

Monthly Isle of Wight Councillor Report

Councillor Gordon Adam

Cowes South and Northwood Ward

August 2026 Report to the Parish Council

During the past month, I have continued to represent residents across Cowes South and Northwood, dealing with individual casework, highways and environmental concerns, planning matters and my wider responsibilities as an Isle of Wight Councillor.

Planning - McDonald's Application

One of the main issues I have been involved with has been the proposed McDonald's development. I worked with local residents to raise concerns regarding the application and to ensure that those concerns were properly represented during the planning process.

I am pleased to report that the planning application was refused. I was pleased to have played a part in achieving this outcome alongside residents and others who raised concerns about the proposal. I will continue to monitor the situation for any further developments.

Highways and Road Maintenance

I have continued to deal with residents' concerns regarding the condition of local roads and the standard of highway maintenance. I have raised issues regarding roads that residents believe require attention and will continue to pursue these matters with the relevant teams.

Road and highway maintenance continues to be an important area of casework, and I will keep the Parish Council informed of any significant progress.

Footway and Footpath Maintenance - Resolved

During the month, a resident raised an issue with me regarding the poor condition and maintenance of a local footway/footpath. I raised the matter with the appropriate team and am pleased to report that the issue was resolved within one week of being brought to my attention.

It was good to see such a prompt response and a positive outcome for the resident concerned.

Residents' Concerns Regarding a Large Tree

I have been assisting residents who have raised concerns regarding a large and growing tree. I am working with the residents concerned and looking into what options may be available to address the issue appropriately. I have now established the owner of the land the trees are on and will make contact with them to try and find a resolution for the residents. This remains an ongoing piece of casework.

Adopted Road

During the month, I have also been assisting residents with an issue relating to an adopted road. I have been helping residents to clarify the position and establish the responsibilities of the relevant authorities. I will continue to pursue the matter and assist those concerned in seeking a resolution.

Southern Water and Sewage Discharges

I continue to work with everyone in the Council regarding the ongoing issue of sewage discharges into the Solent. I believe it is important that Southern Water is held to account and that concerns regarding the impact of sewage discharges on the Solent, our coastline and the wider marine environment continue to be raised.

I will continue to support the Council's work in this area and press for appropriate action and accountability.

Park Bins - Resolved

Residents raised concerns with me regarding bins in a local park not being emptied. I raised the matter with the relevant people and am pleased to report that the issue was dealt with within 24 hours of being raised.

This was another positive example of residents bringing a local issue to my attention, allowing me to raise it with those responsible and achieve a quick resolution.

Rental E-Scooters

I have received concerns from residents regarding rental electric scooters being left discarded or poorly parked on pavements. This can cause an obstruction for pedestrians and is of particular concern for residents with disabilities, people using wheelchairs or mobility scooters, those with visual impairments, older residents and parents with pushchairs.

I have raised these concerns several times with the company and will continue to press them for better management of rental e-scooters and for pavements to be kept safe and accessible.

Adult Social Care and Committee Work

Alongside my ward casework, I have continued with my wider responsibilities as an Isle of Wight Councillor. This includes my ongoing work relating to Adult Social Care, together with my responsibilities on the Licensing Committee and Environment Committee.

Last week we visited the care homes around the island as a committee. It was a humbling experience to see the amazing work being done.

These responsibilities form an important part of my Council work alongside representing residents and dealing with issues affecting Cowes South and Northwood.

Councillor Surgeries

Together with Councillor Paul Fuller, who represents Gurnard, I have held councillor surgeries at the Horseshoe public house and at Egon's Cafe in Cowes.

The surgeries give residents an opportunity to speak to me directly about Council services, local concerns and individual casework. They also allow Councillor Fuller and me to work together on issues affecting our neighbouring communities.

Summary

It has been another active month of ward and Council work. There have been several positive outcomes, including the refusal of the McDonald's planning application, the footway/footpath issue being resolved within one week, and the park bin issue being dealt with within 24 hours.

Other matters remain ongoing, and I will continue to pursue highways issues, assist residents with individual casework, raise concerns about e-scooters, and continue pressing for accountability regarding sewage discharges into the Solent.

I will continue to work with the Parish Council and keep members informed about matters affecting residents in Cowes South and Northwood.

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