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Town Clerk's Report

Over the last 3 months the Town Council has been busy looking after the facilities provided by the Council – the public toilets on the Esplanade and at Osborne Road, the Skate Park, the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), the Outdoor Gym, the tennis court and play areas on the Esplanade and Bumblebee Garden. As soon as contractors can complete the safety surface works the York Avenue play area this will re-open. The paddling pool refurbishment has been quite major, with filters, pumps and spinners being replaced, pressure washing and repainting, including the surrounding areas. Unfortunately the weather in May turned against us making the painting tricky but hopefully there are several months of sunshine ahead for everyone to enjoy this popular facility. You may have noticed further improvements on the Esplanade with the installation and planting of the flower boat at the base of Cambridge Road and the addition of “Do Not Feed the Seagulls” signs to help keep the area tidy. An additional piece of play equipment - a “windsurfer”, is due to be installed in the play area as soon as contractors are available. We hope the children will enjoy it!

The Town has recently been awarded the Solent Water Quality Award for its bathing water at the Esplanade, largely due to the hard work of Michael Douse.

At the April Full Council meeting it was agreed that the Town Council would fund water sampling along the Esplanade until October. If the bathing water designation can be sustained, future sampling would be funded by DEFRA. Many thanks to Mr D Hill, who has kindly offered to collect the samples twice a month for sending off to the laboratory.

The Town Plan is now complete. It was adopted by the Town Council at the March Full Council meeting and is available to read on the website under “Consultations and Surveys”. Thank you to everyone who contributed by filling in a survey or attending Zoom meetings to look at the findings. Lockdown measures saw staff working from home since Christmas but we returned to the office on 12th April and the Library resumed its drop off and collection service. By the time you read this many of the regular hall hirers will have returned. All plan to be back by September. East Cowes has a wonderful venue in the town hall. Some good news for everyone! You will no doubt be pleased to hear that there will be a Pantomime once again this year.....Oh yes there will! Look out for more news on this.

Following the election on 6th May we said farewell to three of our councillors, who between them have served on the Town Council for many years. Heartfelt thanks are due to Jane Rann, Peter Lloyd and Simon Walker for all the hours of their time they have volunteered, attending meetings and representing the Town Council on numerous outside bodies. Their love of East Cowes and desire to improve the town for the community has kept them going – even during a pandemic! We welcome back some familiar faces and introduce some new ones – you can meet them all on page 3 of this newsletter.

At the first meeting of the new council on 20th May Michael Paler was elected Mayor and Karl Love was elected Deputy Mayor. The role of the Mayor is to chair full council meetings and to represent the Town Council on civic occasions. The Deputy is there to support the Mayor and step in when needed. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and look forward to seeing you at the council meetings.

Town Clerk

EAST COWES LIBRARY



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.

Check the Town
Council website,
Facebook page and
community
noticeboards for
updates – we hope to
accommodate a new
monthly reading group
and extra sessions
giving access to the
library soon.

**DOG BAGS NOW
AVAILABLE!**

Community Hub Update



April saw the awarding of the contract for this exciting project. It is expected that demolition will start during July. Once the toilets in Osborne Road are closed the toilets in the foyer of the Town Hall will be available to the public from 9am - 1pm Monday to Friday. Outside these hours there are public toilets available daily from 8.00am to dusk on the Esplanade. The site will be self contained until the point of needing to knock through to the main building which is expected to be early next year. The impact on hall users will be kept to a minimum although there will inevitably be some noise and dust particularly during the demolition phase.

It is estimated that the project will take around 12 months to complete and will provide a fantastic new resource for the East Cowes community.

VOLUNTEERS NOTICEBOARD

Now that we are beginning to emerge from the pandemic and looking forward to getting out and about a little more it is hoped that the projects below can start to come together. Please contact the Town Hall if you would be interested in volunteering. Here's an update on where we are.....

Litter Picking: Meeting for volunteers Thursday 17th June 11.30am-12.30pm in the Town Hall. A chance for you to meet each other, receive information from the Facilities Officer and collect litter picking packs.

Community Cinema: Installation of the equipment will be completed soon. We have a few volunteers who have expressed an interest but would love to hear from new people too! If you think you might like to help with advertising and tickets, selecting films, operating the equipment, welcoming film-goers etc...please get in touch.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

North Ward : Cllrs Tracy Reardon, Margaret Webster, Bob Packham and Karl Love



Osborne Ward: Cllrs Sharon Lake, Michael Paler, Stephen Hendry and Cameron Palin



Competition Time

Still time to enter – Get you mural designs to the Town Hall by 30th June

COMPETITION



Calling all budding artists in years 4-6 (aged 9-11 years)

How would you like to design a brand new

“ ← TO THE SEAFRONT”

sign and mural showing some of the attractions on offer for display on the wall at the corner of Columbine Road and Maresfield Road, East Cowes ?

WIN Wight Card vouchers

£100 for your school and £50 for yourself

Please send your entries to East Cowes Town Hall, York Avenue, East Cowes, PO32 6RU by 30th June 2021

Traffic Orders Consultation

A public consultation by the Isle of Wight Council began on 14th May and runs until 21st June for proposed changes to traffic orders affecting many roads in East Cowes.

Plans may be inspected between normal office hours at the Customer Service Centre, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight during the objection period.

If you wish to object to the proposal contained you should send the grounds for your objection, in writing, to Scott Headey – Traffic Manager, St Christopher House, 42 Daish Way, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5XJ, highways-pfi@iow.gov.uk, **not later than 12 noon on Friday 18 June 2021.**

What's On in the Town Hall?

Until 21st June (subject to any changes in the governments roadmap) group numbers are restricted. If you want to make an enquiry about any of the activities please contact the Town Hall and we would be happy to pass on your details. If you want to hire the hall for a family party or an event please contact the Town Hall Office for more information.

Current weekly activities: Library (Monday 10am-1pm), LK Line Dancing (Monday 1.45-3.45pm), Zumba (Tuesday 10-11am), Short Mat Bowls (Wednesday and Friday 9.45am-12.15pm), Slimming World (Wednesdays 3.30-7.30pm), Paracise (Thursday 10.00-11.00am TBC), Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) (1st and 3rd Thursdays from 12.45-4.15pm), Careless Solicitors (Fridays Weekly from 2-5pm), Puppy Classes (Fridays 5.30-6.30pm for 10 weeks from 11th June)

Monthly activities: Alzheimers Café (First Tuesday 1.30-4.00pm from 1st June), Churches Together (Second Thursday from 9th September)

Coming back soon: Canine Association (Tuesday from 6th July 6.45-10.00pm), Bingo (Wednesday from 1st September 8.00-9.30pm) **ADVANCED NOTICE:** Panto performance dates 4th & 5th December



Cruse Bereavement Care is a national charity with 20 trained bereavement volunteers on the island who can provide confidential, personal support, free of charge. Everyone deals with grief differently and having a non-judgement, experienced person to listen in confidence can provide great relief and comfort. Bereavement Volunteers are specifically trained and keep updated throughout the year.

If you, a family member, or a friend have been bereaved and need some support contact Cruse Bereavement Care by phoning 01983 523030 or email IsleofWightBranch@cruse.org.uk.

There is useful information on the national website www.cruse.org.uk and we have a national helpline 0808 8081677. If you are interested in volunteering, helping with our fundraising activities or being a member of the local committee please contact us using the details above.

Council Meeting Dates for your Diary

Full Council 6pm

17th June

22nd July

No meeting in August

Facilities Projects and Events Committee 6pm

1st July

2nd September

Planning Committee as needed

All meetings are held at the Town Hall, York Avenue. More details can be found by viewing the agenda on the website, Facebook and on the Town Council noticeboards.

HOW TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Clerks Office

East CowesTown 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.