

Report on IWALC Infrastructure Workshop

IWALC held an Infrastructure Workshop to discuss issues on the Island regarding infrastructure provision and deficiencies.

The panel of respondents were:

Cllr Ian Ward

Cllr Barry Abraham

Chris Ashman (Director of Regeneration)

Ollie Boulter (Planning Services)

Keith Herbert (Southern Water)

Alison Smith (Clinical Commissioning Group - CCG)

Richard Tyldsley (Southern Vectis) an

Kayleigh Richter (Active Travel Officer, IWC)

Cllr Dave Stewart attended briefly and a representative from Cycle Wight was also present. Island Roads were not able to attend.

Twenty Parish and Town Councils attended.

RTC was represented by Diana Conyers and Karen Lucioni.

As in the previous workshop, there was not enough time to cover all the questions and, unfortunately, RTC's questions were not discussed directly.

there was an interesting discussion on a number of topics. The main points relevant to Ryde are as follows:

1. **Smallbrook Junction:** Improvements to this junction are still top of the Network Integrity Register. Funding has been allocated and design work is underway. Construction should take place this summer.
2. **Infrastructure planning:** Dave Stewart said the Council recognises the need to look at overall infrastructure needs and they are having a 'think tank' on it next month, but no details were given.
3. **Maintenance of new road infrastructure:** Developers are required to meet the cost of the inclusion of any new 'adopted' roads related to their developments in the Island Roads PFI.
4. **Speed limits:** Island Roads has had lots of requests for reductions in speed limits. They are reviewing these and also looking at alternative measures that could be taken to reduce speeding on the roads concerned. Action will only be taken if there is evidence of speeding and/or there have been accidents.
5. **Housing numbers:** The Council's current strategy is to calculate the number of new houses that can be 'sustainably developed' on the Island (taking account of economic, social and environmental sustainability) and then argue to the government that this is all that we can deliver.

6. **Housing Needs Survey:** The current Housing Needs Survey is part of the above exercise. Parish and town councils can also conduct their own surveys. Any relatively recent local surveys already done will be taken into consideration. [N.B. Has RTC ever done a survey? Does information in Position Statement count as one?]
7. **Local plans:** There was a discussion on neighbourhood plans and possible alternatives (e.g. statutory planning documents, place plans). Ollie Boulter said it was up to each local council to decide what best suited its needs. He said that existing neighbourhood plans will still be valid under the new Island Strategy, provided that (or to the extent that) they are not inconsistent with it.
8. **Sustainable transport:** Parish and town councils can prepare their own walking and cycling strategies, which can then be included in the Island Strategy. [N.B. Compare recommendations in Place Plan – could these form the basis of a local strategy?]
9. **Parking strategy:** In town centres there is a conflict of interest between the interests of shoppers and retailers on the one hand and the need to reduce car numbers and promote sustainable travel on the other. The Council is just beginning to consider the implications of this for its future parking strategies.
10. **GP services:** Two years ago there was a campaign to encourage the recruitment of GPs to the Island. It was reasonably successful but there is a nationwide shortage of GPs. [N.B. After the meeting, I asked Alison Smith about the possibility that the Esplanade and Argyll House surgeries will merge and move to Nicholson Road. She said she had not heard about this, so there could not be any immediate plans. However, the CCG has no power to prevent two surgeries merging or relocating, should they wish to do so.]
11. **Dentists:** There is also a nationwide shortage of dentists and the CCG has little control over dentistry services because they are commissioned by NHS England, not the CCG.

Councillor Diana Conyers
25 January 2020