

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor: Gordon Adam

Ward: Cowes South and Northwood

Report to: Cowes Town Council

Date: July 2026

Introduction

Having now completed the Isle of Wight Council's induction programme, I am pleased to be fully focused on serving the residents of Cowes South and Northwood and representing their interests at County Hall.

The induction programme has provided a comprehensive understanding of the Council's services, statutory responsibilities, governance arrangements and decision-making processes, enabling me to undertake my role effectively and advocate for the needs of residents across the ward.

I remain committed to being a visible, accessible and proactive representative, working collaboratively with Cowes Town Council, local organisations and residents to address concerns and support positive outcomes for our community.

Committee Appointments

I have been appointed to serve on the following Isle of Wight Council committees:

- Licensing Committee
- Environment and Community Protection Committee
- Adult Social Care, Public Health and Housing Committee

In addition, I have been appointed as an external representative to the **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Panel**, which is responsible for scrutinising the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner, reviewing policing priorities and helping to ensure accountability across the policing area.

These appointments provide valuable opportunities to represent the interests of local residents and contribute to decision-making on issues that directly affect our communities.

Casework and Local Issues

I have recently returned from ten days of annual leave. Prior to this, I dealt with a range of enquiries and issues raised by residents concerning highways, parking, road safety and wider community matters.

Parking and Vehicle Concerns

A number of residents contacted me regarding vehicles believed to be either abandoned or parked unlawfully on local roads.

Following receipt of these concerns, I undertook site visits to assess the situation and subsequently met with local police officers and representatives from Island Roads.

Whilst residents understandably become concerned when vehicles remain stationary for extended periods, investigations confirmed that the vehicles reported did not meet the legal criteria for abandonment and were not parked in contravention of existing restrictions. As a result, neither the Council nor the Police currently have enforcement powers available in these specific cases.

Nevertheless, I appreciate the concerns raised and will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that any future changes are reported and addressed appropriately.

Seaview Road Bollards

A resident recently contacted me regarding damaged bollards adjacent to the roadway in Seaview Road.

Following a site inspection, I identified two bollards that had sustained significant damage, and which could potentially present a safety hazard, particularly to children and pedestrians.

Further discussions with Island Roads confirmed that Seaview Road is an unadopted road and therefore falls under the responsibility of the relevant management company rather than the highway authority.

Whilst this matter does not sit directly within the Council's remit, I am happy to assist residents by liaising with the management company and encouraging the necessary remedial works to be undertaken.

Speeding Concerns – Pallance Road

I have received several concerns regarding vehicle speeds on Pallance Road.

Road safety remains a priority for residents and excessive speed can have a significant impact on the safety and wellbeing of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.

I am currently making enquiries regarding the concerns raised and exploring what options may be available to address them. This includes engaging with the Community

Speed Watch programme to discuss whether monitoring can be undertaken and to establish whether further evidence can be gathered regarding traffic speeds in the area.

I will also continue to liaise with the relevant authorities to determine whether additional measures could be considered should evidence demonstrate an ongoing problem.

Residents are encouraged to continue reporting concerns, as accurate information helps build a comprehensive picture of local issues and supports any future requests for intervention.

Voi E-Bikes

I have recently received complaints regarding Voi e-bikes being left in locations that obstruct footways and create difficulties for pedestrians, wheelchair users and those with pushchairs.

Following these concerns, I have contacted the operator to explore whether designated parking or drop-off areas could be introduced at locations where repeated issues have been identified.

I will provide a further update once discussions have progressed.

Use of Glyphosate Weed Killer

Residents have raised concerns regarding the use of glyphosate-based weed control products on public footpaths and in areas close to parks and public open spaces.

The concerns primarily relate to the potential impact on children, pets and wildlife.

I have requested further information regarding the Council's policy, the assessment process governing its use and the safeguards currently in place. Once a response has been received, I will update residents accordingly.

Ronsons Close Fire

Whilst I was away on annual leave, the tragic fire at Ronsons Close occurred.

Although I was overseas at the time, I contacted Isle of Wight Council officers to establish whether any further assistance was required for those affected by this devastating incident.

I was reassured that all available support mechanisms had been activated and that the Council was working closely with partner agencies to assist affected families and residents.

As the matter remains subject to an ongoing police investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further. However, my thoughts remain with everyone affected, and I intend to maintain contact with relevant agencies to ensure residents continue to receive the support they need.

Resident Engagement

Engaging with residents and responding to local concerns remains one of my highest priorities.

Over recent weeks, I have continued to assist residents through correspondence, telephone discussions and site visits where appropriate. Direct engagement remains invaluable in identifying issues and ensuring that concerns are directed to the appropriate authority for investigation and action.

I would encourage residents to continue making contact regarding local issues, as early reporting often assists in achieving quicker and more effective solutions.

Resident Surgeries

As part of my commitment to openness and accessibility, I have begun a programme of regular ward surgeries.

These sessions will provide residents with an opportunity to discuss concerns, seek advice on Council-related matters, raise issues affecting their local area or simply meet with their County Councillor to discuss matters of importance to them.

I firmly believe that regular face-to-face engagement is an essential part of effective local representation, and I look forward to meeting residents through these sessions.

Details of dates, venues and times will be publicised once arrangements have been finalised.

Looking Ahead

As I continue my role as Councillor, I look forward to working closely with **Cowes Town Council**, local community groups, partner organisations, businesses and residents to address local concerns and deliver positive outcomes for our community.

The challenges facing local government are significant, but so too are the opportunities to work collaboratively and make meaningful improvements for residents.

I remain committed to being a strong advocate for Cowes South and Northwood, ensuring that residents' voices are heard and that local issues receive the attention they deserve.

Councillor Gordon Adam
County Councillor for Cowes South and Northwood
Isle of Wight Council