



Annual Report for the Annual Meeting of Newport Parish Council 2019

Matthew Price IOW Councillor for Newport North Inc Whippingham South

Again I very proudly represent the residents of Newport North on both Newport Parish council and the IOW Council for another year.

Planning: I continue to serve as member of the IOW councils Planning committee and continue in the position of Vice Chairman. The island Plan Review is currently taking place and the consultation closed a few weeks ago. I campaigned hard to have the parcel of land removed which was included within the review, this area at New Fairlee Farm has an allocation for 880 houses! With at least another 200 elsewhere in the ward could lead to 1100 houses being built. The Fairlee Road and Staplers Road areas cannot cope with the volume of traffic coming in and out of Newport already and with the local services and infrastructure pushed to the limits it frankly makes any suggestion of these developments sound implausible. With the overwhelming support of local residents I am leading the charge to have this land removed from future land supply allocations. The housing target already provided by the Government is set 9615 houses and could also bring two garden villages on top of those. I am working with our MP Bob Seeley to ensure this unrealistic target is significantly reduced. In regard to the Planning Committee both myself and most of my colleagues will continue to try and bring common sense and input from residents into the decisions made by the planning committee.

Roads, Pavements, Footpaths and Drainage: Finally the Victoria Road and St Pauls view Road are about to be dealt with. After so many false starts, the historic curb channels are to be removed and the stone used elsewhere on the road network and the road partly levelled up to slightly higher level, this will widen and improve the lower end of the road. Wightfibre are continuing to cause chaos with their major network upgrade, which has seen many pavements and roads ruined by their poor workmanship. Island Roads are busy working hard to hold them to account for those poor quality works and will be ensuring they reinstate the areas they have worked on within a six month period. I have personally walked every road in my ward with their representative to highlight the issues so far.

The major works on Staplers have been a constant headache for residents and commuters. Myself and Councillor colleagues have worked together to influence these works and try to better the traffic arrangements and bring the works to the earliest completion date possible. Mayfield Drive will have to be closed for at least two weeks so the new water main installed on staplers can be connected to the Staplers Estate and will then need to be pressurised and chlorinated before the roads can reopen fully.

The old railway track from Halberry Lane through to Mews lane did have some works carried out to the drainage system and also some rough surfacing laid. I am appalled that land owners have for many years blocked the continued use of the Railway line from Newport through to Wootton. Currently cyclists and pedestrians have to come onto Fairlee Road almost until the Racecourse roundabout mostly due to those inconsiderate land owners blocking what should be a publicly available route. I have every intention of getting this route back in use and would love to see the Victorian Railway Bridge at Belmont Lane restored with some heritage funding.



The next phase of pedestrian and cycle route to carry on from Island Harbour through to the Folly are in negotiation and I hope to see that project move forward next year.

Festivals in Newport: The IOW Festival continues again this year with the new owners having so far made very few changes, the controls of the Staplers Estate to keep residents safe will continue and during the last Festival I had an integral role in the planning and security of this large scale multi agency event.

Other news:

The lifting bridge at Newport Quay will be replaced during the summer this year, there is likely to be a planning application for this to be considered very soon. This bridge has been closed for nearly two years now and these repairs cannot come soon enough.

I have fought hard for the last six years to secure the controlled junction, crossing and pavements to the junction of Mill Lane and Fairlee Road. The developer at Island Harbour ceased work some time ago and is currently preparing to restart those works, I have attended multiple meetings with planning officers, residents and the developer to make sure that a solution for the junction moves forward BEFORE more on site construction takes place. The junction approved in 2016 has not been able to be implemented due to some land ownership issues. The Ryde Queen has now been issued with an enforcement notice and is expected to be removed later this year due to the environmental hazard it now presents due to its advanced decay. I am glad to say that the engines and many other parts of the vessel will be used in museums and education centres around the country.

I continue to often meet residents at the John Cheverton Centre at the Earl Mountbatten hospice and regularly go there for coffee, please let me know if you would like to meet me.

Please feel free to get in touch regarding anything I may be able to help with.

Best wishes

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