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Mayor's Quarterly Report

Welcome to the March edition of our East Cowes Town Council quarterly newsletter. The first in 2021.

Since my last report, we have entered our third lockdown since March 2020. I am sure the majority of us could not have seen this coming. COVID 19 has made such a difference to our lives. Thank you to all of our residents for sticking to the rules, being patient and volunteering to help others.

It was with great sadness after six years working at the Town Hall, Mick Collis, our Facilities Officer, suddenly passed away in January. The Town Council appreciated how much he loved his work here in East Cowes. Mick had made many friends whilst going about Town Council business. We shall all miss him, certainly his musical talent, in helping with upgrading the theatre and at the shows where he performed with his wife Mary. Town Councillors and staff send Mary and family our sincere condolences.

The ECTC had every intention last month, to thank our many volunteers, through the Mayor's

Tea Party in the Town Hall, albeit this year hosting a ZOOM party. Unfortunately, due to various circumstances this didn't happen. However the Tea Party is only postponed, this will happen, as soon as the staff are back to "normal" working. The Councillors wish to show their appreciation in person to the many volunteering residents. You are all our heroes.

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk have been working from home, during the latest lockdown. Zoom meetings are keeping us all in contact with each other. ECTC business continues, with projects moving forward. We thank Martha and Daniel James who are working on the East Cowes Town Plan. Draft (Version two) should be ready very soon for residents to read through. Thank you to the residents who have been giving up their time to contribute. Our new build, the Community Hub, is out for tender, we should have news next month as to the contractor.

ECTC are continuing to work with various stakeholders regarding

regeneration along our seafront. I am sure you will have noticed the work being undertaken beyond the toilets, tidying up this area. Thank you to all of our helpful residents and Sharon Lake for organising and overseeing this work.

I hope you have noticed the streets being tidier. This is down to some brilliant community minded residents. You have all been doing a wonderful job. I salute you. Once we are able to meet up again I am sure 2021 will bring more opportunities for volunteers in the town.

Dog lovers - I kindly remind you, to please keep our streets clean, by picking up their doggy poo and **placing this bag into the red doggy bins** provided.

May I wish you all a HAPPY EASTER; with longer daylight hours and hopefully warm, sunny days, spring will be here.

Take care and keep safe always

Jane Rann, Mayor

EAST COWES LIBRARY



SUBJECT TO THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

Drop off and
collection service

Town Hall
Main Entrance

MONDAY
10am - 1pm

Order books by
emailing:
eastcoweslibrary@gmail.com

Phone: 718662

Post: Pop a request
in the Town Hall post
box.

Here's hoping 2021
can see the start of
some brand new
reading groups and
activities!

Please check the Town
Council Website,
Facebook page and
community
noticeboards for
news!

Community Hub Update



Many of you will already be familiar with the plans for the Community Hub. Despite the pandemic things have been moving along. All the appropriate preparations with regard to the interior layout and design have been made. Contractors interested in constructing the building will be tendering during March. A decision will be made by the Town Council during April. It is hoped that work can start on site during May. Exciting times ahead for the East Cowes community!

TOWN HALL IMPROVEMENTS

Following the redecoration of the Town Hall interior during 2019 the old brown stage curtains have now been upgraded. The new the purple ones look splendid. The old curtains which were originally donated some years ago have been relocated to their new home in a school drama department.



VOLUNTEERS NOTICEBOARD

Thank you to those of you who have already expressed an interest in volunteer litter picking, the library, community cinema and the Speedwatch project. You will be contacted as soon as there is any news. We are living through unusual times but look forward to when it is permitted and safe for these activities to resume.

Please bear with us!

TOWN PLAN – Latest News

Two virtual meetings have been held with members of the community who expressed an interest. Draft proposals were discussed and a final version of the plan will be presented soon. This is the first stage of progressing towards a Neighbourhood Plan which will go ahead when potential changes in planning law at national level and the updating of the Island Plan are complete.

EAST COWES ESPLANADE



The East Cowes Esplanade and Slipway volunteers are making wonderful progress with the Landslip. The artists impression above shows how this area will look in the future. Sponsorship pledges of £10,700 have been received from the community towards the cost of the gabions. The Town Council has donated £5,000 towards the project. New volunteers are always welcome. You can contact the group via their Facebook page.

At the end of 2020 East Cowes Town Council took a lease from the Isle of Wight Council covering the landward side of the Esplanade from the public toilets to its junction with Albany Rd.

This area is much loved by the people of East Cowes. The latest consultations have shown that the community enjoy the Victorian ambience of the seafront but are in favour of introducing recreational assets and activities that will enhance the seafront experience, without detracting from its heritage or over commercialising it. Thank you to anyone who has already put forward suggestions which the council will be considering very soon.

The Town Council inspects all its play areas and facilities on a regular basis to ensure they are safe. As part of the ongoing maintenance programme work is currently being undertaken to upgrade the seafront shelter on the green and to site a new piece of play equipment in the Esplanade playarea to replace a broken one that was removed a few months ago.

Lead by Example



Please clean up after your dog

In East Cowes there are 19 dog waste bins provided by East Cowes Town Council. They are emptied three times a week in the summer and twice a week in the winter, all paid for by the Town Council.

All public spaces on the island are covered by a Public Space Protection Order which means you may have to keep your dog on the lead, keep your dog out of parks and off beaches as specified by the notices displayed and please clear up after your dog.

Fixed penalty notices of £50 can be issued (£75 if not paid within 10 days) and if not paid after 14 days a court order of up to £1,000 can be made. You can report incidents of fouling by email to info@islandroads.com who will attend.

Thank you to all the responsible dog owners out there who always pick up after their dog.

DID YOU KNOW?

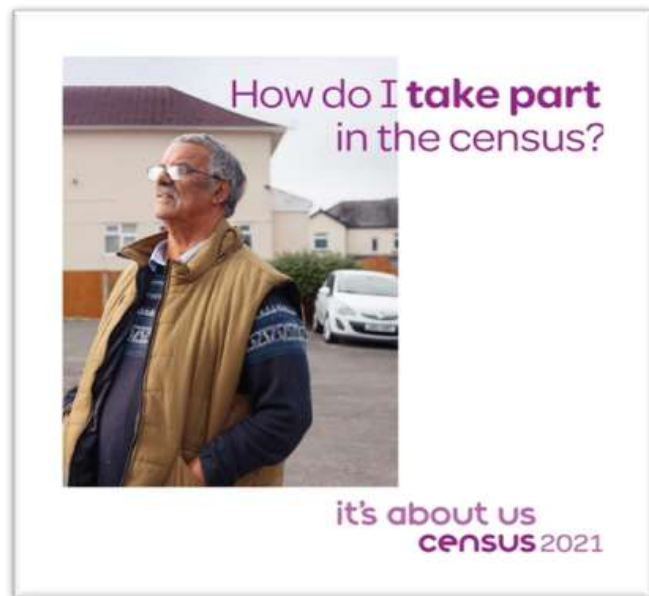


The location of East Cowes Town Council's 3 official noticeboards are outside the Town Hall, the Parkside Pavilion and the Bumblebee Play Area

ELECTIONS 6TH MAY 2021 - TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Elections for the **Town Council, Isle of Wight Council** and the **Police and Crime Commissioner** are going ahead on 6th May 2021. The last date to register to vote is Monday 19th April. If you wish to apply for a postal vote you have until 5pm on Tuesday 20th April and if you want to apply for a new proxy vote the deadline is 5pm on Tuesday 27th April. You can apply at: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/Elections>

East Cowes Town Council has 8 councillors - 4 in North Ward and 4 in Osborne Ward.



Why you should complete CENSUS 2021

- It will be key to making sure the big decisions on the future of our hospitals, schools, transport and other public services, following the pandemic and EU exit, are based on the best information possible.
- It is the once-in-a-decade survey that gives the most accurate estimate of all people and households in England and Wales.
- It takes just 10 minutes per person to fill out your form and if you can't get online, there are paper forms available for those who need them, as well as lots of support.

Every household will receive a postcard, explaining what a census is and in early March letters will arrive in the post inviting people to take part in the digital-first census.

For more information, visit <https://census.gov.uk/>

Council Meeting Dates for your Diary

Full Council 6pm

18th March

15th April

20th May (Annual Meeting)

Facilities Projects and Events Committee 6pm

13th May

To be held remotely by Zoom until further notice. Joining details can be found on the website, Facebook and on the noticeboards.

HOW TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Clerks Office

East Cowes Town Hall

York Avenue

East Cowes

Isle of Wight

PO32 6RU

Tel: 01983 299082

Email: clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

Website: www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

SEND US YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS!!!!

Contributions to this newsletter from the community are welcome. If you are involved with a local group, project or event please email an article and a photo to:

assistantclerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk

Copies of the newsletter are delivered to every household in East Cowes and available from the Town Hall lobby as well as on the Town Council website and via Facebook.

DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is produced by East Cowes Town Council. All articles are taken in good faith. We cannot take any legal queries resulting from these. Submitted articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Town Council. We reserve the right not to print submitted articles.