

## **Wightlink Partnership Meeting January 20th 2026**

### **Wightlink Meeting Room 9.30 am**

Present: Martin Gulliver, Councillor Talbot and Councillor Fontana

1. A fast fact document was provided for Councillors to share with Fishbourne Parish Council. Also a book entitled "Solent Seaways" by John Henry about the history of Isle of Wight ferries was given to us, although it was produced in 2010.
2. Wightlink are continuing to manage traffic arriving for the ferries. They are anticipating that they will be losing quite a bit of business, particularly freight, to Red Funnel due to forthcoming roadworks along Eleanor's Grove. They have already been impacted adversely due to the road closure at Binstead.
3. Ferry announcements should now be less obtrusive as they are to be made some distance out of port. There have been no recent complaints about bangs from traffic exiting or entering the ships at Fishbourne.
4. Travel bookings have decreased and Wightlink are keen to promote Island tourism as much as they can.
5. The Black Friday promotion was a very successful initiative.
6. Councillor Fontana asked why period returns for foot passengers were so much more expensive than day returns and Mr Gulliver said that he would enquire. Councillor Fontana also asked why new purchases of car multilink tickets do not just begin at the point of expiry of previous multilink tickets rather than beginning from the date they are purchased. This would enable people to book ahead more easily if they have tickets still to use. Mr Gulliver said that he would enquire about this too.
7. When asked about the forthcoming road closure at Elenors Grove, Mr Gulliver said that a great deal of 'Comms' (information and advice) had been issued to all Wightlink customers regarding the diversions and that this would continue throughout the period of disruption.