

## Report to the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting from Andrew Garratt

I was elected for the first time to represent Parkhurst ward on both Isle of Wight Council (IWC) and Newport Parish Council (NPC) last May (2017).

It has been a busy year working on issues that local people raised with me in the election campaign and afterwards. Most get in touch by email or phone, and I am always willing to visit residents in their own homes. I also have held several advice surgeries at Camp Hill Club, at which residents can also raise issues or ask questions. To help residents keep in touch with the work I am doing as their representative, I deliver newsletters to my ward and have set up a web site.

Three of the major issues that I have taken up this year are set out below.

**The prison estates:** The longest running issue in my ward is the state of the roads, pavements and other infrastructure on the estates around the prison. These are roads that are not formally adopted roads which would otherwise be maintained by Isle of Wight Council as highways authority. There is no simple solution – if there was it would already be in place – but I continue to speak up for local residents.

Some of the roads and open spaces remain the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). I meet monthly with the MoJ's local manager to raise issues. The collapse of the MoJ's contractor, Carillion (who were very slow at taking action in any case), means there is a significant backlog of work to work through.

I met with the Island's new local MP, Bob Seely, in August 2017. He was supportive of the need to keep working for a solution. In the past some progress was made by previous councillors and MPs. I am working with the MP to re-boot these efforts. An added dimension to this will come after the anticipated transfer of some MoJ land to Homes England, leading to development of the area over the next ten to fifteen years.

**St Mary's roundabout and associated junctions:** Isle of Wight Council wants to re-model the junctions of St Mary's roundabout with Forest Road and Parkhurst Road leading on to Hunnyhill. The proposals are rooted in the Newport Traffic Model, drawn up around ten years ago.

I worked with IWC and Newport Parish Council colleagues to press for a proper consultation on the proposals. IWC agreed to a consultation, with a decision to be taken by the IWC Cabinet in May 2018. I am pleased that NPC made a formal response to the consultation highlighting many concerns.

Although the consultation was welcome, I thought it didn't do enough to gather opinions from all who use the junctions and roundabout. I have carried out my own online survey for anyone on the Isle of Wight to complete, complemented by a paper copy to households across Parkhurst ward. The responses from over 200 people show that most are concerned that the changes will actually hold up traffic, and they think the proposals should not go ahead in the form proposed. Many said that Coppins Bridge should be the priority.

By the time of the Parish Annual Meeting I will have published a full report on my survey, and made it available to download from my website.

I am particularly keen that any decisions made tie in effectively with the work done by the parish council through initiatives such as Shaping Newport, jointly with Newport Business Association and the Isle of Wight Council.

**Island Roads resurfacing works:** One of the first issues raised with me upon my election was the resurfacing work along Noke Common. This turned into something of a saga over several months, with delay after delay as issues arose with the carriageway substructure, reinstatement of grassed verges, the impact on residential access, and road safety. Senior officers of Island Roads agreed to my request that they put together a report on what issues arose, how they handled them, and how they will learn from what happened. In time, it will be important for the report to be properly scrutinised by councillors as a case study of how Island Roads is delivering on the PFI contract.

In other meetings with Island Roads officers, I have raised concerns about the poor surfacing of Hunnyhill and Albany Road. The surface of Hunnyhill is already showing signs of deterioration and I feel that Island Roads should be made to re-do the work properly.

There have, of course, been many other issues raised with me, often affecting only a few residents or individuals. These are just as important to me as the 'big' issues. An example is the disturbance caused to residents by loose ironworks ('manhole' covers) in roads such as Horsebridge Hill. I'm pleased that Island Roads is usually quick to deal with the ones for which it has responsibility.

Finally, there is the council and committee work. As well as the Full Council meetings of IWC and NPC, I am also on a number of IWC committees, including the main Scrutiny Committee. (A recurring issue on its agenda has been the Floating Bridge!). At all meetings, my background in statistics means that I am very keen that decision making uses the best available data and that has been properly analysed.

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2 April 2018

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