

## **Report on Meeting of Isle of Wight Bus and Rail Users Group (IWBURG) on Saturday 25 April 2026 in Newport Methodist Church Hall**

Vix Lowthion, the IWALC representative, didn't attend the meeting so I took some brief notes.

The main information given/issues discussed were as follows:

1. As a result of persistent efforts by Havenstreet and Ashey Parish Council, a new bus service between Havenstreet and Newport will be introduced soon. It will be a limited service and introduced on a trial basis. However, it is a significant achievement for the Parish Council.
2. Staff shortages are still causing frequent cancellations to Island Line services. Apparently, in the past relief staff were brought from the mainland but this is no longer possible because pay rates are higher there.
3. The electric buses seem to be working well. They are now able to go over Town Gate bridge and there are plans to increase seating downstairs in the next consignment of buses.
4. Road works continue to cause problems. Members asked why they couldn't be done at night or weekends. The answer, it was assumed, is that it would be more expensive because staff costs would be higher.
5. The number of IWBURG members has dropped by nine this year. The total membership (including organisational and life members) is now 32. Ways of increasing membership, and in particular encouraging younger members, were discussed.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be at 11.15 am on Saturday 23 May.

Diana Conyers  
30 April 2026