



Isle of Wight Councillors Report: May 2026.

Paul Fuller

Independent Isle of Wight Councillor for Cowes West and Gurnard.

Home: 45 Oxford Street, Cowes, Isle of Wight. PO31 8PT.

Telephone: 01983 289595 (24hrs)/ 07 935 090 835 (mobile/ text)

Email: paulfulleriw@gmail.com; Web: paulfullercc.blogspot.com.



Surgeries.

5:30-6pm, Wednesday 13th May: The Portland, Worsley Road, Gurnard.

11:30-12:15pm, Thursday 14th May: The Phoenix Café, Gurnard Pines, Gurnard.

10:30-11am; Wednesday 20th May, Benches adj. Watersedge Kiosk, Shore Road, Gurnard.

11-11:30am; Wednesday 20th May, The Woodvale, Princes Esplanade, Gurnard.

5:30-6pm, Wednesday 27th May: The Portland, Worsley Road, Gurnard.

10:30-11am, Thursday 28th May, Coffee & Cake at All Saints Church, Tuttons Hill, Gurnard

11:45-12:15pm, Thursday 28th May; Egon's Café, High Street, Cowes.

Local Elections.

Thank you to everybody who provided me with their support, ideas, feedback, suggestions and cake during the election campaign. It is very much appreciated and will be a privilege to continue to serve our community for the next three years! What continues to make me happy is that since 2009 each local election in Cowes West and Gurnard has seen an increased turnout, currently standing at 52.5%

The results were:

PAUL FULLER (INDEPENDENT) 1,173 votes

SUE WOODHOUSE (REFORM UK) 275 votes

PHIL SANDERS (CONSERVATIVE) 106 votes.

Having digested the results, it will prove to be a challenge to see how best the IW Council will work with its new 19 Reform UK, 11 various Independents, 4 Liberal Democrats, 2 Conservative, 2 Green and 1 Labour Councillors.

In the meantime I've supported Cllr. Jock Rafferty, new Labour Councillor for Cowes North. I also look forward to working with Cllr Gordon Adam (Reform) who defeated John Nicholson to become new Councillor for Cowes South and Northwood.

Findcheapfuel.com

With the conflict escalating with the Middle East, Cowes based company Wight Hat Limited launched its Find Cheap Fuel application. The purpose of the new application is to advise motorists of where is the least expensive garage to buy petrol. For further details please visit <https://findcheapfuel.com/> on both the Apple Store or Google Play

Vandalism/ Graffiti/ Anti-Social Behaviour, Gurnard and Cowes Seafrost.

Instances of anti-social behaviour which has taken place both on public and privately owned land (thought to have been undertaken by youngsters) have been reported and monitored by the Police.

With respect to this mindless behaviour including damage to steps leading to Gurnard's 'Secret Beach', I will be pushing for full compensation from the young people and their parents given distress caused.

14 new dwellings, Comforts Farm, Northwood.

The Planning Inspectorate has overturned IWC Planners decision and supported 14 dwellings at Comforts Farm. For me, this is another reflection on the national roll-out of new homes and is a consequence of not having an up to date local plan. For details, please visit: <https://publicaccess.iow.gov.uk/online-applications/appealDetails.do?keyVal=T18BETIQ07700&activeTab=summary>

McDonald's Application, Three Gates Road, Cowes.

Several applications comprising of this proposal, is likely to be considered by Planning Committee later this spring.

Fire Training Facility, Cockleton Farm.

Proposals for a new marine Training Facility to be located at Cockleton Farm was the subject of an Extraordinary Meeting called to provide feedback.

Whilst I called-in the application (should officers be mindful of approving the scheme) for consideration by the Planning Committee, the applicant made public following concerns being raised that he wanted to ensure the facility did not impact upon neighbours. In addition, I also had concerns of permanently altering the site from agricultural to industrial use.

Because of this, I anticipate an updated application with further details to resolve many issues raised.

Food Hygiene.

At the Council's Environment and Community Protection Committee, I raised concerns over delays of Food Premises Safety reviews. Over the years, I've felt uncomfortable that unlike other areas it is not mandatory for food premises to display their five star rating score.

Anti- Social Parking.

The most common complaint that I received during canvassing, was that of anti-social parking. Whilst I have discreetly spoken to residents, all of which were happy to assist unaware of concerns, please can I request that when parking your vehicle, boat trailer, etc. that you consider any impact this has upon neighbours leaving their drives etc.

Ferry Petition.

I am fully supportive of a new petition set up seeking support for Government intervention on ferry fares.

The petition, is seeking at least 10,000 signatures, the threshold required to trigger a formal response from Government. Campaigners are calling for action to ensure affordable, capped ferry fares for Island residents, arguing that cross-Solent ferry services function as a lifeline connection rather than discretionary transport.

Visit: <https://www.change.org/p/introduce-a-government-backed-scheme-to-make-ferry-fares-affordable-for-iow-residents>

E-Scooters.

The Government led 'licensed E-scooter pilot' has been extended (again) until 2028.

As a result Voi, the licensed providers last month sought to extend coverage across the Isle of Wight. Locally the most controversial of local sites is at the entrance to Gurnard Primary School, where safe pedestrian spaces are at a premium. Supporting local residents, I have opposed this location.

I'm told no decision will be taken until after the May election. In the meantime, if you have issues concerning discarded scooters etc. please call 07476 550190 (24 hrs) or email: support@voi.com

Drones.

At a Solent Transport meeting, I had the opportunity to see drones that are being tested by Southampton University to carry medication across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. It was reported that drones are able to operate in inclement weather and at times when ferries cannot operate.

Garden Waste

Onward Waste are still offering their Garden Waste subscription, which can prove less expensive to the service operated by the IW Council. Collections can take place fortnightly, or every four weeks.. For further information contact 01983 632205 or visit: <https://onwardwaste.co.uk/>

Isle of Wight Councillors Allowances.

As often occurs at Election Time, Councillors are targeted by the press concerning all kinds of matters. Last month, popular on the doorstep was discussions concerning my IW Councillors Allowance.

In this instance, my allowance was wrapped up as a total alongside seven other members over a three year period and included my out of pocket expenses, whilst a cabinet member until last year. In this period my 'allowance' which was my only source of income, equated to less than £19k per year. Last year (not reported), as highlighted in my Annual Report this fell to £12,000

From my perspective, I welcome your thoughts!

Northwood and Gurnard Flood Action Group

This we set up to support residents and receive updates from the IW Council's Flood Team

Priorities for the Group are to:

- Seek mitigation measures causing flooding;
- Using good practice in-situ elsewhere;
- obtaining sandbags/ alternatives with consideration of self-help access for residents, support and storage;
- Liaising directly with agency and support providers and monitoring/ updating Flood Plans via the two Parish Council's.

The Flood Group continues to await updates from the Flood Team as to when mitigatory works take place. A big thank you to the Horseshoe Inn, Northwood for hosting our first meeting.

Housing Support.

Recently, I've been dedicating more time supporting residents navigating what is often a frustrating journey through Housing.

If, in need of support, and choose to bypass me a good place to start is the Island HomeFinder service. For details, visit: <https://www.islandhomefinder.org.uk/> or please call: 01983 823040.

Gurnard to Thorness Coastal Path.

Please note this path remains closed. I have received a number of complaints from local landowners and farmers concerned regarding Heras Fencing being moved and obstructing the public highway, causing road hazards.

Whilst the very small Council Rights of Way Team are dealing with incidents, they are not in the position to make good damage/ repairs leading to more delays reopening paths.

Flytipping.

I understand that both the IW Council and the police are aware of footage showing neighbours flytipping household waste on private neighbouring land on Cowes/ Gurnard Seafront. To note, this was an issue which led to SGN selling their land nearby on Princes Esplanade.

I am also advised of a kayak that has appeared near Gurnard Sailing Club.

Also This Month:

- I have reported Island Roads subcontractors for damaging hedgerows in Rew Street following this years bird nesting season.
- I continue to chase replacement of the Royal Mail Post Box in Rew Street.
- I attended an invitation to see progress on the new facilities at Gurnard Pines due to be completed early summer.
- In the past few weeks, I've been shocked by the scale of roadworks taking place locally. For further information and given that timescales regularly change please visit: <https://one.network/>
- Following the Election, I have been asked to chase up what long term plans are in place for the SANG to the rear of Hilton Road, and how this will be managed, funded etc.
- Data has been provided as part of Gurnard's Housing Needs Survey. In summary, 35 respondent households containing 74 people feedback. This relates to a response rate of 3.55%
- My request for the IW Council to consider Lane Rentals was accepted and is due to be referred to the IW Council's Environment, Regeneration, Transport and Infrastructure Committee.
- I have supported IW Ramblers objectives.
- Following feedback received, I am hoping to forward responses concerning any roundabout for the Three Gates Road junction.
- In May I look forward to hosting a meeting concerning highway safety on rural roads. Recommendations will then be fed back to the Isle of Wight Local Access Forum.
- I attended Grow Gurnard's May Day Event. I am looking forward to future events going from strength to strength.
- Extra surgeries will commence following requests to hold drop-in's at Briary Court and Buckler's View. These are in addition to the new surgery taking place at Gurnard Pines Phoenix Café.