

Report on Meeting of Isle of Wight Bus and Rail Users Group (IWBURG) on Saturday 19 September 2026 in Newport Methodist Church Hall

There were 16 participants, including committee members.

Information obtained:

1. The Southern Vectis winter timetable starts on 27 September. The most significant change is a new service (route 33) from Newport to Ryde via Havenstreet. As already reported, this is the result of years of campaigning by Havenstreet and Ashey PC. There are also major changes to services 38 and 39 in Newport (see below).
2. Wightlink has published draft changes to the Fastcat timetable, due to come into effect in January. It is designed to enable the service to run with only one vessel and includes a reduction in services in the middle of the day. IWBURG has submitted comments.
3. Ryde Pier road and walkway will be closed 25-28 September for maintenance works. The only way to get to the Pierhead will be by train.
4. Road works continue to cause problems. Most relate to utilities and 70% are reported to be emergencies, but there is some question about whether they are all actually emergencies.
5. Some school bus services provided by Southern Vectis (route 200s) will in future (not sure when) be open to the public. This will reduce the costs to the IWC.
6. Plans for local government reorganisation in Hampshire (and elsewhere) have been 'paused' but this will not affect the devolved Hampshire and Solent Combined Authority. The authority will take over responsibility for transport in May 2028.

Changes to routes 38 and 39:

There are concerns about the changes to routes 38 and 39. A resident explained her concerns and representatives from Newport and Carisbrooke Town Council supported her. Apparently there was no consultation before the changes were announced.

IWALC question:

Nick Stuart requested that I ask about improving bus services to Porchfield, Calbourne and Brighstone. He said that Calbourne, Porchfield and Newtown PC had undertaken a bus user survey and suggested three possible new routes. Members said that the problem was the commercial viability of these routes but said that, if the PC persists, as Havenstreet has done, they may eventually be successful. They suggested that (if it has not already done so) the PC share its findings with Southern Vectis and that Nick attend the next IWBURG public meeting in January. They also suggested that they approach the FYT bus about the possibility of extending the FYT service to these areas.

Relations with Solent Transport User Group (STUG):

A member of the STUG attended the meeting. It was noted that IWBRUG and STUG are now working closely together, sharing information etc.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at 11.15 am on Saturday 24 October.

Diana Conyers
20 September 2026