

## Annual Report 2019

### Councillor Paul Bertie – Cowes North Ward

I serve as both an IOW Councillor and a Cowes Town Councillor, and attend regular full Council meetings and various committee meetings as and when required.

I remain an active member of Cowes Business Association and Destination Cowes.

Thankfully, Cowes does not have many major problems, the exception being cycling in the pedestrian precinct. I am working on a scheme to have bollard covers at strategic points asking cyclists to dismount. Car parking is another major problem, and I am following proposals very carefully.

My main concern is the Cowes economy. Without a strong economy, everything else starts to decline, and it is no secret that all High Streets in the country are suffering, which has a knock-on effect on supporting businesses.

The promotion of Cowes is a major requirement, as we face tough competition from other coastal regions. The various bodies in Cowes such as Cowes Harbour Commission, Cowes Business Association, Cowes Week Ltd., yacht clubs, etc. all have their own agendas. I have taken the lead therefore (hopefully with the full support of Cowes Town Council) to create a new portal website which combines information from all the various bodies so that anybody can see instantly what is happening in Cowes. This will be a major administration project.

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Paul Bertie  
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