

Councillor Update – June 2026

Cllr Jock Rafferty – Cowes North

Over the past month, I have completed a comprehensive induction programme at County Hall as part of my new role as an Isle of Wight Councillor. The induction has covered governance, planning, standards, committee responsibilities and the wider functions of local government. Whilst it has been intensive and at times, exhausting, it has been extremely worthwhile and has provided a solid foundation to help me represent the residents of Cowes North effectively.

I have now commenced my committee responsibilities and have been attending a range of meetings and briefings to develop a thorough understanding of the issues affecting both Cowes and the Island as a whole. I currently serve on the following committees:

- Policy, Finance and Resources Committee
- Environment, Regeneration, Transport and Infrastructure Committee (ERTI)
- Environment and Community Protection Committee
- Harbours Committee
- Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee

Alongside these formal duties, I have been managing a growing volume of casework from residents and local businesses. The matters raised have been varied and have included planning applications and developments, environmental concerns, highways and traffic issues, anti-social behaviour, support for local businesses, community events and public amenity matters. Much of this work involves liaising with council officers, external agencies and residents to seek practical solutions and provide support through council processes.

I have also been actively working to challenge and seek resolution to the unacceptable discharge of sewage into the River Medina, an issue that has caused significant concern within our community. Protecting our local environment and ensuring that organisations are held accountable remains an important priority.

Although it has only been a short time, it has been a busy and demanding start.

The information, concerns and ideas shared by residents are invaluable, and I encourage anyone who needs assistance or wishes to raise local issues to continue to get in touch.



Isle of Wight Council

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