
Report from Councillor Wardrop

What authority or powers are vested in the House Trustees (or anyone on their behalf) enabling hire of virtually the whole Park to the total exclusion of local residents?

Very limited parkland remained outside the secured fencing during the early-mid June actual event with severe disruption both before and after when setting up and dismantling.

Only unfenced small area from Play park to Nunnery Steps & Bowls club; Tennis courts, House itself, Rotunda and toilets (funded by local residents); all totally fenced off.

Annual Park Grounds maintenance funded by residents via CTC together with an army of twice weekly gardening volunteers, all at little or no expense to the House. The huge widespread range of volunteering throughout the House described in a whole page of the 2026 summer issue of Northwood House News.

A further page within the same Issue contains an extensive advertisement for this recent 'Leblanq Joyride Festival' exclusive event. A repeat 2027 event already being advertised on Facebook I understand, per sample below, and in view of the prospective prices therefor, what sort of hire fee does 'our' whole Park command for the House??

Perhaps the thin end of the wedge for more such exclusive events?

No benefit to Town itself, there being no apparent reason to stray away from site when absolutely everything provided there. Secondly, top coach parking area completely fenced off for a few days with only half the then remaining car park area also fenced off: seriously reduced parking no inducement to come to town.

To a lesser extent further smaller seasonal closures randomly take place in the Park, i.e. 2-day Spring Fair last Easter Friday/Saturday. Whilst also fenced off, Stalls were accessible to the public BUT ONLY on payment of an entry fee of £6 pp. per day or £11 pp. for the 2 days.

Having already paid for a pitch, sadly for the enclosed Stallholders there is an effective immediate uplift on any of their sales of a buyer's entry fee.

Ward Avenue car parking = £4 per car. Circa mid-day Good Friday there were 211 parked cars x £4 = £844 at that one point in the day, more of course in and out both prior to & after that time over a 2-day period. Win-Win-Win for Northwood House!

Northwood House is now a thriving business with an army of volunteers and (the Park) time to stop subsidising the Park.

Does the Park Grounds Maintenance just annually "roll-over" without question or reference at all to either Finance or CTC as a whole?

First of a 3 Part final Proposal of 5 February 2026 meeting of the Northwood House Wider Review & Lease Recommendation:

"Part 1 A review of the public funds CTC pays to Northwood House considering the financial reserves Northwood House appear to have access to according to Companies House."

A further meeting of this Group scheduled for Tuesday 07-07 - outcome awaited.

Wendy Wardrop

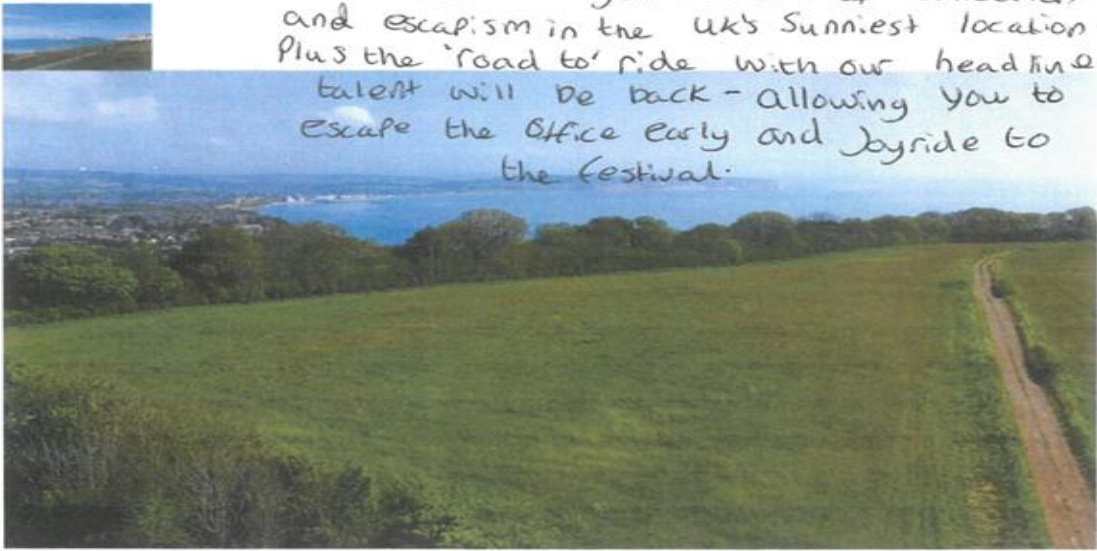
05-07-2026

Event Flyer

1/06/2026, 19:46

Joyride Festival Isle of Wight - 11-13th June 2026

Pink Caravan 500pp.
Pink Tent 850pp.
White Tent £1125pp.
Celeste £1750pp.
Platinum £4050pp.



Joyride festival June 2027 Promises to be an even more indulgent weekend of Connection and Escapism in the UK's Sunniest location. Plus the 'road to' ride with our headline talent will be back - allowing you to escape the office early and Joyride to the festival.

JOYRIDE FESTIVAL ISLE OF WIGHT

Our legendary glamping festival celebrating glorious escapism returns for a second year.
JUNE 11 - 13 2027

JOIN THE WAITLIST