



Summer Edition 2020 from Councillor Lora Peacey Wilcox – Cowes Town Mayor

Covid-19 update

Councillors Peacey Wilcox and Fuller are the main Cowes Town Council points of contact during the pandemic. They have been closely working with Community Action IOW and the IW Council. Numbers of Cowes' residents requiring assistance with medical and shopping needs in the town was very limited compared with other areas on the Island. Local businesses pooled together to offer home deliveries, thinking on their feet on how they could help those shielding - and keeping their business going.

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who have given their time. As many of you will now be hearing - come 1st August many instructions change.



Donation to Food Bank

It was decided that a quick way to help those in most dire need was for the Town Council to make a donation to the Isle of Wight Food Bank. It was gratefully received, helping to feed over 313 people. A rise is expected in people needing food and school uniform for September due to furlough ending and jobs simply not being available.



Zoom Meetings

As with many of you, the Town Council's meetings are now taking place virtually via Zoom. It is working well and enabling us to make decisions that keep the town looking pretty and up together during such unprecedented times.

Public Toilets



All public conveniences under the Town Council's control were closed during lockdown and re-opened in line with lockdown easing. It was with much regret that the toilets needed to shut, however, as soon as I was able they were reopened - much to the relief of a number of delivery drivers, joggers, dog walkers, gardeners, key workers and people taking their daily exercise!

Cyclists in the High Street

A reminder of the prohibition: This has been a constant subject in the past 21 years of my being on the Town Council. ALL residents ask, is that bike users dismount and walk their bikes through the pedestrian area. Is that really too much to ask? It is against the law to cycle through! Read the notices!!



VE Day celebrations from your front gardens



Well, we had a large event planned at the Yacht Haven, which was sadly cancelled due to Covid. Due to restrictions in place and not being allowed to drive anywhere or go out for longer than an hour at that time, it was decided to decorate our homes instead. The Mayor decorated her home and sat outside for the entire day, playing wartime music and listening to Winston Churchill and his announcements. Her efforts were captured on camera when a Russian film crew turned up and interviewed her!!

Finance Committee Report

Since our last newsletter edition we have helped many local events and clubs with grants, including:

- IW Literary Festival - Support for running the event
- IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival - Support for running the event
- IW Armed Forces Day Committee - Support for running the June 2020 event
- IW Story Festival - Funding 60 day tickets for the Festival for low income families
- Wessex Cancer Trust - To support the two daisy buses in Southampton & Portsmouth
- St Mary the Virgin Church - Repair and upgrade of the Church clock
- Indoor Bowls, IW Community Club - Proweave Sportsvac Vacuum cleaner (Including 10 dust bags)



The Town Council is still open for applications for community grants for events or projects. For more information please either contact the Town Clerk or see the Town Council's website for further details.

Planning and Licensing Committee Report

The function of this committee is to inspect planning and licencing applications, advising the appropriate departments of the IW 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. If the application is acceptable there is no need for comment. We will sometimes express support for applications which we feel benefits the town; a recent example is Spinlock's plans to develop the former Police Station.



While other committees make recommendations to be ratified at a full Town Council meeting, the Planning and Licencing Committee has delegated powers to make decisions.

The Committee normally meets within a quite tight timeframe allowed for comment before the deadline, meaning we do not hold regular meetings, inspecting applications on a date agreed between the Chairman of the Committee and the Town Clerk.

Since March, lockdown due to Coronavirus has meant that the usual Committee meetings were not possible but we are still able to view and comment on applications. The Chairman, as before, downloads the plans but now instead of showing and explaining them on a screen at a meeting, they are sent electronically to Committee members with the Chairman's comments. All Committee members have the opportunity to comment and should there be a majority objecting this is relayed to the IW Council Planning Department.

Since lockdown most applications have not required any comment by the Town Council. The only application which Councillors have objected too is 85 High Street - the old HSBC building. Concern was

expressed about the change of use to residential, which was felt to be detrimental to the High Street. The proposed roof garden with possible overlooking, a need to protect the adjacent public slipway and lack of parking were other reasons why the Town Council objected.

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 has been objected to if it is felt that it will cause a public nuisance. The Committee continues to oppose applications for street furniture in the High Street, when the application is to erect tables between 7.00am & 10.00am, when 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 IW Council.

Tree Wardens' Report

In spite of the lockdown and current restrictions, the Tree Wardens have been active in continuing the Cowes Tree Survey. Two areas have been recently completed: St Mary's Churchyard and Seaview Road (and its off-shoots from Three Gates Road to the cycle track crossing). Unusual trees recorded include the Himalayan Birch "jacquemani", with its snow-white papery bark - a tree which the reference book lists as 'occasional'.



I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our Volunteer Tree Warden, Karen Graves, whose enthusiasm and knowledge is of great help in our survey.

Cancellation of Events

Sadly we have seen the cancellation of Sail GP; the Cowes - Torquay - Cowes Powerboat Race; and the postponement of the Round the Island Race until 26 September 2020. We all wait to see how and if planned events will happen. Well done to all those involved in trying to keep up some normality in the situation.

Cowes Week - A real shame to cancel, but under current conditions I fully understand and support the decision. I am already working on how to bring back a more 'carnival feel' to Cowes Week 2021 ... If you have any thoughts please get in contact. I will be contacting local groups to help bring this to fruition.



Free Parking for Mainland NHS Patients



There are limited parking permits available for free parking in Northwood House Car Park for Island residents attending NHS mainland hospital appointments. The scheme has been extended by Northwood House Charitable Trust Co. Ltd. until December 2020 (excluding August 2020). Our thanks to Northwood House for continuing the scheme to assist patients travelling to the mainland for treatment. The scheme is administered by the Town Clerks. Further details are available on our website:

<https://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/wp/homepage/nhs-parking-scheme/>

Knowing how debilitating chemotherapy and operations leave you, it is the least we can do for Island residents. We have received a number of thanks from those benefiting from the scheme.

Vandalism

Public toilets - We encountered minor vandalism in public toilets as they were re-opened after lockdown. We continue to ensure the facilities remain open for those who need them.

Skate Park – We continue to see broken chairs and litter left in the area, even during its closure throughout lockdown. It really does offend me as to why the kids think this is acceptable? Don't they understand that it is the generations of people paying for it? The Skate Park has reopened following the routine application of anti-slip paint on all ramp surfaces. Further maintenance will need to be undertaken at the facility and signage will be displayed once contractors have been booked. We always try to avoid closing the facility during school holidays wherever possible.

Summer planting

We are thankfully able to provide colourful displays of hanging baskets and planters again this year, which is a great way to keep the town looking bright and welcoming. Another great job by Care in the Garden and Forest View Nursery. Please keep an eye out to make sure they are okay and let us know if you see any problems.



Place Plan for Cowes and Northwood



The IW Council Regeneration team, Northwood Parish Council, Cowes Town Council and Cowes Business Association are working together to create a Place Plan for the two parishes. We need your help to gather essential information and opinion via an online questionnaire. By having your say and leaving your comments, you will be adding to a better understanding of the plan area and the experiences and aspirations of the people who live and work there; the project partnership can then work to find more effective ways for public services, community groups and businesses to collaborate and shape a better future. Details and links to complete the survey/s are available via the link:

https://arc-consulting.co.uk/cn-place-plan/?fbclid=IwAR0woh-ZETcyU_d4kz995WL6EqPv7JL_OfBK1xTDuUS50ox6cBNj5meJgIA

Public consultation launched to seek views on proposals for Cowes Harbour

The Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee stakeholder representatives met on Friday 3rd July to hear about and discuss several proposals, including an idea to combine Cowes Harbour Commission (CHC) and Cowes Town Waterfront Trust (CTWT), a potential application by CHC to the Charity Commission to register as a charity, and the requirements for a modernising Harbour Revision Order.



Cowes Harbour Commission and Cowes Town Waterfront Trust are keen to understand your views and comments on this initial stakeholder consultation and exciting proposals for the future of the harbour and waterfront. Interested parties are encouraged to read more details on the proposals, which are available via the following links: www.cowesharbourcommission.co.uk/consultation and www.cowesyachthaven.com/news.

And finally ...

As you can see, pandemic or not, the Town Council continues to operate daily with our Clerks and Councillors working from home and using Zoom for informal as well as formal meetings. I trust that you have stayed well.

My personal mantra is: Getting back to the 'new' normal and COVID - Personal Responsibility and Common Sense. I sincerely thank each and every one of you that have made a contribution to keeping Cowes going during this time; much as I would like to name all those groups, I would be amiss if I forgot a group. You know who you are. You are very special. Well done. Lora x



Ward Maps

Are you unsure of which ward you live in or which councillors represent your area? Our ward maps are below to assist; ward Councillors' details are on the final page of the newsletter.

Cowes North:

https://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Cowes_North.jpg



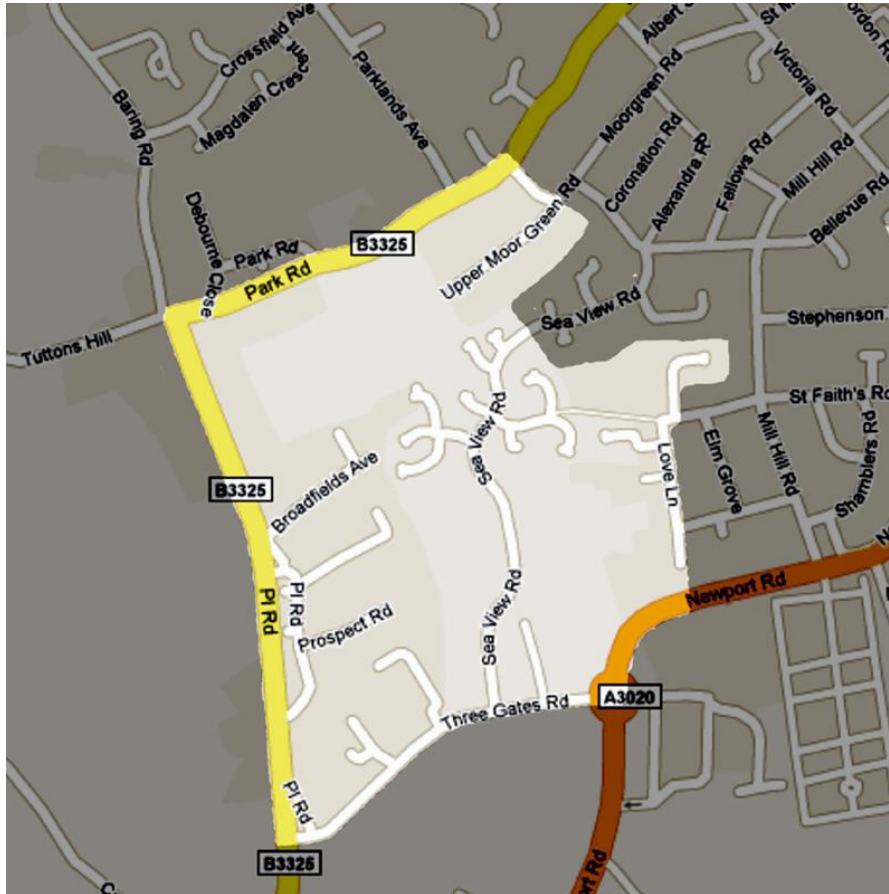
Cowes Medina:

https://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Cowes_Medina.jpg



Cowes South:

https://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Cowes_South.jpg



Cowes West:

https://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Cowes_West.jpg



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, clr.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, lindylou47@gmail.com	South
Stuart Ellis	01983 246352; 07721 606934, bigstu2006@hotmail.co.uk	South
John U A Nicholson*	07918 757843, clr.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
The Footprint Trust	01983 822282	Storeroom (Furniture project)	01983 298679