

Cllr Chris Jarman JP – Mobile 07905002834
Independent Councillor for Totland and Colwell Ward
Temporarily covering Freshwater South Ward

Report January 2025

General and planning:

- Ward Councillor surgeries continue most Thursday mornings although most contacts originate online. During December I assisted on 19 resident matters.
- In addition to Totland & Colwell ward, I remain covering most resident issues for Freshwater South ward.
- I have circulated on Facebook local road closure and sewage issues as notified.
- The majority of my monthly expense allowance was donated to Island Charities assisting our homeless as per my Christmas norm.
- I have intervened with UK VISA & Immigration Service regarding delays in processing Homes for Ukraine scheme applications for local West Wight hosts. The result was 3rd stage escalations which were successful. The mothers with babies were in possession of their VISAs to travel as of last week and should arrive shortly.
- I have attended the various requisite Parish meetings in Freshwater and Totland
- I have made repeated email requests (now 5) to Richard Quigley MP for assistance regarding recognition of dental qualifications for Ukrainian Dentists and Assistants so that they can work in Freshwater, Newport and Ryde. The request has been supported by other IOW Dental Businesses and NHS Dentistry. My emails requests continue to go unanswered.
- A significant part of my time has been engaged on production and editing of the new IWC Constitution for the move from a Leader & Cabinet to Committee system in May 25.
- I have made specific proposals to IWC committees that I do not sit on regarding amendments to correct the IWC annual accounts, changes to data reporting on public health, and changing the target and reporting of smoking rates (particularly of birthing mothers) to instead report on nicotine positive rates. I would like to take this further to include reporting on all drug positive rates of birthing mothers and all others undergoing major health procedures.
- I continue to Lead the West Wight Walking for Health Group from WWSCC at 13:00 on Mondays

Principle Engagements:

02 December - Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care

04 December - Constitutional Review and progress update @ CH

06 December - Met with FYTBus to review assistance opportunities with FYT-CIC

07 December - Supported and donated to the MND fundraiser at Freshwater Methodist Church

07 December - Supported and donated to the Community Fundraiser at Wootton School

07 December - Presented a donation as local councillor to a young person towards their expedition travel costs at Colwell Baptist Church

08 December - Provided travel for local residents to Christmas Lunch

09 December - Audit and Governance Committee at CH where my motion to clarify entitlement of Councillors to financial information was passed and fettering of 151 officer of budget submissions removed.

10 December - Corporate Scrutiny Committee @ CH

12 December - Cabinet meeting @ CH

14 December - Hosted community group meeting at Freshwater Court

15 December - Hosted cross-group political working meeting at Freshwater Court followed by lunch at Dimbola

16 December - Joint update session on IWC inc forward plan

17 December - Attended and spoke at IWC Planning Committee resulting in rejection of Birch Close parking restrictions

18 December - IW Local Pension Board

25 December - Hosted lunch at Freshwater Court

26 December - Provided food deliveries to local residents

02 January - Councillor briefing and Q&A re Government White Paper on Devolution

05 January - Hosted community resident group meeting at Freshwater Court

06 January - Briefing on Devolution White Paper

07 January - Corporate Scrutiny @ CH

07 January - Interview with BBC Politics Show re Devolution White Paper

08 January - Submitted briefing analysis/article to BBC South re Devolution White Paper

08 January - Extraordinary Full Council with rejection (12-16) of proposed recommendation to move forward with Devolution. I voted with the majority against the proposal.

09 January - IWC Cabinet - where I submitted questions to identify what if any powers would be devolved to Isle of Wight through 'Devolution' that we did not already have as a Unitary Authority - none were identified although the White Paper does define some powers as being reserved to the mayor of a Combined Authority such as Planning, Infrastructure and other significant matters currently dealt with on Island by IWC. Cabinet voted to move forward with devolution discussions contrary to that of Full Council.

13 January - I signed the public petition calling for Isle of Wight elections in May25 to proceed and against any suggestion of suspension of our democratic rights, including those of our young people that would be voting for the first time.