
Annual Report 2019

Councillor Ian Ward – Sandown South Ward

Since being re-elected in 2017 I have devoted considerable effort into facilitating the exciting Regeneration work taking place in my home town of Sandown. My long-standing efforts to attract commercial investment into Sandown is proving successful with new good-quality leisure facilities, new hotels and new good-quality housing. There are yet more exciting proposals in the pipeline so I am doing my best to facilitate the links between the investors and our Regeneration and Planning teams. Hopefully these plans will come to fruition over the next few years.

I am also working with officers to deal with long-standing property eyesores in Sandown and if we can eliminate some of them Sandown residents will be grateful.

In my Cabinet role, the past year has been one of dealing with many wide-ranging issues. Luckily, I have had a first-class team of officers and colleagues with whom I work. The Floating Bridge has been a considerable challenge since it came into service. While the engineering issues were generally quickly dealt with, other factors have proved more difficult. However, it is now providing a regular and reliable service achieving over 99% availability since last year. We will soon be trialling measures that should allow the craft to be operated without the current limitations.

The Newport Traffic Plan has understandably attracted great interest as the whole Island uses the various Newport junctions. The start of the St Mary's Roundabout element had to be paused because of utility companies needing to undertake extensive drainage work on Staplers Road. Clearly, it was not desirable to disrupt two main traffic routes serving Newport at the same time. However, planning for work at other Newport junctions is underway and these will be implemented as soon as practicable.

Ian Ward
May 2019