
Annual Report 2019

Councillor Gary Peace – Ventnor West Ward

It's been a busy and somewhat frenetic year this year, with a wide range of events, projects and challenges ongoing in the council but also for me personally. And I am very proud to say that this council is delivering on its promises.

Due to family commitments, in May last year I took the immensely difficult decision to step away from my Cabinet position for Community Safety and Public Protection. This role has (amongst others), responsibility for the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, and I was privileged to have started and led for that first year on the service-led review of what is a vitally important and proud emergency service, and also on discussions around the formation of a combined fire authority.

After much and at times a very passionate debate, the correct decisions were made, and the service has been able to continue its journey to provide the best and safest possible service to islanders.

Whilst stepping away from my cabinet role, I have still been busy within the council, providing my expertise towards the “digital island” vision - a programme that will deliver greater opportunities and benefits to residents and enable this island to market itself as a world leader in the digital economy.

In my Ward area we've again helped raise money for Ventnor Cricket Club. It was especially poignant this year because it came not long after the untimely death of Ray Herridge, the driving force behind the club. He is much missed. I've also been able to help innumerable numbers of residents with their problems and concerns locally.

The good working relationship also now established with Ventnor Town Council will ensure that Ventnor has the strongest representation at County level.

Gary Peace
May 2019