

IWALC TOPIC MEETING 25 FEBRUARY 2021: ELECTIONS

CLIVE JOYNES -Electoral Services & Local Land Charges Manager at Isle of Wight Council

Clive gave information on the forthcoming elections:

- There will be 3 separate ballot boxes for the three different elections which will be taking place.
- For those standing for IOW Council there is no longer the need to provide 10 signatures to support their applications, now only a proposer and seconder is required.
- At polling stations there will be social distancing markers, and extra member of staff as a marshals, face covering requirements, counters between officers and public, perspex screens, hand sanitiser, alcohol wipes, maximised ventilation. Electors should bring their own pen but there will be disposable pens provided if necessary
- There is no requirement for Test and Trace at polling stations
- Postal votes are available
- the count will be at Medina Sportshall with IWC counted first, then parish councils. then the Police and Crime Commissioner.

UPDATE

The following information was added by Claire Shand Returning Officer for IOW via email

From 8 March:

- Those who are campaigning in support of the electoral success, will be allowed to deliver leaflets and canvass electors in relation to the elections.
- Campaigners should not enter a private home. Campaigners may speak to electors on their doorsteps, maintaining at least 2 metres distance at all times.
- Campaigners should only enter premises, such as a shared hallway in a block of flats, where absolutely necessary to reach individual homes served by communal areas. Unless it is unsafe to do so, canvassing from within shared internal areas should be carried out by a single campaigner.
- Hustings and public meetings must take place remotely.
Prior to any campaigning, participants should undertake a risk assessment. All campaigners should:
 - ensure that they are well; if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive, they must stay at home
 - make sure that they wash their hands more often and for 20 seconds, or use hand sanitiser regularly
 - wear a face covering when meeting anybody they do not live with, whether electors or other campaigners
 - maintain effective social distancing when talking to people, staying 2 metres apart at all times

From 29 March:

- The provision for six people or two households to meet outdoors may support campaign activity and the holding of meetings outdoors. There will be no change to the rules on meeting others indoors. This means that the rules on doorstep campaigning will not change.
All campaigning activity will need to follow the relevant rules on gatherings and social distancing. For elections, campaigners should not transport electors in private vehicles in order to access polling stations given the risk to public health. This means you should not offer lifts or facilitate car sharing