

Annual Report 2019

Councillor Wayne Whittle – Ryde North East Ward

Locally I've almost come to the end of a 9-year project working with members of the flood Group, Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Isle of Wight Council to find solutions to end local flooding in Ryde North East. The Environment Agency's contractors have now diverted the outfall pipe into Ryde Harbour and removed the old redundant pipe and culvert and cleared the Harbour beach, moving equipment to Simeon Recreation Ground.

Work continues on cladding the new flood wall in Simeon Recreation Ground along with landscaping and reinstatement of lights, street furniture etc, to be completed by May.

I've been working with and representing our community on finding sensible outcomes for local issues such as Ryde Arena, Ryde Harbour, the Royal York Hotel and Esplanade public realm improvements.

Regarding my Cabinet portfolio on IWC, I'm working to create sensible regeneration and business development focussing on creating more well-paid jobs and building the right kind of homes in the right places for our residents.

I regularly attend the tech group and economic development board, working with business leaders and education to find ways/avenues for our local businesses to put forward the skill sets they require as employers to our schools and colleges, enabling them to educate and train our youth to become our future workforce, growing our innovative manufacturing sectors.

We have also taken an active role in promoting Gigabit Island by gaining funding to push high speed broadband to all corners of our Island, putting us ahead of the game and future-proofing our digital connectivity offer.

I've been busy with my Tourism brief, encouraging and enabling more events to take place on the Island such as Wonder-Fest and the Americas Cup, as the more diverse and varied our events, the more demographics of population we will attract.

Wayne Whittle  
May 2019