



Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 9th April 2018

Housebuilding: enough is enough!

Parking is already a nightmare and traffic flow in some of the roads can be dreadful at peak times. Even the buses can't always get through, so like many local residents I'm truly shocked that so much new housing is still likely to be imposed upon us.

There are three main areas in which development seems likely. First, the redundant playing field alongside **Taylor**



Road is set to be the subject of a planning application by Spectrum Housing. I've already been in touch with them and with planning

officers to try to minimise the impact upon our area by making sure any traffic generated leaves through Gunville, not back down Purdy Road and Wellington Road.

The second major area is land off **Sylvan Drive**. Already preparations have been made for an additional seven houses at the end of **Saint Augustine's Road**. Planning permission for these homes was given many years ago and they can't be stopped now, but I have been in touch to ensure that the current **shared use pedestrian/cycle path** in that part of Sylvan Drive is continued as part of this development to join **Petticoat Lane footpath**.

I've also asked for more signs reminding users that cyclists are entitled to use the shared use path as there have been a number of misunderstandings with some motorists taking issue with their right to do so, and also to ensure pedestrians are aware so we can avoid accidents. But, the fear now is that even larger parcels of land off Sylvan Drive will be taken forward for development. I've been in touch with planners to discuss the concerns of local residents should a major planning application be submitted for the development of these green fields.

Thirdly, the new build at **Carisbrooke College**, whilst welcome in itself, will result in some parcels of land currently part of the school site being released for development. I'm currently trying to find out whether this is likely to go for retail use or housing, or a mix of both. Whatever the use, it will mean more traffic locally, it always does. ☹️

The real point, though, is that enough is enough. Our local roads, and for that matter our sewers, simply cannot cope with all this development. I'm arguing very strongly that other areas around the Island should have to take their share of all these new houses.

Boundary Review underway

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is undertaking a review of the boundaries of all the electoral wards on the Island, including our

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Newport West Ward. The purpose of the review is to ensure that in so far as

reasonably practical every councillor represents the same number of voters, which is fair enough. I'm asking the Commission, though, to take account of all the new voters who will be registering in our area if all these new houses are forced upon us!

Change at the Top for Christ the King

The Principal of Christ the King College, Patricia Goodhead, has announced her retirement. I'm sure we all



congratulate her on the birth of her grandchild that prompted the decision. She's served our local schools with distinction for many years and I'm sure will be sorely missed. Christ the King continues to be very popular and is officially, according to Ofsted, a "good" school. Whoever takes over will have to continue to drive the College forward.

EU Referendum: Update

Well, we've finished phase one of the Brexit negotiations successfully with a general agreement on money and some other key issues, but it does seem the European



negotiators are deliberately trying to block progress by proposing completely unacceptable approaches to issues like the border

between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Generally, most people seem to think that Theresa May is doing a pretty good job in taking Brexit forward and she's certainly made it clear that we are leaving both the Customs Union and the Single Market. More people voted for Brexit than for any other issue, ever, in the history of our democracy, so it's important politicians in Westminster and Brussels remember this and get on and deliver the best deal they can.

Parking update:

Vectis Field

I did argue at the outset that the temporary car park at the edge of the Vectis Field should have a stone chip surface,



but the planners said no, it had to be grass. The result? After heavy rain the car park is a quagmire so muddy that it's actually neither safe nor sensible for the staff of the local schools to park there. I'm pressing again for a better surface so that the facility is

actually usable as intended. I'll keep you posted.

Hinton Road

The Council, based on our feedback locally, has decided that double-yellows in Hinton Road wouldn't solve the real problems that do exist there and would be inconvenient for some residents whose visitors might struggle to find parking spaces. The suggestion has been dropped.

Snowberry Road

Meanwhile, areas like Snowberry Road continue to struggle too. This photograph submitted by a local resident



shows just how bad things can be there. The most frustrating point is that double yellows for Snowberry and some other local roads where residents want them were actually planned in 2012 but the permission to introduce the restrictions lapsed before the plan was implemented.

There will need to be another Traffic Regulation Order drafted, published and consulted upon before the work can go ahead, but I'm pressing hard for this to happen soon.

Newport Harbour regeneration

Plans are now being actively worked up for an exciting regeneration project to develop Newport Harbour with shops, restaurants, housing and new education facilities. In fact, we're trying to persuade government to make the entire Medina Valley an enterprise zone to attract investment and new jobs.

Russia: a real and present threat

The shocking events in Salisbury, with the Russians using chemical weapons to try and murder people,



have rightly been condemned by the Prime Minister, Theresa May, and our own MP, Bob Seely, alike. It's been good to see Bob speaking in Parliament and on national TV since he's an expert in non-conventional warfare and a very experienced soldier who lived in Russia for several years. His expertise is invaluable to our

country at a time like this, when Russia has effectively declared a return to the Cold War.

Other Issues

Southern Water are considering installing a "fish pass" to enable fish to get past some of their sluices in **Lukely Brook**. I'm in close touch to make sure that any work done reduces the chances of the terrible flooding in **Caesars Road** and **Wilver Road** we had at Christmas a few years' ago.

I'm also lobbying hard for more upgrading of **local footpaths**, particularly those feeding Saint Thomas of Canterbury School, Carisbrooke Primary School, Newport Primary School, Carisbrooke College and Christ the King College.

I'm also helping the Isle of Wight Council develop a new marketing plan to recruit more foster parents and adopters so that our looked after children can have the families they want and need. It will be published shortly. In the meantime, a big 'Thank You' to all those locally who adopt or foster.

Keep in touch

Please let me know your views on any local issues that concern you:

Cllr Chris Whitehouse:

t: 754547

e: chris@chriswhitehouse.uk

If you need to contact the Island's MP, it's:

Bob Seely MP:

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

e: bob.seely.mp@parliament.uk

t: 020 7219 1840