

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

13th April 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2016 was another busy year in the Parish particularly with the development of the Wightlink terminal, issues with roads and the two music festivals. There have also been the usual batch of planning applications and road safety suggestions.

One of my more pleasant duties was to attend the Abbotorial blessing of Father Xavier at Quarr Abbey on 6th August. This was a grand occasion with no less than 30 Bishops in attendance. The Council is keen to support the Abbey and maintains a close relationship with both the monks and staff.

Wightlink have had a series of operational issues and Fishbourne Lane has become congested on a number of occasions. The works on the terminal have also reduced the parking area for vehicles adding to the Lane congestion issue. I have attended the terminal on two occasions to witness how the staff manages these situations and I can only praise their patience and hard work in dealing with the occasional very awkward customer.

I have been working with Wightlink on a traffic management plan although no apparent progress has been made in the last two months.

Planning issues arise all the time, but I am pleased to report that overall we seem to have a much better working relationship with the planning officers. In the last year, the Parish Council has commented on 15 applications.

We have made little progress on the issue of the shingle bank. It appears that the owner is taking little action and is happy to let it erode as a natural process.

Our Island Roads District Steward has attended a number of surgery meetings and has been proactive in looking at a number of smaller local issues and advising on matters. The redundant sign at the top of Fishbourne Lane has been removed. However matters that have to be referred to more senior managers still make little, if any, progress. I am working on this and have requested that IWALC make a proposal to Island Roads and the IW Council which might unlock this situation.

I attended a workshop organised by the Community Safety Partnership and was the only Parish / Town Councillor attending in that role. This group focuses on what can be done to reduce crime and make our communities safe for everyone. Although not highly publicised, it is a very important forum that gets all the agencies (Police, Social Workers, Fire Brigade, County Council, Health Services) working together on the issues.

This year four Councillors are stepping down due to health or business reasons. We need a strong Council and this means everyone please consider if you are willing to spend a few hours each month to consider community issues and what the Parish Council can do to positively affect these issues.

I would like to thank all the Councillors, the Parish Clerk and the members of the Planning Policy Committee, especially Tony Ballard who has given the Council sound advice on planning matters, for their work during the year and encourage other residents to become involved in the work of the PC. I would also like to thank our County Councillor – Ivor Warlow, who is always willing to take up issues affecting residents individually or the Parish in general.

The Council holds Parish Surgeries every Tuesday morning at RVYC from 10.00 a.m. when at least one Councillor and the Clerk attend, usually with Cllr Warlow from IWC, to enable our residents to meet the Councillors and raise any issues they may have.

The meetings diary for the new Council year will be published next month.

M. Hector
13th April 2017