

Annual Report 2019

Cllr Chris Whitehouse
Conservative, Newport West Ward



The last 12 months has been an incredibly busy period for me working hard in the ward.

I've run a campaign to prevent a new road being opened into Purdy Road for a Sovereign Housing development on the playing field adjacent Taylor Road; and flagged my opposition to proposed massive housing development on part of the Carisbrooke College site and on land off Sylvan Drive.

I've kept up my pressure on parking locally in Hinton Road and in the roads off Fieldfare Road. I've had some limited success, but the problem is there are just far too many cars using the area and there is no consensus about whether to introduce residents parking zones, with their associated costs to local people.

Now that the final stages of the Christ the King College rebuild are looming, we can at least look forward to the College providing on-site parking once again for its staff and students which, combined with the contractors finally completing their work, should significantly reduce demand for parking on our local roads.

I've raised parking in the Ward in debates in the Council Chamber, and as Cabinet Secretary to the current Conservative Administration I worked to ensure that major increases in parking charges in Newport were not brought forward. Instead, there will be an Island Wide Review of Parking to ensure that a policy is applied consistently, and balances the needs of local residents and businesses.

I secured the retention of Hinton Road as part of the bus route for the Number 38 bus which is so important to those who need to get to Newport centre, but who don't drive for whatever reason. The next challenge is to sort out the parking issues so that the bus can actually get through!

The muddy footpaths around Christ the King College, Carisbrooke Primary School and Saint Thomas of Canterbury Primary School are being upgraded as a result of my campaigns, much to the relief of hundreds of local school children, their parents and local dog walkers.

I'm working for the regeneration of Newport High Street and the harbour area, to ensure that we have the jobs and facilities our town needs, and I'm actively lobbying for a new bridge over the Medina in the Stag Lane area so that we can reduce the amount of traffic that comes into Newport: reducing journey times and improving air quality.

Improving our local schools remains high on my agenda and I am delighted with the success that the Isle of Wight Council is having in implementing the strategy I wrote to bring this about: Delivering Educational Excellence.

Far from failing due to "government cuts" our children's social services are now very good and are praised by Ofsted, and aspects of our adult social care are among the best in the country and are nominated for awards. Even the Island's waste recycling system is now acknowledged nationally as one of the best.

If only our national politicians would stop messing around and deliver Brexit, we would have much to celebrate!