Councillor Wardrop NWH Grounds Update: October 2026

Within the Rotunda the opposite wall to the entrance contains the following:
"***Northwood House and grounds were presented with great and much appreciated generosity to the Town of Cowes as municipal buildings and a public park by Mr. Herbert Joseph Ward April 1929"***

Today, presumably, the elected Town Council represents the 'Town of Cowes? If not, who?

Recently part of the Ward Estate grounds - namely Car Park public conveniences Park Road - was sold, the resultant Planning and Licensing applications for its development raising issues on which the Town Council Planning Committee voiced strong objections, it being within Cowes' conservation area and wholly residential. Members of CT Planning Committee attended the Licensing hearing, the Chairman putting forward the Council's many concerns.

On what authority did the Trustees have sole power to decide and sell off any part of the Town of Cowes' gifted Estate grounds? Was disposing of part of the people's park at any time ever discussed with the Town Council as the Town of Cowes representatives of the people - at the very least out of courtesy towards the people of Cowes?

In particular, the grounds maintenance is at the expense of the Town of Cowes' residents annually through the Town Council. Further support is by many local gardening volunteers on a weekly basis on Wednesdays who willingly give up time on their park's upkeep for everyone to enjoy.

In any event, if the Town Council does represent the 'Town of Cowes' why is there so little input by it or collaboration with Northwood House Trustees and the Town Council?

What is the way forward for better future liaison with the House?