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## Mayor's Report

Hello to all the residents of East Cowes. For those of you who do not already know me, I am Tracy Reardon, and I would like to introduce myself to you as the new Mayor of East Cowes. I'm extremely excited to represent the council and community and to promote our wonderful town.



I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and their acknowledgment that I will endeavour to represent the Council whilst always championing East Cowes and its residents. I have been involved in various volunteering organisations in the business and community sector in East Cowes for a number of years. As a business owner, secretary of the East Cowes Business Association and chairman of the East Cowes Community Partnership, I felt that the

next step for me would be to become a local councillor and was consequently elected in May 2021. I am looking forward to this new challenge and working with a wider team of likeminded people that share the same goal. To celebrate East Cowes' heritage and future, which makes our community passion exactly why everyone pulls together to make it the town where we all love to live!

There are many occasions and anniversaries coming up in 2022 which will allow the community to come together and mark these occasions. The Town Hall will be the focal point for many of these.

From Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blitz and the role of the Polish Naval ship the ORP Blyskawica in saving lives in East Cowes will be marked with an exhibition, talk and concert by the Polish naval band.

Plans are also currently coming together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the extended bank holiday weekend Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Keep an eye out on the Town Council website, Facebook Page, and noticeboards for updates.

A mature rowan tree is to be planted at the Jubilee Recreation Ground as part of the Queens Green Canopy

initiative, and an official commemorative plaque, produced by the Royal British Legion veterans, will mark this. If you would like to have the honour of completing the planting of the tree for this unique occasion it's time to get creative. Please enter our competition – details on the back page of this newsletter.

One of the policies that came out of the Town Plan was the development of a market in the town. Plans are currently underway for a monthly market to take place in the town hall or from time to time on the Esplanade. Hopefully the first one will be happening in May.



I hope as many of you as possible will be able to enjoy these events as well as all the regular activities happening in the town hall. We have an exciting year ahead.

*Cllr Tracy Reardon  
Mayor of East Cowes*

## EAST COWES LIBRARY Town Hall

### OPENING HOURS

MONDAY 10.00am–1.00pm  
TUESDAY 5.00pm–6.00pm  
THURSDAY 9.30am–12.30pm

### READING GROUP

1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY 5.00-6.30PM

### RCS EMPLOYMENT ADVICE SERVICE

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH  
10AM-12NOON

### MOUNTBATTEN VOLUNTEERS POP-IN

GROUP SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH  
10AM-12PM

### ARE YOU RECENTLY RETIRED OR LOOKING FOR A NEW INTEREST?

Di the Library Co-ordinator is looking for more volunteers so that once the new building is complete it can become a vibrant facility with lots of activities going on. The monthly evening reading group is very popular, and it is hoped that a daytime group can be offered too. If you have interests and skills you would like to share with others or would be keen to start a new group – from arts and crafts, to knitting, colouring, lego, board games and more please get in touch.

**Email:** [eastcoveslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:eastcoveslibrary@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 01983 299082, Town Hall,  
York Avenue, East Cowes, PO32 6RU

### East Cowes and Whippingham Covid Support Hub

This will be closing it down on the 1st April 2022. The volunteers who have all been part of the hub are the people that worked from day one and helped so many. They have also worked with Community Action Optio car services to take people for vaccines and worked at Riverside Vaccine centre. A wonderful community effort.

## Community Hub Update

There has been excellent progress on the new Community Hub and Library building. The shell of the building is close to completion and the interior layout is starting to take shape. Everything is still on track for opening in June 2022.



View towards the front showing Library space, workspace and kitchen area (above)



View towards rear showing reception, and clerks office and meeting room entrance (left) Plant room under construction (right)



Plans for the perimeter will include a low brick wall with railings on top which will replicate how this looked when the town hall was first built. Due to the difference in levels alongside the outside seating area there will be a wall with planting providing a colourful and welcoming frontage. As you can see from the photo (above right) the plant room is being constructed in the corridor which joins the two buildings together. The remaining space will be used for storing tables and chairs.

## Browsers Library

Saturdays 10 - 12 noon

St James Church, Church Path, East Cowes

*Books are free to borrow or keep*

## No increase in the Town Council precept!

The Town Council have been working very hard to develop a budget that will mean there will be no increase in your precept (the town council's share of the Council Tax) for the coming year.

The Council have recently taken on additional responsibilities from the Isle of Wight Council, including the facilities at the Esplanade, Jubilee Recreation Ground and Victoria Grove, and are tackling some big projects, such as the new Community Hub and upgrading the Skatepark. But with some very careful housekeeping we have managed to keep the precept at the same rate as 2021/22.



The new Community Hub & Library will be opening this year and we hope that it will become the focal point for the community and will provide a place to meet old and new friends.

We hope to develop lots more community projects and have recently introduced a community cinema at the Town Hall – run by volunteers and are currently making plans for an all-weather market for crafts, local producers, and artisans.

We will be organising and supporting lots of events for the Queens Platinum Jubilee this year, so keep an eye on our Facebook page, noticeboards, and website for more news!



## COMMUNITY CINEMA East Cowes Town Hall

**7pm (doors open 6.45pm)**

**Second Saturday of the month**

Run by Town Council volunteers

£4 PER TICKET OR £12 FOR A GROUP OF 4

FREE interval tea, coffee and snacks or bring your own  
(no alcohol)

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup> March JOJO RABBIT (Cert 12A)**

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> April SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE  
(Cert 15)**

Contact the Town Hall Mon- Fri 8am-1pm to purchase or  
reserve tickets (01983) 299082 or email  
[clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk)



Isle of Wight  
Volunteer  
Centre

**Community Day**  
**East Cowes Town Hall**  
**Saturday 26th March 2022**  
**1-4pm**

An opportunity to find out about  
local groups that support the  
community of East Cowes and  
how you can get involved in a  
range of opportunities that help  
them make things happen  
**All Welcome!**



Community Action  
Isle of Wight



EAST COWES  
TOWN COUNCIL



Register on the IW  
Volunteer Database for all  
things volunteering!  
[www.iwvolunteer.org](http://www.iwvolunteer.org)



### *Bathing Water Quality in East Cowes*



Several members of the East Cowes Community have been campaigning to have East Cowes beach accredited with bathing water quality status. Over many months water samples have been collected by volunteers and sent off for testing. The Town Council has been funding and supporting this work. Once bathing water quality status has been achieved DEFRA will take over the water testing at their cost. The next stage is for a noticeboard to be installed in conjunction with the Isle of Wight Council. This will be sited near the bottom of Cambridge Road. Notices will be posted advising bathers of any issues with the water quality during the bathing season.



## TOWN COUNCIL BEST DRESSED HOUSE OR FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

THE COUNCIL ARE INVITING EAST  
COWES RESIDENTS TO DRESS UP THEIR  
HOUSES OR FRONT GARDENS TO  
CELEBRATE THE QUEENS PLATINUM  
JUBILEE

THERE WILL BE PRIZES FOR THE BEST  
DRESSED HOUSE AND FRONT GARDEN,  
SO JOIN IN AND MAKE THE QUEENS  
PLATINUM JUBILEE YEAR ONE THAT  
EAST COWES WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

PLATINUM COLOURS ARE  
PURPLE AND SILVER

JUBILEE DATES ARE 2<sup>ND</sup> – 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

If you are interested in entering please  
email your name, address and category

[Clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:Clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk)

or phone 299082



## 2022 Events

Blitz 80th Anniversary  
&

OPR Blyskawica Commemoration

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Includes an exhibition in the Town Hall, Blitz  
Talk, Polish Naval Band concerts and more

### Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Events are currently in the planning stages. In  
addition to the house & garden competition  
opposite the Town Council is looking to  
involve the community in the Platinum Picnic  
in the Park, a Queens Green Canopy tree  
planting ceremony, a tea dance, events and  
entertainment taking place at the town hall, on  
the Esplanade and at the Jubilee Recreation  
Ground. More details will be shared on the  
Town Council website and Facebook page as  
they are confirmed.

If you are a member of a community group or  
organisation we'd love to hear about your  
plans. Please get in touch and let us know!

### 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](mailto:assistantclerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk)

### Town Council Meeting Dates

#### March

3<sup>rd</sup> Facilities Projects and Events Committee 6pm

17<sup>th</sup> Full Council meeting 6pm

#### April

21<sup>st</sup> Full Council 6pm

#### May

12<sup>th</sup> Facilities Projects and Events Committee 6pm

19<sup>th</sup> Full Council 6pm

Planning Committee meetings take place as needed prior to  
meetings listed above.

### HOW TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Clerk's Office

East Cowes Town Hall

York Avenue

East Cowes

Isle of Wight

PO32 6RU

Tel: 01983 299082

Email: [clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk)

Website: [www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.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.