

SHANKLIN

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at Falcon Cross Hall, Shanklin, Isle of Wight on Thursday 28 March 2024.

PRESENT: Town Mayor Councillor R. May (in the Chair)

Deputy Town Mayor Councillor S. Sheath

Councillors: A. Whittaker, L. Fleming, S. Knight, W. Hilton-How, D. Lerner, P. Barry, S. Godden, D. Williams, M. Beston, C. Quirk Town Clerk RFO, Deputy Town Clerk. 7 members of the public. Also, present J. Wandsworth Community Action & K. Arbaster Environment Officer.

Members of the public arrived throughout the meeting.

Town Mayor Councillor Robert May introduced our guest speaker Mr. Julian Wandsworth MBE Community Resilience co-ordinator for the Bay area & Youth Intervention Development Officer Community Action Isle of Wight & Environment Officer Katherine Arbaster. Julian gave an update on the Bay Youth Project:

We held an event at the Trouville hotel to celebrate ten months of achievement. Young people have taken part in sporting events and some have attained coaching qualifications; we hope to continue running in 2024.2025. Youth Forums are run at Sandown and Lake. IWC have a new Young Peoples Plan. There are lot of young people not in education some with extra needs. Core part of the program is a range of activities around sports 80-100 young people taking part. Some young people are referred to the program by the police, this is on the increase, we have meetings with the police monthly. Julian expressed his concern for young people on the Island over the next twenty-four months particularly in the areas of County lines and child exploitation. A positive is the education service back in house to IWC but closure of primary schools is a worry. Julian's program will continue to give young people a voice. Julian took questions from Members. Town Mayor Cllr. May thanked Julian for attending and invited him to stay for refreshments.

Katherine outlined her role which includes: routine inspections of play parks, inspection of the beaches, dog education enforcement protection orders, dogs on beaches. Domestic and commercial waste and fly tipping. I work with the police and carry out foot patrols. Island Roads only have seven reports of dog fouling, it needs residents to report it or nothing can be done. Katherine took questions from Town Councillors: posters on lamp posts in Queens Road has worked in the past. Cllr. Beston will do a foot patrol around the Town with Katherine.

Cllr. Barry left the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors' S. Parkes, D. Miller, D. Cable.

2. **2.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

Members were invited to voice their declarations of interest and/or complete the form – a copy of which is appended to the filed minutes.

2.2 DISPENSATIONS TO RECEIVE

Councillors' C. Quirk & M. Beston's dispensations stand.

2.3 DISPENSATIONS TO GRANT

None.

3. MINUTES

Members duly proposed, seconded and voted unanimously to approve the minutes

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held on 30th March 2023, having been previously circulated, be approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING – There were no matters arising.

4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNUAL REVIEW 2023-2024

The Town Mayor directed Members to the full version of his annual review in the Town Council's annual report for 2023.2024.

5. TO RECEIVE SUBMITTED QUESTIONS:

5.1 ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCILLORS

There were no submitted questions.

Town Mayor Cllr. R. May offered to take questions from Members of the public.

A resident asked about the signage in the Old Village saying the road is closed. Cllr. Quirk said he has raised this with Island Roads and the sign has to be in the road but agreed it is unclear how far down the road you can go. Cllr. Quirk will go back to the IWC/Island Roads on Tuesday and email the resident.

5.2 TOWN COUNCILLORS FOR THE TOWN OF SHANKLIN

There were no questions for Shanklin Town Councillors.

6. Members were in receipt of the Town Council's annual report for 2023.2024

7. Town Mayor Councillor R. May invited those present to join him for refreshments.

Thursday 27 March 2025

CONTENTS

- 3. Introduction & Contact details
- 4.5 Town Mayor's Address
- 6.7. Town Council Staff & Town Council Structure
- 7. Town Councillors
- 8.9. Access to meetings, Meeting Dates & Town Council Finance
- 9.10. Finance & Grants, Audit
- 11. Shanklin Town Council
- 12. Shanklin Updates
- 13.14. Deputy Town Clerk Environment & Facilities Officer
- 14.15.16. Neighbourhood Policing
- 17. Planning & Thank-You

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Report

Welcome to Shanklin Town Council's Annual Report for 2024/2025.

The purpose of this annual report is to make freely available information about the work of Shanklin Town Council. The Town Council hope you will find the information useful.

This report aims to bring together in one place key details about the activities of the Town Council in a manner befitting a Town Council.

Town Clerk RFO

CONTACT DETAILS

Town Clerk RFO

Ms Stella Janeway **LL.B (HONS) *CiLCA MSLCC***

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TOWN MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Shanklin Town Council is now in its 40th year serving the residents of Shanklin, and I have had the huge privilege and honour to lead it in such an important year.

My first official engagement as Mayor in June was to attend the Sandown & Shanklin Lions Club Charter dinner at the Ocean View hotel near the cliff lift. It was wonderful to hear about all the fabulous work, they do in the community. They work as a cohesive team to help others. In July I had the honour of being invited along with my consort to represent the Town at Newport Minster at the Commission of St Johns County Chaplain. It was officiated by the Revd. Cannon Ian Gibson Vice Dean of the Order. There were many Isle of Wight dignitaries present for this important event including the High Sherrif Graham Biss Chairman of the Council Cllr. Karl Love & County President for St Johns ambulance IW Kay Marriott. It was interesting to hear the background history of St. John and to hear that it started in the year 1080 some 14 years after the battle of Hastings. After the main ceremony was concluded in the church, we were all invited outside for the official dedication of a new vehicle for the use of St. Johns.

In August I had the privilege of officially opening the 171st Shanklin Regatta at the new location at the bottom of Hope Hill. I presented medals to the shore sports on the beach, huge sportsmanship was shown by all competitors adults & children in each event. It was wonderful to see so many families & supporters cheering competitors on. I was given the task of judging the drawing competition which had close to 60 entries this year!

It was themed around the "Olympics" the children showed real creativity in their work. Unfortunately, the weather stopped play at 3pm as it was decided that the very high winds & heavy rain made it unsafe to continue. Luckily the families had had a good morning & early afternoon. I thank the Regatta Committee for all their hard work putting on such a wonderful event every year hopefully next year the weather will be better.

In early September, I had the honour of presenting the "Shanklin in bloom" awards at an awards evening at Shanklin British Legion. This year it was being run by a new committee & I thank them from the bottom my heart for taking on Shanklin in Bloom as it helps Shanklin not only look attractive but loved and cared about. The award recipients had a lovely evening & talked with real pride about their gardens. Later in the month I chaired a meeting for residents on current concerns. Officers from the IW Council & the Environment Agency gave presentations to the residents, after the residents were able to speak one to one with officers & the Environment Agency with their concerns.

In October I had my first official ribbon cutting as Mayor at Springfield nursing home, it gave me great pleasure to open a new wing of the home consisting of 16 new rooms, the area regional, home management & the activities co-ordinator gave me a very warm welcome & took the time to show me around the home. It was wonderful to see that the home is serving its residents so well & is expanding its provision. Later in the month I was invited to a "Not just for Christmas" event being hosted by the Friends of Shanklin Community Library (FOSCL) It was lovely to speak to the members of FOSCL, the library staff & volunteers present. Many present had supported Shanklin community library for many years and I would like to thank them for their service.

On the 10th November I attended & laid the Town Council wreath at the “Ceremony of Remembrance & Thanksgiving” at the cenotaph in Shanklin Old Village, close to 500 residents, veterans, serving military personnel, town organisations, voluntary groups, youth organisations & Clergy attended. The war memorial garden looked beautiful thanks to Shanklin Green Towns; it had taken more than 120 hours to prepare it for the ceremony. Shanklin town brass band’s wonderful music really helped create a reflective atmosphere along with Revd Tony Richard’s poignant words.

Later in the month I was invited to attend “The Bay Place Plan” AGM, those attending were able to talk to steering group members & vote on projects & suggest ideas for future projects.

In early December I had the huge honour to officially switch on the Christmas lights at Springfield nursing home, it was part of a National “Switch on~” of nursing homes owned by Hartford Care. The event was filmed & posted up on the companies social media. Later in the month Shanklin Town Council held its annual Carol Service, this year it was held in a new location in the Town Square. Shanklin town brass band played wonderful carols that those attending enjoyed singing. Money was raised through donations for Mountbatten Hospice & I was asked to read a Christmas poem.

Toward the end of winter, the flooding in the centre of Shanklin was finally resolved through hard work & team work from our two County Councillors, Deputy Mayor, IW East MP & myself.

In early 2025, I attended the official opening of the “Shanklin Rotary sale” which has been part of Shanklin’s community calendar for more than 50 years. Many residents look forward to the sale once Christmas is all over. Residents donate items generously to the sale for others to buy. It is a wonderful example of recycling & generosity. More than 100 residents queued up for the official opening.

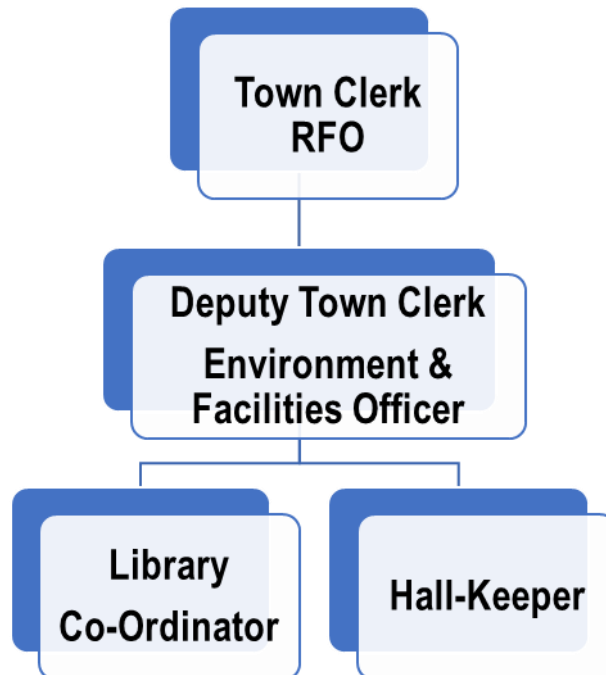
In February, the Assistant Town Clerk had a new defibrillator installed outside Falcon Cross toilets, this means Shanklin has even better coverage in the event of a medical emergency.

Throughout my year as Mayor, I have used my monthly Island wide Beacon article to showcase & raise the profile of vital local groups & associations in Shanklin alongside town related information.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Town Councillors for their hard work on the Town Council & also in the other volunteer organisations they are involved with like the theatre, library, Shanklin green towns, Rotary, & Carnival to name but a few. A vote of thanks to our Town Clerk for all her advice & support & for her service of more than 20 years so far. I wish all residents & Shanklin businesses a good year ahead.

Councillor Sara Sheath – Town Mayor - Shanklin 2024-2025

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF



TOWN COUNCIL STRUCTURE

The Town Council is served by one main Town Council meeting a month; this enables us to make the most of our time and resources.

The Town Council meets at least ten times during the municipal year. There are various other committees that meet as and when necessary.

The responsibility of the Town Council and its committees is to make policy decisions about how services are carried out, what the priorities should be and how the Town Council's resources should be allocated.

The municipal year 2024-2025 saw the positions held as follows:




Mayor of the Town Council for 2024/2025 was Councillor Sara Sheath*



Deputy Town Mayor for 2024/2025 was Councillor Adrian Whittaker**

TOWN COUNCILLORS'

The Town Council has fifteen members. Each member (Town Councillor) is elected to represent one of the three wards in the Township and serves for a period of four years or earlier if they resign/die.

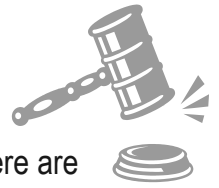
NAME	 NUMBER	WARD
Lynda Fleming	402718	South
Denyse Larner	866419	South
Stephen Parkes	07970936123	South
Chris Quirk	862133	South
Steve Knight	865635	North
David Cable	07759253996	North
Patrick Barry	07964684026	North
Sue Godden	868397	Central
Mike Beston	07885644426	Central
Robert May	07855035940	South
Sara Sheath*	867442	South
Adrian Whittaker**	07762084742	Central
David G. Williams	865910	Central
Rajesh Patel	404550	Central
Wendy Hilton-How	07967432930	Central

* Town Mayor ** Deputy Mayor for the municipal years 2024/2025

`Shanklin Town Council` has no political affiliation, Shanklin Town Council works for the benefit of the residents of Shanklin and for no other reason.

The Town Mayor continues to have a report in the Beacon each month.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO MEETINGS



Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Town Council, although there are occasions when meetings must go into private session when dealing with matters of an exempt or confidential nature.

Public Forum is available at the beginning of each Town Council meeting for Electors to speak on agenda items appertaining to the Township at the Chair's discretion.

It is preferable to give the Town Clerk RFO notice in writing if you seek permission to speak. Meetings take place at Falcon Cross Hall Falcon Cross Road Shanklin on a Thursday (dates below) at 19.00p.m. (except August & December when no meetings take place).

The meeting dates for the municipal year 2025/2026 are, (subject to amendment) as follows:

Town Council Meetings

Thursday April 24, June 26, July 31, September 25, October 30, November 27, January 29, 2026, February 26, April 30.

Annual Town Council Meeting Thursday 15 May 2025.

Annual Town Meeting Thursday 26 March 2026.

TOWN COUNCIL FINANCES



The cost of the Town council's activities is financed by levying what is known as a precept set by the Town Council, which is then added to the Council tax levy set by the Isle of Wight Council. The precept for 2024/2025 was £360,000.

Shanklin Town Council are well aware of the financial pressures faced by Shanklin residents and have worked hard to only increase the precept when necessary, and did not increase the precepts for 2022.2023/2023.2024.

This coming year 2025/2026 has seen our finances increase due to the increase in NI payments & the increase of the employer's NI rate increasing from 13.8% to 15%. The Treasury has confirmed that Town & Parish Councils will not be included in a package to compensate public sector bodies for the recent increase in employer national insurance contributions. (Principal Councils are included).

Relentless public sector funding cuts has seen us taking on services stopped by the Isle of Wight Council, which include the library, beach bin emptying, grass cutting, beach safety, five toilets in the Town, school crossing patrol, bedding plants and contributing to beach buoys.

We have taken these services on because residents have indicated they want them to continue. We shall continue to control costs and give value for money.

We have the freehold to five of the toilets. We refurbished two toilet blocks with state-of-the-art fittings for which we have won several awards. We opened a new facility on the Esplanade by the cliff lift in 2023.

We will continue to exercise prudent financial management without compromising essential services for the community.

All of our major building projects we have achieved with no borrowings; the toilets we raised the precept for a few years ago, after holding a public meeting & asking residents if that is what they wanted, the rest through prudent financial management.

We contribute to the funding of the School crossing patrol person.

We have contributed to Building the Bay (previously the Bay Place Plan)

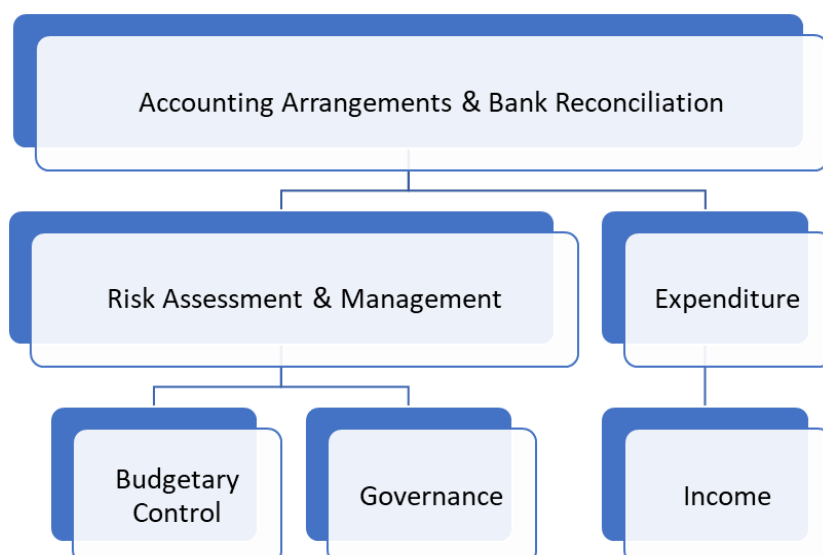
& continue to work with Sandown & Lake Councils on projects.

We used to contribute to the services of an Environment Officer employed by the IW Council but we have now taken this in-house, enabling us to provide a better service.

The Town Council has its own Financial Regulations, which set down the rules by which the finances of the Town Council are managed. The Town Council employs an independent internal auditor who carries out two internal audits each year to review the financial and other records. At the end of the year, an audit return is completed and submitted for the purposes of external audit.

Internal Audit

When conducting an internal audit, the appointed auditor will be reviewing the following areas & others to ensure the Town Council is operating within the legal requirements of each area and acting effectively.



Included in this report is an internal & external audited financial summary for the Town Council for the year to 31st March 2024.

Shanklin Town Council
Internal & External audited Simplified Summary Income
& Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2024

General Fund

<i>Balance at 01 April 2023</i>	<i>170005.93</i>
<i>Total Income</i>	<u><i>338112.56</i></u>
	<i>508118.49</i>
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<u><i>372865.07</i></u>
	<i>135253.42</i>
<i>Reserve Balance</i>	<u><i>43055.58</i></u>
<i>Balance at 31 March 2024</i>	<i>178309.00</i>
 <i>Earmarked Reserve Balance £93248.86</i>	

GRANTS/DONATIONS

The Town Council continues to support local community groups. During the year, the following groups were in receipt of grants/donations and or support:

Shanklin library
Shanklin Town regatta
Shanklin carnival
Shanklin Town brass band
Shanklin in bloom
Shanklin Green Towns
Shanklin Rotary Club resident's Christmas dinner
IW Dance & Music Festival
Shanklin & Sandown Rowing Club
Shanklin Football Club



SHANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL



Falcon Cross Hall is run by the Town Council. As well as the venue for Town Council meetings, it is used by local community groups although we did see a decrease in bookings due to the general economic climate and of course the hall was closed for a time due to Covid-19, bookings are now on the rise. The hall can accommodate 75 persons.

The Town Council represents the local tier of Government and plays an active part in protecting the best interests of the Town. As well as the services we provide ourselves, we continue to work in close co-operation with Isle of Wight Council to make sure that the needs of the Town are well represented. The Town Council also works closely with many local voluntary and charitable organisations, which play a key part in the life and wellbeing of Shanklin residents.

The Town Council serves the Town of Shanklin, which has an electorate of approx. 7,800. People living in the surrounding Towns and parishes and the thousands of tourists who visit the Town each year also enjoy many of the services provided by the Town Council.

Shanklin Town Council faces a difficult & uncertain future in local Government. Due to the demand for local services, which were previously provided by the Isle of Wight Council, we need to demonstrate that we are giving the best value for money. As “voluntary” Town Councillors with limited officer staff, this can only be achieved by working together with the many excellent community organisations that work so hard in Shanklin & also with our neighbouring Sandown Town Council & Lake Parish Council. Working together can and does make a difference.

Residents can be rest assured that Shanklin Town Councillors continue to be “voluntary” and continue to work conscientiously giving their time without payment on behalf of the Town.

2024/2025 was another busy year for the Town Council.

We commented on various Consultations throughout the year. We continue to foster good relations with the Isle of Wight Council, the local police, organisations voluntary and others.

The Town Council provides a number of services to local residents. It will seek to ensure that these services meet the needs of the local residents and that they represent value for money. The Town Council welcomes the involvement of residents in its decision-making process and as such will continue to consult residents on issues of importance as and when necessary, as we have in the past.

SHANKLIN UP-DATES

THE BAY BEACON

We continue to have a page in the Bay Beacon which enables the Town Mayor to keep residents informed.

BEACH SAFETY

When the IW Council decided to cut funding for lifeguards, we took on beach safety in Shanklin, we do not have lifeguards but we have a dedicated number of longshoremen who continue to keep an informal watch as they always have. We have also taken on the emptying of the bins on the beach in the summer.

Longshoremen all have first responder first aid kits and radios and a defibrillator is present on the Esplanade at the rowing club.

However, it should be remembered that beach safety is ultimately each individual's **own responsibility**.

In 2021 IW Council re-instated buoys to Shanklin & we continue to pay an annual contribution to their upkeep, installation & removal.

TOILETS

In April 2016 when the Isle of Wight Council closed all the toilets on the Island, we originally took on six in Shanklin, but subsequently gave one back so we now have five. This has proved very challenging. In 2023 we also built a new toilet on the Esplanade by the Cliff lift. There are signs outside the toilets with a dedicated contact number to call in the event of an issue. We ask that all residents remain vigilant, and if they see any damage or vandalism being done to our toilets to ensure this is reported to the police on 101 & call the number on the sign. The police can only bring perpetrators to justice if incidents are reported to them.



CCTV is in operation 24/7 at all our locations. **Vandalism will not be tolerated as ultimately; we all pay for the repairs.**



SHANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL DEPUTY TOWN CLERK ENVIRONMENT & FACILITIES OFFICER'S UPDATE

This year (2024-25) has been very busy around the Town with all our facilities being used extensively, Hope Road, Falcon Cross and the Cliff lift toilets have had large usage with many complimentary comments about the showers at the lift.

Hope Road toilets have just had all the flush units swapped over for the push button ones, this does away with the sensors and battery issues we have been having, it will also solve the blockage issues, we had the sensors fitted during covid so there was no need to touch anything.

We also had the roof of Hope Road cleaned off as this was starting to go green. No major issues at this location other than sinks blocked with sand, we have had new signage put up directing the public to the showers to the left of the building for washing off costumes and footwear.

Rylstone gardens toilets has had the roof and guttering professionally cleared as it was starting to get very green with algae growth, this had started to block the guttering and cause water ingress issues, we have also asked the IWC to cut back any overhanging trees which they have done.

Tower Cottage Gardens has just had extensive tree work done by IWC, with the area to the left of our toilet block hopefully being cleared as well before the summer allowing for the possible siting of a couple of picnic benches. The area across the cliff path from Keats Green to just past the lift will also be cut back and cleared during mid-February.

The two pay to use sites (Falcon Cross & Tower Cottage) have both seen high usage during the summer again with Falcon cross alone hitting 180,000 usages to date, apart from a few incidents of antisocial behaviour from a handful of youths we haven't seen much vandalism which is good, any issues we have had are reported to the Police along with any CCTV footage. The Police and Shanklin Fire Station both have keys to access the toilets in case of an emergency, this was helpful to the Police with an incident last year. Our CCTV was also used as evidence in connection with a criminal prosecution within the Town.

As many of you are aware we managed to fix the Town Councils energy supply prices back in early summer 2022 before the huge price hikes this means we took advantage of lower rates for both gas and electricity, we have saved a substantial amount of money over this time. This fixed contract will come to an end towards the end of this year (early 2025) so we will again shop around for the best rates.

Danfo our current cleaning provider has just purchased their first electric vehicle which we now have on the Island to cover the Bay Area, recognising our unique rural location in an attempt to reduce their carbon footprint and emissions especially when turning up to busy locations in the summer with a diesel or petrol van, this is also coupled with a new dissolvable sachet based cleaning system that reduces the need for plastic bottles and high transport costs for deliveries

(This also shows that the Town Council is doing its bit for its own sustainability through our contractors).

Big mead play area is still on the list for new equipment but we need to have extensive talks to IWC about future commitments regarding funding, maintenance and partnership working as the current situation is far from as it should be. As I am writing this report it is hoped the new piece of equipment should be on its way to being installed with further possibilities of upgrades to the area.

With increased costs associated with all aspects of what we now do it will continue to be a challenge to keep everything within our budget constraints, but as we have done previously, I am sure working closely with our contractors and suppliers this will remain on track and within the adopted finances.

We have also just installed a new wall located defibrillator at Falcon Cross toilets, this is also registered on the data base and is a welcome addition to this location if ever needed.

Jon Gilbey

Jon Gilbey BEM

SHANKLIN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM REVIEW



Having the opportunity to sit down and collate some information for this review, gives me the chance to look back over the last 12 months and consider what is happening with our community. Certainly, times are tough and we all face challenges – we all know the impact that the ‘cost of living crisis’ has had on everyone as we face rising costs, but what impact have these challenges had on our community?

From a Policing point of view, we will usually be reviewed on a numbers basis. What is happening, where is it happening, why is it happening and what can we do to reduce/stop it happening? That is why I always like to give you a ‘top 10’ countdown of incident types for the year and provide some commentary around those numbers.

For this year, our Top 10 report is as follows:

Number of Reports	Incident Type	Year on Year diff.
122	Concern for Safety	+1
93	Assault without Injury	+8
71	Harassment	+3
67	Missing Persons	-8

66	Public Order	-12
64	Suspicious Other	-28
61	Assault with Injury	-24
60	Suspicious Person	-10
59	Domestic Incidents	-5
57	Criminal Damage	-8

Total calls for service: 1525

For clarity, the above numbers are year to date from 01/04/2024 and correct as of 26/02/2025.

As you can see, the top 3 have seen slight increases year on year and in the case of assault without injury, we have seen a small increase in reporting from care homes and assisted living placements within Shanklin over the last 12 months.

I am not surprised to see that the number 1 spot is again concern for safety – a category that is not crime driven. Rather, this is where we are called on to help members of the community who are struggling. This can be a range of issues – immediate concerns following a collapse in the street, or a neighbour who has not been seen for a few days. This is where we benefit from having excellent links with our partner agencies, who we can engage with to help many of these individuals.

I am pleased to see that the remaining 7 spots have all seen a decrease in reported numbers. When it comes to public order and assault, the local team being more visible within the community has certainly had an impact. The ability of our local officer – PC Carey – to be on hand to deal with incidents in a timely manner has been critical to our ability to deter criminality within our community.

Shoplifting has recently had a very high profile in the media, and is another area the Constabulary, as a whole, is putting a lot of focus on. We have worked with our larger retailers to encourage them to continue to report offences, and we have been able to follow these reports with a number of arrests. Our larger retailers are seeing this as a positive and encouraging them to report, but there is still some work to do with our smaller retailers to ensure we capture the full picture of what is going on. As it currently stands, shoplifting sits 17th in our table for this year with 30 reports.

It is worth noting that our local priorities (as set by community feedback) are:

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Op Spider

Speeding – Op Sidlaw

Drugs – Op Antidote

The team have been working hard on these issues and as a result, ASB does not feature in our top 10. ASB Environmental has 34 reports with ASB Community 27, sitting 15th and 19th respectively. We have been targeting those areas affected and dealing with issues before they become long-term problems. A case in point is the current PSPO, which specifies a 'no drinking zone' for Shanklin. We have one spot in town where we receive reports and as we approach the better weather, we will be focusing our efforts on deterring people from gathering and causing a nuisance for others. As you may have seen, we are awaiting the Isle Of Wight Council's decision in regard to extending the term of the current PSPO beyond July 2025. In general, Shanklin has been fortunate to see a decline in reported ASB over recent years, and your local officers will be doing their best to ensure this remains the case.

We have been listening to residents about their concerns, and for Shanklin, one of the biggest is road safety. The team have all received speed enforcement training and are regularly patrolling those areas identified as having issues. These patrols have been well received by the community, obviously less so by drivers.

In terms of Op Antidote and drugs related matters, some of the reported ASB Environmental relates to reports of misuse of drugs – usually reporting a location where there is a strong smell of drugs and/or people congregating. We will work to deal with these matters robustly and have successfully executed warrants in Shanklin over the past 12 months.

We always think of the Isle of Wight as a wonderful and safe place to live, I would like to think that the numbers above go a long way to reinforcing that view. I carried out some work to see how we fare when compared to one of our mainland counterparts – in simple terms the total calls to service for one of our 'inner city' beats currently stands at 20,969, with their number one incident type (also being Concern for Safety) standing at 1,378 calls for the year to date. So, one incident type on this beat accounts for 90% of the total year to date calls for service for Shanklin, and again, this is not generally, a crime related incident type.

When I see numbers such as this, and speak with some of my mainland colleagues, it really does reinforce the fact that Shanklin remains a wonderful, safe place to live and work. Much of the feedback I have received from members of the community in our 'Let's Talk' surveys also reflect this – lovely community, amazing beach, transport links and high street – are the most popular responses when we ask what people like about Shanklin.

As we move into spring, I am hopeful that the town will benefit from a busy summer season and your local team will be on hand to ensure everyone, whether a visitor or a resident, is safe.

PCSO 15093 Matt Wheeler

(*Matt Wheeler* PCSO 15093 - Shanklin Neighbourhood Policing Team Shanklin Police Station).

PLANNING

Over the year the Town Council considered numerous planning applications along with several planning appeals and applications for premises, street trading licenses, TENS, TROs, Street and House to house collections, new road names and tree preservation orders.

Some people that come to our meetings do so when they are concerned about a planning application. Some things to bear in mind:



The Town Council is not the planning authority. We do not decide planning applications. The IW Council do that, we only recommend to them what we think they should decide and they can (and do) choose to ignore us.



If as a resident, you are objecting to a planning application it is very important that you write to the IW Council planning department.



As a Town Council we can only object to an application on valid planning grounds so please don't be disappointed if we do not comment on issues you regard as important but which, by law, are not relevant.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all our members' who have worked continually for the Town and its residents during the past year. Special thanks to Jon Gilbey BEM who has recently been promoted to Deputy Town Clerk Environment & Facilities Officer Jon & I work well together & therefore make it happen. Of course, we still have the magic fairies too. Also, thanks to Maria for her work co-ordinating library volunteers to run the library, thanks to Paul for keeping the Hall, Office & Library in a clean & pleasant state in which to work and visit, and last but not least thanks to all the community groups, volunteers & residents of Shanklin who help the Town to be the delightful place it is in which to live and work.

It has been a challenging few years for the Town Council and I know that we shall continue to be tested for many more years to come and Shanklin Town Council will continue to lead the way.

Stella Janeway TOWN CLERK RFO

PLANNING LIST MARCH 2025

1. Application No: 25/00229/FUL Parish(es): Shanklin Ward(s): Shanklin South
Location: 17 High Street Shanklin Isle Of Wight PO37 6JZ
Proposal: Proposed change of use of part of ground and first floor shop storage to form 1 residential dwelling to include alterations

2. Application No: 25/00309/RVC Parish(es): Ward(s): Shanklin South
Location: Shanklin 18 Orchard Road Shanklin Isle Of Wight PO37 7NX
Proposal: Variation of condition 2 on P/00356/19 to allow alterations to design of dwellings 457691