

Councillor Peter Bingham – Central Wight Ward

Annual Report 2012

The first part of the year was dominated by the public enquiry into the Cheverton Wind Farm application. I attended every day of the hearing (all four weeks of it!) and spoke against the proposal on behalf of local residents; the application was turned down much to the relief of local residents. I was also involved in another planning application for an inappropriate development in Gatcombe and again opposed it on behalf of local residents; this was also turned down.

The IWC Economic Improvement Fund has been well received and all bids made by parish councils in the Ward were successful with matched funding coming from a number of local groups. Projects approved included new IT and security systems for Brighstone Library, new toilets for Shorwell Village Hall, a new website and community allotments in Chillerton & Gatcombe and improvements at Rookley Recreation Ground.

Proposed changes to the pupil transport scheme could have left local children attending Christ the King School without transport. A revision to the scheme which now enables eligible students to receive free transport to the local secondary school of choice was well received.

This year has seen an upsurge in antisocial behaviour and problems relating to neighbourhood disputes, vandalism and the dumping of rubbish. I have worked with housing associations, the Council's own housing department and the police to resolve a number of these incidents. Sadly, I think that this is a trend which shows no sign of abating.

Finally, I have attended most meetings of all four Parish Councils in the Ward - Brighstone, Shorwell, Chillerton & Gatcombe and Rookley - and have been able to resolve many issues on their behalf. I enjoy excellent relations with all of them and am grateful for their forbearance during these difficult times.

Peter Bingham  
May 2012