

Side Lines for a While

I have deliberately not put myself forward for posts at the moment, whilst I recover. I do still attend meetings when I can, and feel fit to do so, and, eventually, when I am sure I am able to do so, committing to attendance as a voting member.

Having said that, I have completed my refresher course to go back onto home haemodialysis, and, if I have learned anything it is not to push too hard, quite the opposite, to accept and don’t push, accept less as good enough. I did have a session with my mate, industrial psychologist, Ed Gray, to find out why I pushed so much and how to ease off, and it worked – thanks Ed!

Also, I walked around our block last weekend (before the sun got too hot), and it took me 15 minutes longer than before I was ill, so pleased with that. Also, I managed to climb all 3 stairs on Wightlink this week. I could not have done that 2 weeks ago!

Highlighting Our Footpaths and Amenities

Cowes, Northwood, Gurnard do have the LCWIP. We also have an opportunity to dive a bit deeper with other, complimentary policies, ones that, for example, might more specifically deal with our footpaths and green spaces. We have the support of Isle of Wight Council officers in this, who have latched on to the brilliance and simplicity of the idea of Place Based Fractal Governance, being led by Cowes Town Council and Southampton University.

Having such policies, and getting them approved (we are currently pushing at an open door for this), gives us a bit of paper to wave in people’s faces. It also gives us documentation for funding, when opportunity comes along.

Northwood, for example, does not have much in the way of amenities, but its network of footpaths could be so much better and so much better used, even made educational, with history and wildlife they feature on the way. Cowes has some fantastic but under-utilised green spaces – Arctic Park, St Mary’s Road Park, the Railway Tunnel (now, what could you do with that, with the right funding!), even Northwood Recreation Ground (speak with Ross for his ideas and work on this, and other areas). All these places could have plans for their better use and protection.

The Show Ground is Not in Our Area, but We Have Agreement that We Pretend It IS!!!

Everyone assumes that the Showground, and the Tank Museum, are both in Northwood. When I was first a Ward Councillor, I used to get invited to events at both. Even I thought they were in Northwood! The disappointing reality is that they are both in Newport, Parkhurst Ward. I have spoken with the Ward Councillor, who has no objection to us pretending they are in Northwood, and suggests that it may be less complicated to do this in informal agreement.

Both sites are amazing assts, and provide much interest and opportunity, and the least, I think, we could do is to pledge support, promote their activities and facilities and help out where we can (or encourage other volunteers in our area to do so).

Do we have clubs or organisations who might like to exhibit at either location. Could we oversee the organisation of visiting days for locals, schools, pensioners, residents?

Who Would Like a Hand in Developing a Local Area Conservation Policy

It is a problem that, as far as I know, there is NO conservation policy AT ALL!. There are many complaints, as we all know, about over zealous interpretation and enforcements. If we developed a local area Conservation Policy, and got it endorsed (by some means or other), we have something to wave in people’s faces. If it was underpinned by a balance that was reasoned, even better – anyone know a decent barrister with some spare time?

Would anyone like to lead on this?