

# Mayors Report

## Full Council - August 2020

The weather has been glorious this summer, as a town we have been through so much change and our lives taken over due to COVID-19. This pandemic has possibly changed our lives forever. It certainly has made me think more about our environment, how we treat others, keeping our family safe and appreciating all the ordinary things that comfort us every day which we take for granted.

As Islanders how lucky, in my opinion, having the Solent keeping us moderately safe. We have a beautiful island, with East Cowes, our fabulous seafront, being one of our most treasured possessions.

It was regrettable that the toilets/playpark had to be closed for a while, your safety was paramount, but East Cowes Town Council (ECTC) managed to open them, obviously with certain restrictions. Unfortunately, we were unable to open the paddling pool this year, I know this must have been a disappointment to you, again the ECTC read the rules and advice under COVID-19. It was decided that your health and wellbeing was our first concern, we had no choice, but to remain closed.

I appreciate it has not been easy for some of you, hopefully you were able to take advantage of the East Cowes and Whippingham Covid Support Hub. The Government has recognised that all the hubs have been working first class with everyone working together. Congratulations to the volunteers taking part in delivering medication and shopping and specifically to Michael Paler as the Co-ordinator.

On behalf of the ECTC, I thank every one of you so much for social distancing and keeping to the COVID-19 guidelines. You all deserve an award in keeping East Cowes a safe place for all.

The Town Hall is beginning to open with some activities back for you to enjoy. During lock down the East Cowes Town Council kept going with council business by introducing Zoom meetings, which on the whole were very successful. As soon as we are permitted to do so, we will be resuming our meetings at the Town Hall.

The Town Forum is working on our Town /Neighbourhood plan for the for the next 15 years. Thank you for letting us know your views via the questionnaire.

Red Funnel and the ECTC continuing chatting together to ensure the new yard works for everyone.

ECTC look forward to working with the IWC (Isle of Wight Council) and other relevant parties to shape Venture Quays into an area we can all be proud of.

The Community Hub/Library is moving forward at a steady pace.

Have you noticed the new dog/rubbish bins; DO NOT FEED the seagull signs; social distancing sign for those visiting our town?

Please read the notices on ECTC notice boards advertising our forthcoming meetings. Please come along. I hope to see you there.

Finally, keep smiling, take care and keep safe.