use unused off road parking.



There are former car parks on the road to Cowes that could potentially be used for a Park and Ride facility. These are on the main Cowes to Newport bus route, and could offer secure parking for Newport, Cowes and Southampton commuters.

There are also under-utilised car parks in town that remain empty. Could ownership be transferred and used more effectively? Is there scope, when closed premises - schools etc - are better utilised outside normal 'working' hours?

- **Removal of 'unnecessary' restrictions.**

There are areas where yellow lines exist that may not be needed. In the Cowes TRO (traffic regulation order) spaces were found in Crossfield Avenue where buses used to drop off students. Elsewhere potential spaces in Victoria Road and Cliff Road have been found. In addition, there may also be unused disabled bays.

- **Parking Management Questions and scope for Improvements.**

Is existing Long Stay/ Short Stay parking effective?

Is there a requirement for more long stay parking in the centre of Cowes?

Are disabled bays fit for purpose and best located to support residents?

Can parking be improved to support businesses and commuters without impacting on visitors and residents?



Your thoughts please.

Egypt Light

Due to the perseverance of former Town Councillor, Elliott Hamilton, the Egypt Light was last restored in 2007.

Following concerns raised by Cowes Heritage of its future as both a Heritage Asset as well as a navigational structure, a meeting took place with Geoff Banks to discuss options to retain the Light.

It was agreed following the meeting, to find out who owns and is responsible for the structure, to undertake a survey of the structure and consider options for its future. It was agreed in the first instance to liaise with Cowes Harbour Commissioners, Trinity House, the IW Council and Cowes Combined Yacht Clubs.

Once jurisdiction is known, a report would be drafted with the potential for future maintenance and retention. In addition, discussion took place about potentially forming a Trust to oversee and agree options.

If you have an interest in Egypt Light, or know of its history, and who may have jurisdiction over the structure, please let me know.



COFFEE MORNINGS

On the First Friday of each month
anytime between 10:30 and 12:30
- together with a 'theme':

6th September	Puzzles and Games
4th October	Autumn Activities
1st November	Pictures and Postcards
6th December	Christmas Tombola

Hot and cold drinks and biscuits
will be served **all free of charge.**

Everybody is very welcome; just come through the Cemetery gates – that's visitors and neighbours alike!

If **you** can't make it, do you have a friend or relative who might enjoy a natter and some camaraderie?

(by the way, we welcome receiving donations that we can offer for sale at these events)

Prohibition of Driving Order

A reminder to all of the Prohibition of Driving Order in the High Street and adjoining roads:



PROHIBITION OF DRIVING

MIDNIGHT TO 7AM AND 10AM TO MIDNIGHT

The following roads are subject to a Prohibition of Driving Traffic Order
which includes all vehicles, including bicycles.

- **High Street,**
- **Shooters Hill,**
- **Sun Hill,**
- **The Cut,**
- **Cross Street.**

The High Street is subject to a One-Way Restriction

Birmingham Road and Carvel Lane have No Entry signs, and this is applicable to all vehicles including bicycles.

All signs displayed are fully compliant with the Regulation and allows the restrictions to be enforced.
The only exceptions to the Prohibition of Driving restriction are listed below -

EXEMPTIONS

- If you are directed to use these streets by the Police or a Police Community Support Officer;
- for the removal of any obstruction to traffic or the maintenance, improvement or reconstruction of any of the said lengths of road;
- any building operation or demolition carried out in said lengths of road;
- loading and unloading in the said lengths of road whilst in actual use in connection with the removal of furniture and effects from one office or dwelling house to another office or dwelling or to such premises from a repository;
- for the laying, erection, inspection, maintenance, alteration, renewal or removal in or near a length of road specified in the Schedule of any sewer, main, pipe, conduit, wire, cable or other apparatus as defined in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984;
- to gain access to, or egress from, any property in the said lengths of road which have off-street parking which can only be accessed from those roads;
- by the Fire, Ambulance or Police in any emergency;
- for the purpose of refuse collection from any property or receptacle;
- All mobility scooters are exempt, apart from Class 3 travelling in excess of 4mph.
- **If you are caught in breach of this restriction you could receive a fixed penalty of £50.**
- **CCTV covers these roads and evidence of non-compliance can be submitted to the Police.**



Working in partnership



USEFUL NUMBERS.

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

Name	Tel No./ Mobile/ Email	Ward
Ken Gilpin	07518 766295, ken.gilpin@gmail.com	Medina
Lynn Hammond	01983 282308; 07803 161272, lynn.hammond21@btinternet.com	Medina
David J Jones	01983 298445, davwin@talktalk.net	Medina
Lora J Peacey Wilcox* (Town Mayor)	01983 645765; 07970 424214, lora08@sky.com	Medina
John "Jock" Rafferty	07860 929462, jockrafferty@gmail.com	Medina
Anni L Adams	07715 253558, anni.adams@outlook.com	North
Paul M Bertie* (Deputy Town Mayor)	01983 243100; 07711 255000, cllr.paul.bertie@btinternet.com	North
Paul A Fuller*	01983 289595; 07935 090835, paulfulleriw@gmail.com	North
Neil G Oliver	01983 291179; 07969 258366, councillor.neil.oliver@gmail.com	North
Wendy Wardrop	01983 298687	North
Linda Brown	01983 295222; 07443 335107, lindymlou47@gmail.com	South
Stuart Ellis	01983 246352; 07721 606934, bigstu2006@hotmail.co.uk	South
John U A Nicholson*	07918 757843, cllr.john.nicholson@btconnect.com	South
Christine Bustin	01983 508933; 07976 802679, jimchris3@sky.com	West
Stephen C Reynolds	07734 931066, dj.1066@hotmail.co.uk	West
Paul G Taylor	01983 295222; 07443 332497, paul.taylor.9393@gmail.com	West

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	Isle of Wight Council	01983 821000
Cowes Medical Centre	01983 295251	Member of Parliament (Bob Seely)	01983 220220
Emergency Services (all)	999	Red Funnel Ferries	02380 019192
Ambulance/Fire/Police (non emergency)	101	Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
NHS (non emergency)	111	Cowes Primary School	01983 293261
		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 (24hrs.)	01983 822440		
Homestart - Support for families with young children	01983 533357	Foodbank	01983 292040
IW Fire Service - Free home fire safety check fire.communitysafety@iow.gov.uk	01983 407075	Social Services (Adult)	01983 814980
Jigsaw Family Support - community based for everyone affected by family separation www.jigsawfamilysupport.com	01983 639 793	Social Services (Children)	0300 300 0117
Pension Service (Pension Credit entitlement check)	0800 99 1234	Samaritans Isle of Wight	01983 521234
	01983 822282	Storeroom (Furniture project)	01983 298679