

Councillor Colin Richards – Arreton and Newchurch Ward

Annual Report 2012

This year potholes and the state of the roads in general have again topped the list of things I have dealt with on behalf of constituents.

During the year the new arrangements for waste collections have been implemented and with a few minor problems seem to have been successful.

There have also been some controversial planning applications, the main one, which is still ongoing, is Cupressus Avenue; another at the Airport is still awaiting a decision.

The extreme budget cuts are still ongoing. Whilst I appreciate savings had to be made it does seem that on a holiday Island the decision to close Tourist Information Centres was a mistake at least judging from the comments I have received from visitors.

The discontinuation of Wight Bus services to Newchurch and Alverstone was extremely worrying last year but in co-operation with the Parish Council a service five days a week has been saved. Up until 1st April the service was funded by the I.W.C. During April the Parish Council paid, but from the 1st May it is now run by volunteers.

Owing to the Proportionality rules I no longer sit on Scrutiny but continue until the 1st June on Licensing and General Purposes. After this it is proposed to amalgamate the Planning and Licensing committees and form a new committee to hear appeals and other matters which would previously have been dealt with by the Licensing and General Purposes Committee. I am still a Local Authority Governor at Newchurch School and have been involved in the appointment of a new provider for the Nursery at the School.

Colin Richards
May 2012