

Councillor Stuart Hutchinson – West Wight Ward

I was privileged to be elected to represent the ward in November last year.

The first few weeks were exceptionally busy, learning about the Council, its structure, processes and people.

During the election canvassing, residents raised a considerable number of queries. I'm glad to say that I have been able to satisfactorily resolve most of them, but some of the more intractable ones I am still working on – and probably will be for some time yet!

In March, the Council changed all the refuse collection arrangements. It's rare that a change in council service affects every single household, as this one did, and it generated a further raft of queries. The change, after a few hiccups, has been really successful and many residents have commented on how pleased they are with the new arrangements and the improvement in recycling.

One of the issues most affecting the ward has been the planning application for 5 industrial wind turbines next to Wellow and Thorley. I have had far more concern expressed by residents on this than on any other issue. At public meetings called by Yarmouth Town Council and Shalfleet Parish Council, the strength of resident's distress and worry was made plain. I shall work hard on behalf of residents to oppose this application.

Since being elected I have been appointed to serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Employment Committee. I have also been appointed as the Council's representative on the Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee and have been co-opted to the Coastal Defence Working Group. I have also continued to work locally for constituents by helping to prepare the Shalfleet Community Plan.

I attend meetings of the Yarmouth Town Council and the two Parish Councils in the ward, and keep in touch with residents by regularly attending local events.

Stuart Hutchinson  
May 2012