



**Isle of Wight One Island and
Budget Consultation 2007**

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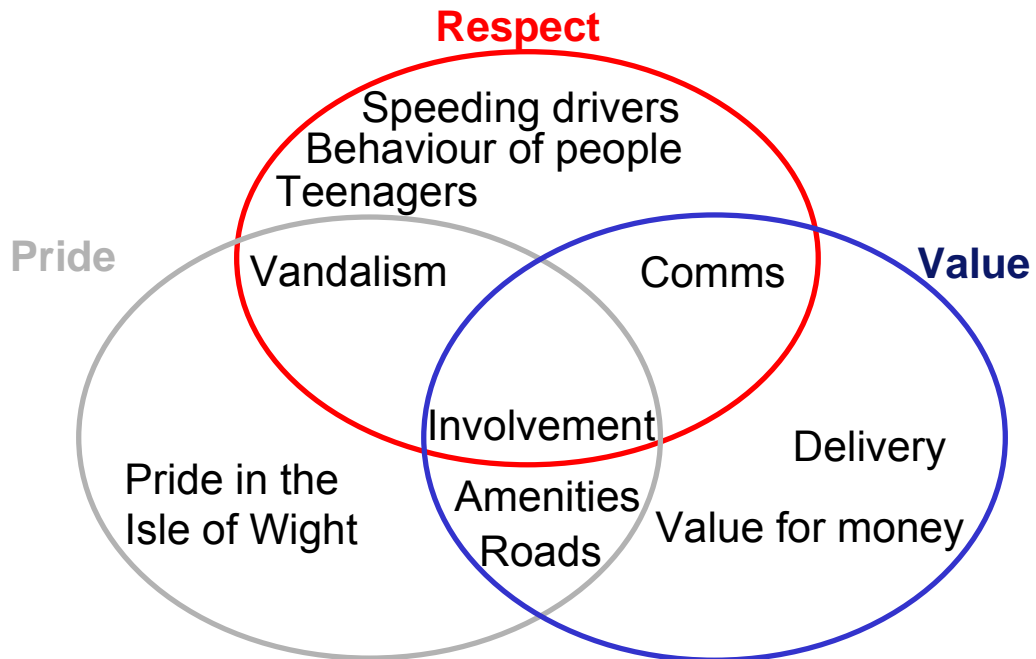
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Introduction

This report summarises the findings from six public meetings and three meetings among stakeholder organisations held in January and February 2007. These meetings covered discussions of the One Island programme of change, resident and stakeholder priorities and budget consultation.

The report also refers to relevant information provided by the Isle of Wight Residents' Survey 2006. This study established the key issues as set out below which forms the One Island programme.

One Island



Source: analysis of the views of 400 Isle of Wight residents aged 18+ interviewed by telephone July/August 2006

Following the issues established by the residents' survey the council further detailed their One Island vision as follows:

It reflects our determination to bring the Island together, working with one shared vision – encouraging respect and enforcing order, developing a renewed pride in our towns and villages as well as providing value for money council services. One Island is a programme of actions to deliver improvements to the quality of life on the Island, such as cleaner, safer streets.

In more detail the themes of One Island were spelt out as follows in a full-page advert in the Isle of Wight County Press and in a leaflet distributed through council offices, libraries and other public places.

Respect: We want to encourage better neighbourhood relations. We will work harder to understand and act on community concerns, alongside the police. We will also focus on improvements to the environment and the street scene.

Pride: We want to encourage active local involvement and provide the social and education services that help individuals and communities thrive. We want to create a sense of local pride right across the Island.

Value: We want to provide value for money council services at an affordable council tax level – at or below inflation every year. We want to ensure we are spending this money in areas that are important to you.

Structure of the meetings

At each of the public meetings residents discussed issues covered by the One Island theme in individual groups chaired by senior council managers. A councillor chaired each of the public meetings and other councillors stayed throughout the meeting to listen to the views of residents. At the beginning of the meeting residents were asked to indicate what they thought was good or bad about the Isle of Wight. At the end of the meeting they were invited to summarise the key actions they wanted to take place as a result of the meeting in their own words. These are included in the appendices to this report. Residents were therefore given opportunities to note down and discuss any issue they wished to raise.

The key aspect of the meeting was to build on the findings of the Isle of Wight residents' survey by encouraging residents to suggest practical ideas that the council and other organisations could implement. When the council was asked to implement an idea or change their priority the budgetary implications of this was discussed. These consultations are a key part of the council's budget consultation process.

The consultation period lasted three weeks, a week for each theme, with two public meetings at the beginning of the week and a stakeholder meeting afterwards. The findings from the public meetings were summarised for the meeting of stakeholder organisations. These representatives were offered this summary as a means to stimulate discussion and debate. The idea behind these meetings was to develop practical solutions to the issues raised. Stakeholders were offered at the end of the meeting a sheet on which they could offer their own comments – either about the theme or about anything they wished to raise.

The number of attendees to each meeting is listed below. We would like to thank the 82 residents who attended the public meetings, the more than sixty representatives who attended the stakeholder meeting (many attended more than one meeting) and the 400 residents who took part in the initial residents survey. All together eighteen separate group discussions were held across all the meetings involving around thirty councillors and senior council managers and directors. We would like to thank them for the work they did.

Item	Date	Theme	Number consulted
Isle of Wight Residents Survey 2006	July/August 2006	Used to establish three themes of One Island	400 residents
Riverside Centre, Newport	Monday 29 January 2007	Respect	6 residents (1 group discussion)
Broadway Centre, Sandown	Tuesday 30 January 2007	Respect	12 residents (3 group discussions)
County Hall, Newport	Wednesday 31 January 2007	Respect	28 representatives from stakeholder organisations (1 group discussion)
Wesley Hall, Freshwater	Monday 5 February 2007	Civic Pride	18 residents (3 group discussions)
Riverside Centre, Newport	Tuesday 6 February 2007	Civic Pride	17 residents (5 group discussions)
County Hall, Newport	Wednesday 7 February 2007	Civic Pride	32 representatives from stakeholder organisations (1 group discussion)
Riverside Centre, Newport	Monday 12 February 2007	Value	10 residents (2 group discussions)
Ryde Theatre	Tuesday 13 February 2007	Value	19 residents (2 group discussions)
County Hall, Newport	Wednesday 14 February 2007	Value	16 representatives from stakeholder organisations

Executive Summary

Key recommendations

Isle of Wight Council needs to focus on the following when considering the detailed actions proposed under the One Island programme and the priorities for maintaining or increasing council funding. Many cut across all three One Island themes

- Tackle anti-social behaviour
- Maintain and improve the local environment
- Ensure any development is sustainable on the island – and that the road, transport and public services network can cope (and be improved to meet current demand)
- Support and protect vulnerable people on the island
- Continues to consult with residents (in particular young people) and stakeholder organisations. The council needs to consult and inform throughout the year on the key actions it is planning to undertake

Across all the meetings and from the residents' survey a number of key issues have been identified as the key themes of One Island and priorities to maintain or increase council spending/investment. The key recommendations are listed above. The key priorities for each of the three themes are listed below.

Respect	Pride	Value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle anti-social behaviour, in particular the behaviour of young people on the streets • Improve the behaviour of parents in setting an example for their children • Improve the quality of the street scene and environment • Tackle speeding drivers/road safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure clean rubbish free streets and an improved local environment • Reduce vandalism and graffiti • Ensure sustainable development • More consultation/ involvement with the public • Protect vulnerable people • Improve educational attainment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of roads • Improve the transport infrastructure • Improve public amenities and services • Protect vulnerable people • Improve educational attainment • Improve the island's economy • Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour • Improve communications and consultation

For each of these themes the report discusses the ideas that residents and stakeholders had to tackle these issues. They were encouraged to come up with practical ideas and many involve working more closely with stakeholders and residents. In the discussion on value stakeholders stressed the need to keep council tax increases down. Any increase has to be to tangibly improve the Isle of Wight and the services the council delivers. Residents and stakeholders are keen to be regularly kept informed and consulted throughout the year and One Island will hopefully become a means to continue this dialogue from now on.

Respect

Respect: We want to encourage better neighbourhood relations. We will work harder to understand and act on community concerns, alongside the police. We will also focus on improvements the environment and the street scene.

Respect priorities raised by the residents' survey which participants in the public meetings were asked to discuss were:

- Better neighbourhood relations
- Communities
- Anti-social behaviour
- Crime
- Drugs
- Vandalism
- Respect for others
- Improving the environment and street scene
- Speeding drivers
- Supporting families
- Supporting vulnerable people (disabled, older people, young people)
- Creating things for young people to do

The public meetings focused on **anti-social behaviour**, in particular tackling the behaviour of young people on the streets. Their key ideas were:

- Consult more with young people – what do they want?
- Provide more things for young people to do – teenage shelters, youth clubs
- Work with young people to clean up after crime and to respect their local community. Show them there is an alternative to anti-social behaviour.
- More visible policing and information about what the police is actually doing in the local area (or local community wardens)
- Involve the community more in deciding how to deal with anti-social behaviour in the local area

Anti-social behaviour and crime was a key issue raised by residents when thinking about the bad things that happen on the Isle of Wight. In the stakeholder meeting the police representatives made a number of comments about what they are doing to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime at a local level. It was clear from the meeting that over the next few months residents are going to be engaged much more in what the police are doing at the local level and the support that the council can offer.

There was concern in the meeting that young people may be unfairly categorised as causing all anti-social behaviour, and it was pointed out that it could be caused by any age group (with some specific examples given). There was support for more consultation with younger people themselves and in particular that there should be more work with schools to develop role models and visits. There were stakeholders in the group who either encouraged visits to the school they

were responsible for or had visited a school to give young people a role model. In particular it was seen to be important that the role models were successful in their jobs – highlighting the economic opportunities on the island.

Residents also felt that more had to be done to **improve the behaviour of some parents** in setting an example for their children. However, it was not clear what the council or other organisations could do about this problem.

Respect also covered **improving the quality of the street scene and environment**. This was also heavily covered in the later meetings on Pride. Within the context of Respect residents wanted the council to involve the community more in deciding how to improve the local street scene. There was also some discussion of promoting the island more to encourage economic growth and accompanying potential to improve the built environment. Perhaps developing extreme sports, building on the Island Games 2011 and the Olympics and encouraging entrepreneurs. There was a feeling by some participants that the council needed to think big and out of the box.

In the stakeholder group it was also highlighted that there were particular "tatty areas" around the ferry ports – the first areas to be seen by visitors. Also although street furniture and pavement maintenance and cleanliness is important there is also the need for some homes themselves to be given a lick of paint or have their front gardens tidied of rubbish. The community needs to be engaged in keeping all aspects of the local area clean and tidy.

Something raised in the residents' survey but not the residents meetings were **speeding drivers** on the island. This was raised in the stakeholder meeting. There was the suggestion that speed limit signs, although well meaning, can be confusing (e.g. "20s plenty" signs). There was discussion of a 20 mile an hour zone outside schools or a 50 miles an hour limit across the island. Early intervention was seen as key and work done with driving schools to encourage instructors to reinforce the need to drive to the conditions of the road was stressed. Placing signs in accident blackspots highlighting the number of accidents, as used in France, was also discussed.

Pride

Pride: We want to encourage active local involvement and provide the social and education services that help individuals and communities thrive. We want to create a sense of local pride right across the Island.

Pride priorities raised by the residents' survey which participants in the public meetings were asked to discuss were:

- Anything that impacts on the environment that people live in
- Clean streets
- Rubbish
- Graffiti/vandalism
- Coastal protection
- Villages
- Beaches
- Planning/development
- Creating a sense of pride across the island
- Encouraging local involvement in communities
- Supporting vulnerable people (disabled, older people, young people)
- Providing social and education services that help individuals and communities

There was a clear focus in the public meetings on **ensuring clean rubbish free streets and an improved local environment**. Key ideas to tackle this included:

- More litter bins
- Encouraging more recycling
- Trying to persuade supermarkets to reduce packaging
- Improve opening hours and quality of public toilets
- More dropped kerbs for vulnerable people to use
- Protect beaches and natural beauty of island

Ensuring a clean Isle of Wight was one of the key issues raised across the meetings. Many residents see the good aspects of the island in terms of the natural environment. At the stakeholder meeting the practicalities of more litter bins focused on placing them near take-away restaurants, or indeed ensuring that those businesses provide them. Businesses were also seen to have more of a role in terms of recycling – in particular large supermarkets. The encouragement of locally sourced food was discussed in terms of it lessening packaging and the environmental impact in that goods do not travel as far. On recycling the discussion mentioned what the council could do to encourage more plastic and cardboard recycling. There was strong support for improved public toilets and in particular dealing with issues of safety and cleanliness. The stakeholder meeting also raised the issue of chewing gum needing to be tackled as well as dog mess.

Tying in with the discussions about respect **reducing vandalism and graffiti** was seen as a key issue for ensuring pride in the island. Residents' solutions included possibly:

- Working more with the community to reduce this problem – more activities (for young and old) in the local area to promote civic pride
- Local area wardens recruited from the youth community

Stakeholders highlighted the issue of respect – that people have to take responsibility for their actions. It was felt that more consultation had to happen with younger people to identify how to address this – similar to the discussions in the respect stakeholder meeting about anti-social behaviour. It was identified that wardens do not work late into the night when many of these problems are seen to have occurred.

Pride also covers the way in which the island is developed. Residents were keen to **ensure sustainable development**. Residents thought that the council should:

- Ensure the infrastructure can cope with development
- Build energy efficiency requirements into the planning process
- Provide play areas and community squares within developments

Many of the comments about the bad things on the island concentrated on the perception of over-development with an accompanying concern about the pressure this places on the infrastructure. In the stakeholder group there was support for more play areas and many felt that this was already being put into place.

Finally residents were keen for the council and other partner organisations to have **more consultation/involvement with the public**. In particular they thought that there should be:

- More information for residents from the council about what it can and cannot do
- More consultation meetings or opportunities to feed back information to the council

Naturally those attending a consultation meeting would be more interested in consultation, but this fitted in with pride in terms of the need to consult with the public to maintain the quality of the local area. Many of the comments about what was bad about the Isle of Wight focused on local problems; issues which residents want to raise and see addressed.

In the stakeholder meeting a number of other ideas were suggested including improving pathways and seating facilities. There was a particular concern that education and social services were not covered by the discussion as much as would have been expected – the focus being on the visual environmental aspects of pride, rather than pride in these education and social services. The separate education consultation should therefore be viewed as feeding into this aspect of One Island. Similarly more focused work on social services – perhaps with users and stakeholders – would contribute to a long-term rounded One Island programme.

Value

Value: We want to provide value for money council services at an affordable council tax level – at or below inflation every year. We want to ensure we are spending this money in areas that are important to you.

Value priorities raised by the residents' survey which participants were asked to discuss at the meeting were:

- Providing value for money council services by creating the best services
- Improve the quality of roads
- Improve public amenities and services
- The priorities for council tax spending in the next financial year
- How can we improve the island's economy?
- How can we support tourism?
- How can we improve the transport infrastructure?

In many aspects the theme of value encompasses the other two themes – pride and respect. The priorities raised in those meetings are priorities for funding. The issue of **improving the quality of roads** was discussed throughout the public meetings. There were suggestions that:

- The council needs to increase funding on roads and that plans may already be in place
- That large supermarkets/stores should contribute towards road improvements due to the impact of their heavy goods lorries
- Improved parking facilities so that cars are taken off the road

There was discussion about **improving the transport infrastructure**. Ideas included a fixed link to the mainland, smaller buses (perhaps running on LPG), cheaper ferry fares and encouraging people to use their cars less. Many of these ideas are not in the direct control of the council, but there is seen to be a need for the council to take the lead on improving the transport infrastructure-which might include lobbying others to act. In the stakeholder meeting the use of free bus passes for the over 60's was seen as an example of the way the council has worked to improve the transport infrastructure.

There was a concern about **the quality of public amenities and services**. As with the meetings over pride there was a concern about the quality of public conveniences. Also more focus on recycling was seen as possible. A general idea was to improve the level of sponsorship by business to improve the quality of services and public amenities. There was also the idea to focus priorities more around people and local communities. It was seen that some areas of the Isle of Wight were in decline and therefore the quality of public amenities and services in that area needed more focus and resources. The council was encouraged by some to take a more holistic view of local communities. People were seen as more important than individual services.

One service, which was mentioned in the stakeholder meeting as a priority area for spending to be maintained, is social services. This reinforces the council's role in **protecting vulnerable people**.

Improving the island's economy was seen as very important in establishing the resources to improve the island. Key ideas included:

- Encouraging skilled jobs

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- Encouraging residents/business to shop locally, buying local produce
 - Discounted business rates for start-up companies
 - Supporting festivals more (not necessarily more money)
 - Develop the tourist industry more

The stakeholder meeting concentrated on the need to support the economy. One way to support the economy was seen to be by the council providing clean trouble free streets and business making the island a destination. There was a feeling that the quality of tourism on the island needs to improve. There were also comments about the improving the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership, which was seen to have a low profile. The need to increase the proportion of jobs on the island was seen in the meeting as a key priority for more spending/investment by the council. There was some concern over whether PFI contracts produced value for money results. There was also concern about the money for improving roads and other building works would go off the island.

Improving educational attainment was a focus of many of the discussions. There is separate consultation over proposed changes to the structure of sixth form education. But, some of the ideas suggested include:

- Keeping village schools open
- Encouraging more involvement from local businesses to provide more vocational/practical education
- More actively engage with schools and extended schools agenda

As discussed in both the respect and pride meetings the issue of **crime and anti-social behaviour** was at the forefront of the concerns of many residents. There was support for doing more to tackle this kind of behaviour.

There was discussion of **improved communications and consultation**. Some of the ideas suggested included:

- More communication through email
- More use of recyclable materials in communications
- Better publicity about consultation events
- A page in the Isle of Wight County Press to communicate council information
- Concentrating on one idea at a time and making sure clear progress is made and reported
- Understand more why people have complained to the council and address the overall concerns

In the stakeholder meeting there was a concern about any increase in council tax. In particular any increase in council tax had to be accompanied by tangible results – something that was perceived to have not happened previously. There was concern about pensioners on fixed incomes and how to define inflation. The council was encouraged to do everything they can to keep council tax levels down.

Appendices

Respondent Summary: Respect

Residents were asked to summarise the key actions they would like to happen as a result of the meeting in their own words.

Newport

- Young people
 - Consult more with them
 - All young people not just youth council
 - More community justice
 - Involve parents/guardians
 - Schools/clubs [should be] open more when needed
- More/better citizenship education in schools
- An event with Respect as the focus over a week. Engaging community and statutory groups. A big day out to launch
- Carisbrooks Heritage Days and stalls of information
- [More] community mediation (parents, young people/community (not criminalised))
- Get public to come to community meetings with community police
- Health to be more responsive to the diversity agenda
- Better accessibility for people with disabilities
- All [organisations] need ownership of our own areas!
- Keep our town clean
- [Encourage] Friday night fun (not alcohol)

Sandown

- Group discussions with the young people to find out what they want and what problems they have
- Group discussions with parents to find out their concerns (provision of a crèche if needed)
- A youth club suitable for 12-17 year olds
- Community police station situated in High Street where visible
- Police should talk to parents/guardians about the behaviour of their kids
- More CCTV cameras around the town
- Heavier sentences for drug dealers

- Idea number 1
 - More communication from police on what they do
 - Get to know young people

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- Easy access to police (example – Brading TC)
 - Involve young people in helping to reduce crime by painting high crime areas
 - Idea number 2
 - Preserving and improving and involving young people [by going to] existing places where young people go
 - More teenage shelters
 - Availability of schools for community use (e.g. playing fields)
 - Idea number 3
 - Involve all the community in deciding what the street scene should be (bus shelters, benches, litter bins)
 - Each community retains its own identity
 - More flowers/planting
 - Council budget
 - Money [should be] set aside for public realm
 - [Do] all street lights need to remain on all the time? (Replace with low or energy efficient light bulbs)
 - More money for community travel plans – improve accessibility
 - Council say ‘we can’t afford services’ should look at what they should not do and should listen more to community
 - Make availability of funds for skate parks – why should funding come from government when council should provide it?
 - Leaflet that comes with council tax bill is not clear. No real breakdown where money is spent.
 - Low level vandalism/anti-social behaviour
 - The council should be much quicker to react positively (zero tolerance)
 - Currently policing on the cheap = less police. (Need more police)
 - Neighbourhood Observer Group – should be better supported, every major town should have one. Funding should be considered
 - [There should be] less visible presence [of anti-social behaviour] on the street
 - Lack of action by formal organisations once alerted to the issues
 - Have tried for funding from SEDA but no success
 - Need to invest in youth services
 - More youth facilities
 - The council should identify locations/premises where children, youth can congregate, coffee bars etc.
 - Schools should instil proper respect
 - The charging policy of children’s services [should be reviewed]

- There is an overall lack of facilities
- Whatever you provide needs longer opening hours
- There needs to be better communications between departments (H&S and 3rd party liability)
- Provide [better] lighting

- Civic Pride and Respect for the Island
 - Council should work better together as joined up actions
 - IOW festival is an example of private sector success
 - For better respect promote the island
 - Extreme sports example of what can be done. Encourage entrepreneurs
 - Need to investigate other methods of getting to the island – flights
 - Island Games 2011/Olympics – Think big! Out of the box.

Respondent Summary: Pride

Residents were asked to summarise the key actions they would like to happen as a result of the meeting in their own words.

Freshwater

- Inappropriate over development
- Council tax rise below inflation
- Vandalism
- Appearance of village
- Poor advertising of meetings
- Lack of facilities for young
- Street furniture – repairs
- Road nameplates – broken – repairs
- Welcome signs
- Flower troughs to enhance areas
- Coaches don't stop in Freshwater for shop
- Youth club that is 'run' by the youths
- Under 18 'nightclub', no drinks, no drugs
- Mud on roads left by developers cleaned up
- Shops open on Saturday afternoon

- Longer hours for youth clubs with more opportunities for fairer engagement of the youth
- Maintain present level of refuse collection as a minimal
- More communication & involvement of IWC, local residents & parish council in improving & maintaining Freshwater as a good place to live

- Cleaner toilets & improved
- Vandalism & graffiti
- Litter bins on housing estates

Newport

- Lack of affordable housing
 - owning own home help to start pride off
 - bed-sit land – no hope
 - benefit subculture
 - work training schemes – get then doing jobs

- too many luxury apartments
- Social education – citizenship contributing to good community
 - community partnerships – not easy to resurrect once branch chopped off tree
 - vibrant communities where people participate
- Byeways etc. good cycleways
 - parks – looked after with resources available
 - overflowing litter bins – not enough or not emptied frequently enough
 - dog wardens – not noticeable now, dog lead advise
 - when standards drop that becomes the new standard
 - discarded crisp packets – no pride in disposing of correctly

- Good that IWC is consulting
- Need more younger people involved
- Get closer to what young people want as they are the future
- Give young people training
- Involve schools in wider community issues/needs
- East Cowes & Cowes commented on
- IWC – make people understand what we can & cannot do – expectation gap clarification
- Regeneration & social engagement is vital

- More meetings such as these they were good
- Something must happen as a result of feedback given
- Use wider source of media to connect with the public – i.e. community newsletters, cinema advertising, smaller advert in County Press & use money saved to publicise in other ways
- Creative leaflets like the One Island one help to promote information – they get info across
- Education, education, education!
- Developing an Island slogan (via school competition?). ‘Keep your Wight green’
- Sustainable development – make sure that every building encompassed rain harvesting & energy efficient
- Give us some follow up on the outcomes of these meetings

- Vandalism/activities for youths
- Rubbish (recycling)
- Supporting vulnerable people-
 - drop kerbs,
 - loos open longer (seasonal)

- new build areas to include greener buildings & community squares (home zones)
- local area wardens
- Grants to support greener issues i.e. insulation, etc.
- WDF – open day (recycle)
- Home zones – new builds i.e. Pan
- Use of school for youths (out of hours), but ask youths first

- Listen to the public & interact positively
- Communicate more effectively on how services are delivered
- The public are prepared to pay more for services related to civic pride
- Make tourism a higher priority
- Reduced prices for cross Solent travel
- Involve the public widely in proposals for education (6th form college & 2/3 tier debate), teachers to be part of process
- More kerbside recycling
- Try & persuade supermarkets to reduce on packaging
- Through the planning process, encourage more effective insulation in homes

- Swapping PFI from roads to railways
- More regular recycling pick-ups
- Enforcement of planning decisions – communicating time frame
- Planning focused on local people rather than 2nd home owners
- More rubbish bins in streets: make people more aware - communication,
- Discount on Council tax – for recycling: cut down on tip visits – pick up from homes
- Big serious decision – showing that they are listening & doing something

Respondent Summary: Value

Newport

- Look at projects/problems as a whole – holistic view
- People first
- Opportunities for interagency and inter-department working/breaking empires' up
- Promotion of tourism should not be a council activity
- Investigate complaints (areas of) in order to focus on invest to save
- One stop shop
- Locality delivery, neighbourhood hub – opportunities for local community empowerment. Accessibility and listening to local voice.
- Reducing expensive mainland placements for children whilst maintaining appropriate provision for needs (general principle for other functions)
- Providing more support at transition for children with special needs
 - support all young people to gain employment → work with local businesses
 - Transport initiatives have been very positive although there are difficulties for the more rural communities
 - Road safety education particularly for young drivers
- Housing – too many houses being built. Does IWC have any control?
- High targets to build
- Issue of being in the South East catchment
- Too much involvement by Hants in decisions made on IW
- Restrict no of houses as infrastructure not in place
- Control of Planning (maybe perception)
- IWC influence of ferry companies (partnership)
- Quality of tourism services
- Apprenticeships
- Shop locally – buy local produce
- Improve infrastructure
- Encourage more jobs
- Discounted business rates to start up companies

- **What to happen after discussion**

- Take notice
- Take action
- Be radical
- IWC to make hard tough decisions that could take years to deliver
- Feedback on ideas especially those that have been actioned
- All attendees should receive a pack of all that was discussed
- Maybe in One Island in April

Ryde

- Get local companies involved in education
- Make big companies pay a road tax for heavy vehicles
- Bring back Community Wardens
- Double Council Tax for second homes
- Improve the quality of hotel accommodation

- Inadequate transport not well co-ordinated
 - not enough public transport
 - tourists putting pressure on roads
 - Transport Plan = reduce traffic
 - Tourism Plan = increase traffic
 - green tourism not put into practice
- Employment – lack of skilled jobs
 - tourism undermined jobs
 - loss of big employers
 - not enough employers
- IW College still needs to get better
 - bigger role for skills
- Sixth form education - might set the college against schools
- Need for economy and skills for caring for people
- Ageing population & loss of younger people
- A more diverse economy (opportunities)
- Tourism – poorly paid
- Need for unique offer and tourism needs to be part of the economy

- Tourism income goes off Island
- Public services skewed by older age profile of Island
- Regulation put people off enterprise
- Too much moved to private sector
- Island – potential
- Island is a safer place
- Services being absorbed into Hampshire
- Environment needs to be protected
 - not a museum
 - Planning is a big influence
- Refuse – environmentally sensitive
- Lack of investment in Island infrastructure
 - water – drains
 - roads
- Income needs to be sustainable (PFI)
- Business rates high – poor value
- Too many supermarkets
- All the shops in Newport
- Big business goes to Newport

Good things about the Isle of Wight

Participants were encouraged at the beginning of the meeting to write down in their own words what was good about the Isle of Wight

Newport

- A strong “not for profit” sector that supplements statutory services
- Beautiful scenery
- Bus passes
- Cheap fares for students
- Clean streets
- Communication via website e.g. view, download, comment on planning applications
- Dustbin men – extra mile service
- Environment generally good e.g. beaches, views, walks
- Excellent surroundings, i.e. countryside
- Festivals – varied music, carnival, walks, sports, etc.
- Free travel for over 60's
- Generally IW residents very friendly, well behaved, therefore low crime rate
- God's own country, climate, number of times roads are cleaned, fares for young people and OAPs. Best I've heard about, number of programmes like tonight – well done!
- Good landscaping, i.e. Town Gate Park near Sainsbury's
- Health walks
- History of innovative and creative thinking
- Improving sports facilities
- It is an Island
- Lovely scenery – need not to spoil it
- Most houses have fair gardens/parking
- Not too crowded
- Police wardens
- Recycling
- Relaxed way of life
- Riverside Centre lovely central venue
- Some advantage in being an Island – keeps IW separate (but also has negative effect)
- Very good 'lifestyle'
- Work there

Freshwater

- An island
- Attractions
- Attractions
- Beautiful environment
- Bus service
- Buses
- Buses
- Clean air
- Clean beaches
- Clean environment
- Community
- Community buildings
- Community spirit
- Countryside
- Countryside
- Cycle ways
- Elderly people are quite well catered for
- Environment
- Facilities
- Festivals
- Freshwater Bay
- Friendly people
- Friendly people
- Friendly population
- Helpfulness
- Less pollution (traffic, industrial, light)
- Less stress
- Libraries
- Libraries
- Location
- Location
- Lots of venues for music, art, etc.
- Lovely coastline

- Lovely views
- Lovely walks
- Low crime
- Mainly safe
- Medical services are very good
- Natural beauty
- Not over populated
- People who do care about the environment and look after it
- Plenty of buses
- Post offices to support the elderly population of the Island
- Potential to draw lots of people together & look after Island interests
- Public transport
- Range of shops
- Range of shops
- Red squirrels!
- Relaxed atmosphere
- Rural footpaths
- Safety
- Scenery
- Schools
- Schools
- Social Services albeit selected
- Sports centre
- Sports centre
- Sports facilities
- Sports facilities
- Street cleaning
- Stroud field
- The Island itself is very beautiful
- The people – we have time for each other
- The traffic isn't buzzing along at 100 mph
- Town shopping
- Wildlife

Ryde

- A great place to live
- A unique place to live
- Accessibility to other areas of the Island
- Aim High Council!
- Beaches
- Beautiful countryside
- Beautiful scenery and much historic buildings and culture
- Beautiful surroundings
- Best weather in the UK
- Better weather
- Bus and transport very good
- Bus system
- Cleanliness
- Climate
- Coast
- Community involvement
- Community spirit
- Countryside
- Easy travel to mainland
- Enough shops
- Fact that it is an Island
- Festival (music)
- Friendly(ish)
- General quality of life
- Good beaches
- Good Fire Service
- Good Health Service
- Good mix of rural & urban life
- Good Police Service
- Good recycling
- Good tourist facilities
- Good transport
- Hanging baskets! (Gardens & parks good!)

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- Health Service excellent
 - I have lived on the Island for 22 years and this is the longest I have lived anywhere. I have many friends and am content with my lot here
 - Island (no connection with mainland (i.e. no bridge or tunnel))
 - Island (no fixed link)
 - It is an Island totally separate from the mainland
 - Landscape and environment
 - Leisure facilities
 - Less crime
 - Less traffic and people than England! (so far)
 - Lifestyle
 - Many AONB areas
 - No fixed link
 - Pace of life
 - People
 - Politeness
 - Quality of life
 - Relative lawfulness and police visibility
 - Relatively low incidence of crime/social problems/racial problems
 - Rural Island
 - Ryde
 - Scenery
 - Schools
 - Security
 - Sense of identity
 - Sense of unity
 - Small friendly villages and towns with their own identities
 - Social life
 - Very beautiful countryside with very little people
 - Weather!!

Sandown

- 1. The countryside in general. 2. The footpath network in general. 3. The introduction of bus passes for the over 60's. The youth 50p scheme –pure genius. 4. The steady improvement in the retail sector in Shanklin. 5. The pace of life on the island, its geographic size and road networks ensure a non-hectic existence. 6. Local retails as opposed to larger outlets (supermarkets). 7. Access and availability to the sea, particularly water sports. 8. Improving conditions for children in sport. 9. Steady improvement with the fencing and styles on the public footpaths through woods and fields (very good).

- Beautiful countryside, views, clean beaches, character housing and buildings, feeling of being 'safe'
- Beautiful, great place to live and bring up children
- Being separate from the Mainland (no fixed link!)
- Countryside, local communities, being an Island and not answerable to mainland, climate, local administration
- Education, health
- Lib Dems, climate, landscape (countryside), coastline, low crime level (relatively), recycling facilities, community life
- Sense of community, sense of enjoyment, country easily accessible from town (and vice versa)
- The Bay, near open countryside
- The encouraging growth of public consultation – long may it continue and the evidence gained is actually used by politicians to make decisions rather than uninformed assertion and opinion which all too often appear to be most influential.

Bad things about the Isle of Wight

Participants were encouraged at the beginning of the public meetings to write down in their own words what was bad about the Isle of Wight

Newport

- A reluctance to embrace diversity issues – more resources needed
- Cinema complex
- Communications, i.e. roads, railways, buses, etc. (perhaps this is what is expected on a rural 'quiet' Island!)
- Cost of travel to mainland, difficulty getting jobs for young people, little ambition for children to work hard at school for qualifications, bad roads and pavements, standard of council housing, better quality toilets
- Cross Solent travel cost
- Expensive ferry price
- Expensive ferry prices/costs
- House prices beyond most salaries
- Island is too small to have best quality specialist experienced staff – can use consultants and balance this
- Lack of bridge over Medina
- Lethargic attitude to life
- Low pay
- Mainland developers, expensive housing, 2nd home growth
- More advertising of public events (like this one) & telling the 'good news' across the Island
- No large water park
- Not enough activities for youths – H&S issues
- Separate from mainland - clearly being an Island has lots of good points, but being an Island creates problems
- Staples building
- Too many houses being built regardless of infrastructure
- Too much 'Hampshire' involvement
- Towns in decline – poor shops (competition from out of town shops and internet shops)
- Traffic flow, traffic lights, public transport not good enough – need to get more out of cars!
- Transport infrastructure starved of funding over many years
- Unsympathetic buildings, i.e. shops in front of bus station not in keeping with area. Have not gained any new shops as shops have just moved

Freshwater

- Anti-social behaviour
- Bad pavements
- Bad roads
- Coaches full of pensioners who spend very little
- Council slow to react to repair vandalism on traffic signs, etc.
- County Press
- County Press
- Devolving of crucial/emergency services to mainland
- Dog mess
- General up keep of Freshwater Village
- Increasing development
- Island roads
- Island roads
- IW Radio
- Joined up transport between Island & mainland
- Keeping green spaces in villages
- Koan
- Lack of communication about this event
- Lack of communication at council level and locally with people who do care about their area and IOW as a whole
- Lack of communications between organisations
- Lack of facilities for the young
- Lack of facilities for youth – perception?
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of police on streets
- Lack of work for young people
- Local crime
- Maintenance of local council buildings
- NHS services
- Not 'own' police
- Not enough police presence
- Number of police
- Over development
- Over development

- Over development
- Over development
- Overdevelopment
- Police previous week well attended – why not mention this meeting then?
- Poor condition of roads
- Poor road surfaces especially West Wight
- Poor self opinion
- Public transport (lack of)
- Recycling – could do more
- Road condition
- Roads
- Roads
- Sale of alcohol to under age
- The behaviour & language of children on school buses
- The bus services for Afton Barns
- The condition of roads on Island
- Tired & run down in places
- Too many 2nd homers causing our own born & bred children out priced on a home of their own
- Too much construction – in-fill particularly, leading to poor parking
- Too much development
- Too much in filling causing over development areas
- Transport lanes in Newport particularly dangerous
- Under age drinkers
- Under age drinkers
- Upkeep of business premises
- West Wight treated as if OAP only exists

Ryde

- Amount of traffic
- Bad planning of shops (everything's in Newport)
- Bad roads
- Bad roads
- Cost of ferries for Islanders – too dear
- Cost of ferry travel
- Cost of getting off the Island

- Council now seems to be headed by ex Westminster personnel which equates to a high directorial fee
- Council Tax
- Council Tax
- Council Tax is this value for money
- Crime and disorder
- Education
- Expensive ferry fares
- Expensive journeys across the Solent
- Ferry costs
- Ferry fares
- Few hotels in Ryde
- Few quality hotels
- Finance to deliver significant improvements – Hampshire issue
- High ferry charges
- Housing (new) without parking facilities/garaging
- Infrastructure concerns
- Investment needed in alternative transport methods
- Lack of car parking
- Lack of facilities for youngsters when weather is bad
- Lack of hotels in Ryde thereby the town cannot cash in on its glorious beaches
- Low education standards
- Low wages
- Many service to mainland (control centres) i.e. Fire, etc. Police (maybe)
- Middle and senior school education needs some drastic amendments
- Monopoly bus operator giving rise to high fares and poor service
- Newport
- No air service
- No bridge
- Not enough leisure facilities in Ryde for kids
- Parking
- Police – have to call mainland and they haven't a clue where the Island is let alone a town or street or village
- Police Service has been badly cut back and downgraded
- Poor roads

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- Poor standard of driving/parking
 - Poor wages
 - Profligacy leading to high Council Tax
 - Public transport
 - Recycling
 - Recycling – to be better organised
 - Road conditions
 - Road repairs are disgraceful and I cannot help but feel that PFI is going to bankrupt the council or the population
 - Roads
 - Roads
 - Roads/transport issues
 - Shops
 - Shortage of high quality hotels
 - State of roads
 - State of roads
 - State of some roads
 - Tax payer's not told of plans
 - There is a need to stem the tide of people buying up property as a second or holiday homes
 - Too few police on streets
 - Too much dependency on tourism – not enough permanent manufacturing jobs
 - Too much development in the countryside
 - Too much traffic
 - Traffic through Ryde Town Centre
 - Where are our traffic wardens!
 - Yobbish behaviour in towns

Sandown

- 1. Narrow minded!! 2. Lack of support. 3. Not talking to each other re Departments of the Council!! 4. Moving forward
- 1. Presence of speed cameras with their hypocrisy as a safety aid, not revenue collectors. 2. Lack of cohesion at the council offices and town councils. 3. Inability of the authorities to maintain the direction signs on the very footpaths they want more people to enjoy. 4. Lack of attention to the Public Realm. For an Island dependent upon tourism, its "shop window" looks shabby and care-worn. 5. Lack of maintenance for the Public Conveniences. 6. Giving into "yobs" and closing conveniences instead of tackling the problem. 7. Authorities dislike for enterprise. e.g. demise of Arreton Motor Cross, a world class event exposed via Sky TV yet axed.
- High costs (relative to average income)

- High ferry fares, low wages, poor hotels, i.e. quality, Lib Dems
- High travel costs
- Lack of effective dialogue and determination with the police force (or to ensure there is an effective (especially in number) force on the island.
- Lack of police presence in town, run down buildings, filthy station – gateway to Sandown, lack of things for young people to do to keep them off the streets, too much development of new housing which will put doctors, schools, under great pressure
- Mobs of young people roaming the streets at night causing general nuisance. Where are the parents? Run down and dowdy roads. What are we going to do?
- Not a lot for young people to do
- Old fashioned attitudes to development and progress which leaves the island way behind perceptive and responsive councils on the mainland (e.g. the position and use of swimming pools)
- Poor work ethic amongst youth
- Poorly maintained and aging street furniture makes lots of areas look untidy
- Resistance to change, education about ethnic minorities and other cultures (or lack of it), poor opportunities and guidance for youth when it comes to leaving school/college
- The continuing parlous state of indecision and wavering re education organisation on the island particularly the unfortunate decisions to retain First and Middle schools in favour of the indisputable educational and learning need to return to Primary 4-11 which, in the professional view of the writer, disadvantages a majority of the island's pupils with the move between year 4 and year 5 which adversely affects the learning development of the average children in the First Schools – which is why standards are so affected at KS2 and KS3.
- This Tory administration, high ferry fares, lack of green transport policy, low wages, relatively high property prices (difficult for 1st time buyers to get on property ladder), lack of affordable housing
- To much poltic-ing