

# Arreton Parish Council Newsletter

## February 2021 – Covid and Council edition

Once again, I have issued two editions – one with the Parish Council news and this one with all the Covid 19 and IW Council news. I suspect that this one will be longer than the one with the PC news but is a sad fact of life that there is more information swirling around about Covid 19 than anything else at present.

Let's start with something that is not directly Covid related:-

### Postal voting

Apply now for a postal vote for this year's local elections

On Thursday 6 May 2021, Islanders will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them at the Isle of Wight Council, town, parish and community council and police and crime commissioner elections. If you're thinking about voting by post, you can apply to do this now.



Claire Shand, electoral registration officer at the Isle of Wight Council, said: "The elections will take place at a time when COVID-19 continues to present risks to public health. Depending on the infection rate, measures taken to control the spread of the virus may change as we approach May. "We are working hard to ensure polling stations will be safe places to vote, but you can choose to apply to vote by post or by proxy instead. If you are thinking about applying for a postal vote, then please do so as early as possible.

"As preparations continue for the local elections, we remain in close contact with the Electoral Commission, the wider electoral community and public health authorities to ensure you can stay safe when casting your vote in May. To vote in the elections - either at a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf as your proxy - you must first be registered to vote, which can be done online in just five minutes.

To then apply to vote by post you need to download, print and fill out a postal vote application form. Once you have completed the form and signed it, you need to send it to Electoral Services, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1UD. To request a postal vote application form e-mail [electoral.services@iow.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@iow.gov.uk) or call (01983) 823380. The deadline to apply for a postal vote and cancel or make changes to a current postal or proxy vote at this election is 5pm on 20 April 2021.

Any residents who have any questions can contact the Isle of Wight Council electoral registration team at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/Elections/Electoral-Registration/Contact> or via [electoral.services@iow.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@iow.gov.uk)

### Road works

The Isle of Wight Council (Bury Lane, Arreton, Isle of Wight) (Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic) Order No 1 2021

Island Roads on behalf of The Isle of Wight Council give notice that from 0900 hours from Tuesday 16 February 2021 until 1700 hours on Wednesday 17 February 2021, or when the works has been completed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed along Bury Lane, for its entire length. The alternative route will be sign posted locally. The closure is required for safety during utility works.

### Island Roads launches 2021 customer survey

Island Roads is once again seeking public feedback on the highway services it delivers. Each year in February, Island Roads undertakes its annual customer survey encouraging residents to feedback on the range of services provided



including road and footway resurfacing, winter maintenance, street cleansing, verge and grass cutting and customer services.

The survey, which launches on Monday and comprises 12 questions to cover the main service areas, is part of a range of measures used to review performance and help determine how year-on-year improvements can be made. Steve Ambrose, Island Roads business manager said: "As an organisation we are committed to delivering our work to the highest standards, not just in terms of our contractual requirements, but also to the satisfaction of the local community.

"We do get a lot of feedback, including plenty of compliments which are always very welcome, but the survey allows us to formally gauge people's views across wider aspects of our service which then allows us to identify any improvements we may need to make. It has been a particularly challenging year because of the Covid pandemic, but as key workers we have continued to provide the services necessary to maintain a safe network. We will therefore be particularly keen to hear how the community feels we have performed over the last 12 months."

Given the current lockdown, residents are encouraged to respond to the survey online; however, paper copies will be available on request for anyone who does not have access to the online version and would like to take part. Residents have until 28th February 2021 to complete the survey, which can be completed online via our website <https://islandroads.com/customer-survey-2021/> from Monday. Paper copies can be requested by email to [info@islandroads.com](mailto:info@islandroads.com)

The Island's Highways PFI is financed in the main through a grant of £477 million awarded by the Department for Transport and delivered in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council.

For further information, please contact [info@islandroads.com](mailto:info@islandroads.com) or visit [www.islandroads.com](http://www.islandroads.com)

Sort of Covid related.

### **Bus pass support extended to allow older travellers to attend vaccinations before 9.30am**

Elderly residents with concessionary bus passes will be able to access free bus travel all day, every day for essential journeys from next week. As part of the Isle of Wight Council's efforts to support residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, free bus travel will be available before 9.30am to help eligible residents make use of early morning slots for vaccines, healthcare, shopping and other vital appointments. Previously, free concessionary travel for age related pass holders was valid between 9.30am and 11pm from Monday to Friday, and at any time on weekends and public holidays. The relaxation of the rules will continue until schools begin to reopen.

Councillor Ian Ward, Cabinet member for transport and infrastructure, said:

"The council is extremely pleased to have reached agreement with our transport partner to extend our support for elderly residents with bus passes. Where possible, we want to support the vital vaccination programme and we hope this move will make things a little easier for older people who have no option but to catch the bus to get to early morning appointments.

"While passenger journeys at peak times remain significantly low due to the current national lockdown, it is very important that everyone observes the guidance provided by the government about social distancing. This means avoiding all unnecessary travel, avoiding and minimising social interaction between people. If you have no option but to use public transport, you should follow the public transport guidance."

Residents are reminded that they must not travel at all if they:

- have been told by the NHS Test and Trace service to self-isolate;
- are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms;
- are self-isolating as a result of COVID-19 symptoms or sharing a household or support bubble with somebody with symptoms.

If you must make an essential journey, remember these important guidelines:

- Stay at least two metres (three steps) away from other people.
- Wear a face covering over your mouth and nose.
- Wash your hands often - with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Wash your hands before eating and after coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin and wash your hands.

This one comes from Community Action Isle of Wight.

### **Vitamin D supplements**

You may be aware of the Department of Health and Social Care's initiative to offer a free 4-month supply of Vitamin D supplements to at-risk groups/those who are clinically extremely vulnerable to support their general health, and in particular bone and muscle health. The roll out of this initiative started in England in January 2021. Following the enquiry from one of the community hubs, I have been in touch with colleagues from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who advised me that the roll out has begun but not in all areas. It will be confirmed that free Vitamin D supplements are being delivered to the Island for distribution to clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) residents. In the meantime, we were advised that people can purchase Vitamin D supplements over the counter. You can find government guidance "Vitamin D supplements: how to take them safely" here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vitamin-d-supplements-how-to-take-them-safely?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_source=ac5d221a-41fb-4cf4-956d-e621749c818&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vitamin-d-supplements-how-to-take-them-safely?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=ac5d221a-41fb-4cf4-956d-e621749c818&utm_content=daily).

IW Council again

### **Key Worker Cycle Loan Scheme**

The free Key Worker Cycle Loan Scheme from the Isle of Wight Council has reopened once again to help support key workers through lockdown. The aim of the scheme is to encourage key workers to choose cycling as their preferred mode of travel. During the last two lockdowns, social workers, hospital staff, teachers, supermarket staff and prison officers were among those to receive free access to a loan bike for a month.



Four e-bikes are now also available as part of the loan scheme. These will be provided on a first come first served basis. Applicants interested in borrowing an e-bike will need to write a short paragraph in their application form explaining how it will help them to start cycling to work. The strongest applications will receive an e-bike as their loan. The council is continuing to work in partnership with established Island cycle hire businesses, Wight Cycle Hire and RouteFifty7, to deliver the scheme.

Gerard William Driffield, an outreach support worker at Ryde House, said: "Having the bike during lockdown meant I didn't have to use public transport. It meant I could get to work quicker and safer as I didn't have so much interaction with other people." The scheme forms part of the council's Connect2Work initiative, which promotes sustainable and active travel options to employees and jobseekers. That, in turn, is part of the authority's Access Fund programme funded by the Department for Transport.

Councillor Ian Ward, Cabinet member for transport and infrastructure, said: "Key workers are essential to keeping the Island running at this challenging time, and this scheme supports those for which cycling can form part of their travel plans. With much lower levels of vehicular traffic currently on our roads, there's no better time for key workers to consider cycling for their essential travel."



Claire Compton, director of RouteFifty7, said: "We are delighted to continue to partner with the Isle of Wight Council to once again deliver the Key Worker Cycle Scheme. We have a large fleet of hire bikes which are normally popular with visitors, but with visitors currently absent from the Island, it makes perfect sense to make them available to local key workers."

All hire bikes loaned to key workers through the scheme include a helmet, a lock, lights and delivery. For full details of the scheme, and to apply, please visit: [www.connect2work.info/keyworkercyclescheme](http://www.connect2work.info/keyworkercyclescheme)

The scammers just can't resist it can they? Information courtesy of Community Action Isle of Wight

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Scam Alert**

There have been reports of a new scam where a person receives a text saying they need to book a vaccination appointment and it takes them to a fake NHS form which then asks for their bank details to prove their identity.

The NHS will never ask for a person's banking information so please do not provide as it will be a scam. Here's what it looks like. It confusingly stated that "we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine" and advised to follow a link to get more information and 'apply'. This URL takes you through to an extremely convincing fake NHS website that asks for your personal details. There are obvious spelling mistakes on the site and in the SMS itself, which are classic signs of a phishing scam.

If you have relatives who aren't familiar with text message cons, please warn them about the latest spate of coronavirus scams which is designed to trick people into handing over their credit card details to secure a vaccination appointment. We know that criminals will use the confusion and urgency around the pandemic as a way to target potential victims, so here are four top SMS/Text message SCAMS:

1. Fake URL links claiming to link to NHS.UK or GOV.UK website to claim supposed COVID-19 related payment
2. Lockdown fines suggesting you have breached lockdown
3. Offers of health supplements that will prevent you becoming infected
4. Financial support offers that appear to be from your bank

### **HOW TO VERIFY THE MESSAGE?**

1. Challenge - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests that don't feel right. Check NHS.UK GOV.UK to ensure it is genuine
2. Be wary of text messages that try to get you to send money, or important personal information such as bank details or passwords
3. Take a moment to stop and think before parting with information to keep you safe or your money
4. Use official government websites and refer to 'Contact Us' sections of websites to access information and services

### **CONTACT:**

Information Governance Team

EMAIL: [InformationGovernanceTeam@solent.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationGovernanceTeam@solent.nhs.uk)

TEL: 0300 123 3919

Genuine messages from the IW Council

### **COVID-19 testing centre to open for longer seven days a week**

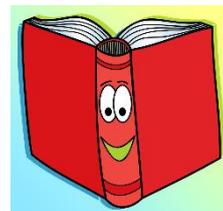
The Island's COVID-19 testing centre is now open seven days a week. The centre at Newclose County Cricket Ground, Blackwater Road, Newport, will also be open for longer each day — from 8.30am until 4.30pm, including Sundays for the first time.

The changes will enable more tests to be carried out as needed.

People with COVID-19 symptoms who are unable to [get a test slot](#) online should call 119 and will then be advised of available appointments. Home testing kits can also be ordered online or via 119. Simon Bryant, the Island's director of public health, said: "It remains extremely important that we all stick to the guidelines and stay at home – only leave home to purchase essential items, get a COVID-19 test, for exercise or to work if you absolutely cannot work from home. "If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, self-isolate and don't leave home for any reason except to get a test."

## IW Council Library Service

Isle of Wight Council library services are now closed to reinforce the need to stay home, protect the NHS and save lives. The 'Order and Collect' scheme, along with access to computer services, has also been suspended due to the rapid rise in positive coronavirus cases on the Island. Library staff are standing by to be redeployed to assist with the Covid-19 response and to support the community at this time of crisis.



The situation will be reviewed and the council may be able to restore its Order and Collect service in February, depending on local infection levels. All current loans have been extended to 1 March and no fines are being charged.

Library services are available online, including access to ebooks, audio books, magazines, newspapers, music, comics and graphic novels. People can access these services on the council's website at [www.iow.gov.uk/thelibrary](http://www.iow.gov.uk/thelibrary)

### Green waste subscriptions available

Spring is on its way, gardens will be blooming and it's time to renew green garden waste subscriptions! Over half of our customers have already switched to direct debit payments so their subscriptions will automatically renew. Those who pay annually by card should check their email inboxes for details of how to re-subscribe, before 18 March. Existing customers with direct debit are also asked to check that the bank details they previously supplied are still the same.

The popular green garden waste kerbside collection service collected 1,710 tonnes of garden waste since April 2020. Councillor Steve Hastings, Cabinet member for recycling, said: "Our kerbside green garden waste service is hugely popular across the Island, with 10,000 customers benefitting – especially during 2020 with many more people getting out in the garden; saving trips to the tip, lowering people's carbon footprints and giving people more time to focus on gardening. "All of the green waste collected is composted and goes back into gardens across the Island."

Natasha Dix, the council's strategic manager for waste and environment, added: "While the service is pretty full, there are a few spaces available, so if you are on the waiting list and would like to sign up, I would encourage you to do so as soon as you can.

"You would have received emails from us too. Please do check your junk message folder just in case."

For more information on the scheme, visit [www.iwight.com/greengardenwaste](http://www.iwight.com/greengardenwaste)

Community Action Isle of Wight again – please note that these are recommendations and subject to change.

#### Government schemes:

Applying for free extra data for mobile devices - <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data?fbclid=IwAR3wB71uqHeukv4RVe-xnlByYsGJi2ZSnPmXuUNfzYUvMyMQqbSFaMSrpy8>

Requesting 4G routers - <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/how-to-request-4g-wireless-routers>

Laptops and tablets for disadvantaged children - get laptops and tablets for children who cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

Other schemes:

The Family Fund is a national grant funding body to which families with an ill or disabled child can apply for help with essentials - [Family Fund](http://www.familyfund.org.uk)

BBC Make a Difference 'Give a Laptop' project - [BBC - Give a laptop](http://www.bbc.com/news/health-53888888) - The project brings together several different organisations who re-condition tablets and laptops and

give them to digitally poor households. Some distribute via schools, the largest of which seems to be Business to Schools and Schools need to register on the [Business To Schools Initiative: Pages \(business2schools.com\)](https://business2schools.com) in order to be able to request laptops for pupils. So far, only Christ The King and Cowes EC are registered for the IW.

Community Action Isle of Wight yet again

## **Resilience during challenging times**

### **FREE online session via Zoom**

This 2-hour (including breaks) online session is offered to you FREE of charge by the Community Resilience Project of Community Action Isle of Wight. It will help you develop your mental resilience and personal effectiveness during the challenging times brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. What is covered: - how we, as individuals, deal with unwanted change (for example, lockdown); - stress and its impact on our health (both physical and mental); - what is resilience and strategies to build personal resilience during challenging times.

Learning outcomes: By the end of the session you will:

- understand resilience, pressure, stress and adversity and their association with mental health;
- be able to use a number of strategies, skills, tactics and tools to bolster your resilience and wellbeing.

You will receive great handouts with resilience and wellbeing tips, links to free online resources and your Personal Resilience Development Plan template which you can use to continue building your resilience after this session.

Trainer: Zoryna O'Donnell, MBA, MSc, FInstLM, GQHP - a change consultant, coach, mentor, trainer, public speaker and author. She is an alumna of The Neuroscience Academy, a member of the International Coach Federation (ICF) and European Mentoring and Coaching Council (EMCC), a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM), a Mentor of the Warwick Business School (WBS) Mentoring Programme, a tutor and a coach at the Academy of Women's Leadership, a Master Practitioner and Trainer of NLP (neuro-linguistic programming), and a practitioner of several talking therapies.

DATE & TIME - 23 February 2021 (Tuesday) - 14:00-16:00

To book your place on this FREE online session delivered via Zoom, please email:

[zodonnell@actioniw.org.uk](mailto:zodonnell@actioniw.org.uk)

#### PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: Cllr Martin Kimber – [martinkimberapc@gmail.com](mailto:martinkimberapc@gmail.com)

Clerk: Mrs Sheila Caws - [arretonpc@outlook.com](mailto:arretonpc@outlook.com) 07587 008183