

ROGER'S REPORT

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

*From Councillor Roger Mazillius
IW Councillor for*



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OUR GREEN BELT UNDER THREAT!



Under the procedures for identifying land for housing development in the Island Plan, landowners in Northwood have applied for several acres of land to be considered as suitable for this type of development.

These areas are continuous with other green land stretching through to Porchfield and beyond and are, in my opinion, totally unsuitable for such development, bringing suburban type development into unspoilt rural areas. I PLEDGE my strongest possible efforts during the Island Plan process to not only oppose designation of these areas for development but to do all I can as your elected Isle of Wight Councillor to ensure that such designation is REJECTED and that the land continues to enjoy the protection it has enjoyed since planning regulations came into being.

At the appropriate time next year, I will invite residents to register their objections to this development designation. Together WE CAN stop this serious environmental attack on our cherished countryside. I will further report to residents on this and the Village Green report as soon as possible.

In the meantime please email or write to me with your views.

2009 COUNCIL ELECTIONS

To avoid unnecessary duplication of expense, the Government has legislated that local Council Elections to be held on 7 May will now be held on 4 June to coincide with the European Parliamentary Elections.

In the meantime the Electoral Commission has reviewed IW Council electoral boundaries and has reduced the number of Electoral Divisions from 48 to 40. Northwood will be combined with Place Road, Park Road (parts), the development off Three Gates Road etc to form a new Division called **Cowes South and Northwood**. This arrangement **ONLY** applies to IW Council elections. I will be offering myself for re-election to represent this new larger electoral division in 2009.

Gurnard will be similarly combined with another area of Cowes to, like Northwood, add another 1,000 voters to the new Division.

NODES ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING



Highways have advised that the road by the Newport-bound bus stop, which is well used by residents, is too narrow to engineer a traffic island to make crossing this road a deal safer. I have requested a straight zebra crossing without an island. There are road safety issues surrounding such a crossing and I am awaiting a final decision on this shortly.

I do sympathise with residents wishing to cross this at times busy road at this point and I have strongly supported the installation of a crossing.

Please let me know your views.

CORONATION AVENUE

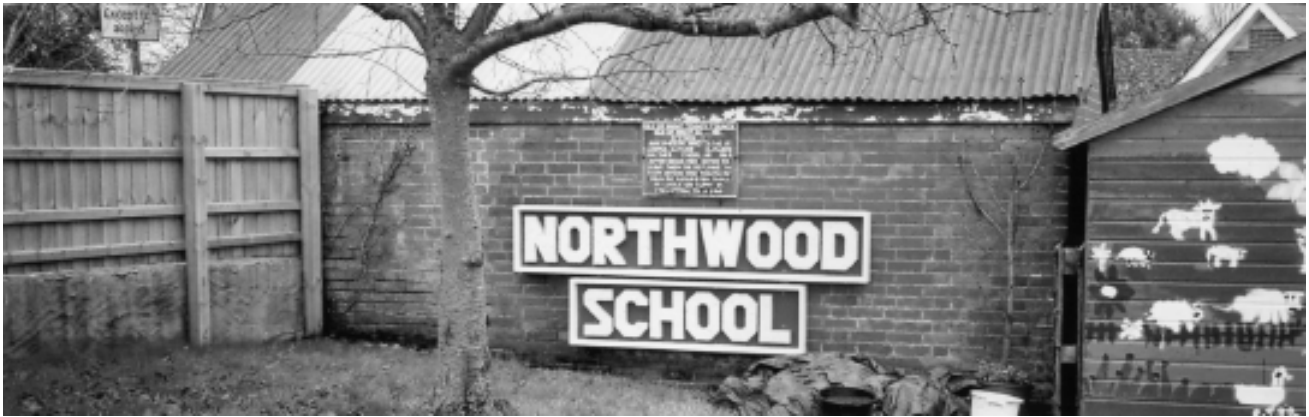
I expect my "Million Blooms" application on behalf of local residents and Northwood Parish Council to be decided very shortly. This will not only bring a green feature to the top of the road, but will also deter unreasonable and regular parking in this part of the road.



NORTHWOOD PARISH CHURCH

Invites you to a Coffee Morning at the Church on Saturday, 29 November, 10 am – 12 Noon. Stalls, cakes, raffle and bring-and-buy in aid of Church Funds and the Windows Appeal. Your support is welcomed.

NORTHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



This eye-catching sign made and erected by our old friends Ron Willis and Derek Toms is a welcome addition to our school identification.

The 20mph school roads speed limit has met with NO local objections and the IW Council will now proceed to carry out the appropriate engineering works to make these roads safer for our children and other local road users.



Many towns and cities in England have areas where the statutory speed limit is 20mph. Do you consider the Island's suburban areas should have a similar speed limit replacing the (in the main) 30mph limit? I would be most interested to know your views.

PALLANCE ROAD TRAFFIC

The two double-sided 30mph speed reactive signs (pictures overleaf) are now an established feature in this well-used road.

My own observations have shown, in the main, that drivers do properly react to the red light reminder that the road speed limit is 30mph by slowing down, although I know that this is not always the case.

Local residents and road users' views on this would be a valuable resource for me to advise both the Police and Highways as to the effectiveness of these signs. What is your view?



NEWPORT ROAD

Residents may have noticed an increase in the number of Police Patrol Cars and CCTV Vans in Northwood in recent weeks. This is part of a concerted campaign to catch speeding motorists, particularly on this main road.

Several motorists have been cautioned or prosecuted (including a two year disqualification) for excess speeds and this increased monitoring will continue.

Of course it will not by itself stop all discourteous or inconsiderate drivers but I am convinced that this form of surveillance will deter all but the most stupid.

Local residents who witness obviously bad cases of speeding (bearing in mind that closeness to moving vehicles can, due to vehicle noise, exaggerate their actual driving speed) – please telephone 0845 045 45 45 with time and place and registration number to help the police build up a picture of not only the driver but also the time and place to enable them to more closely monitor the area.

BELOW IS A LIST OF COMMON UTILITY COMPANIES AND OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Transco (to confirm your gas supplier)	0870 608 1524
British Gas	0845 966 8866
Powergen	0500 240 500
BT	0800 321 999
Southern Water	0845 278 0845
Southern Electric (electricity)	0845 7444 555
Southern Electric (gas)	0845 758 5401
Isle of Wight Council	(01983) 821000

Citizens Advice Bureau	0845 0505 168
Homelessness (out of hours)	(01983) 821105
Island Women's Refuge	(01983) 825981
Police	0845 045 4545
Samaritans	(01983) 521234
Social Services (out of hours)	(01983) 821105
Victim Support	(01983) 530530

UPLANDS ROAD MILLION BLOOMS GARDENS



All of us involved with the construction and planting of the two gardens last year are very pleased with the result a year later.

Many residents have expressed their pleasure at how effectively the gardens have brightened up this end of the road. We shall continue to find suitable sites (such as Coronation Avenue) to plant similar schemes. Do you have such a site? Please let me know if you would like to see your particular part of Northwood improved in this way.

NORTHWOOD IN BLOOM AND NEW VILLAGE SIGNS

Our Autumn planting is now complete and John Pullen, Colin and Eileen Palmerton have fixed three new metal Village Signs to replace the old wooden ones; thus continuing to promote our village identity which is now so well-known through the Island.

New Northwood In Bloom volunteers are always welcomed. Let me know if you can help in any way from planting to maintaining, including Summer watering. Remember – it is YOUR VILLAGE!



SEASONAL GREETINGS

Jill and myself wish all Northwood residents a most Happy Christmas and a Prosperous (and solvent!) New Year.



Native American Community Build at Northwood

Northwood Primary School have just had a very successful Community Build project spending an entire week outside in the school grounds building a Native American Indian village. Fifty two parents, members of the Northwood community and Governors came to offer their support and help over the week. Some people came every day! The adults supported the children designing and making teepees, totem poles, dream catchers, inukshuks, head-dresses etc. There was even a visit from some real Indians too.

The high winds and rain early in the week did not stop the learning fun for children and adults alike! I can personally vouch for that!

On the Friday children dressed up in full Native American costume and showcased their achievements. The school field looked amazing with twelve colourful teepees standing around the field and dream catchers hanging from the trees.

Headteacher Gill Miles has asked me to express her thanks for the support received because the School couldn't have done it without that tremendous support – so a very big thank you to all who helped.



One of the twelve Indian Encampments – look-out for your scalps!

DISTRACTION BURGLARY

Distraction burglary is where a bogus caller tells lies to con their way into your home to steal possessions, or creates a diversion so an accomplice can sneak in. These criminals often use fake identities, including water, gas and electricity company personnel.

If you are suspicious of callers, phone your local police on 0845 045 4545, or in an emergency dial 999.

A genuine company will not mind waiting while you check the caller is legitimate.

NOISE POLLUTION

The Isle of Wight Council's Environmental Health Department has compiled leaflets which suggest many ways in which to solve the problem.

Constant barking or whining of a dog can be disturbing or annoying for neighbours. Often this occurs when the dog's owner is out of the house so the owner is unaware until someone complains. Unduly loud recorded music or televisions can also be a major nuisance.

For more information regarding this problem please contact:-

Environmental Health Services, Jubilee Stores, The Quay, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2EH

Tel: (01983) 823000

BONFIRES

Bonfires can cause a number of problems, namely:-

- (1) **air pollution** – burning garden waste produces smoke, especially if it is damp and smouldering. This will contain pollutants including carbon monoxide, dioxins and particles. Burning plastic, rubber or painted materials creates a range of poisonous compounds, as well as an unpleasant smell;
- (2) **health effects** – problems may be caused for asthmatics, bronchitis sufferers, people with heart conditions and children;
- (3) **annoyance** – smoke, smut and smell from bonfires prevent your neighbours from enjoying their gardens, opening windows or hanging washing out;
- (4) **safety** – fire can spread to fences or buildings and scorch trees and plants. Exploding bottles and cans are a hazard when rubbish is burned. Piles of garden waste are often used as a refuge by animals, so look out for hibernating wildlife and sleeping pets.

But there are alternatives:-

Composting – garden and food waste can be put into a compost bin and will produce a useful soil conditioner. Woody waste can be shredded to make it suitable for composting;

Recycling – household waste should not be burned on a bonfire. Many items can be recycled.

For more information please contact the Council's Environmental Health Service as above or me.

IW CRIMESTOPPERS

Crimestoppers is a national charity whose purpose is to bring the guilty to justice by providing the public with the means to report crime without going to the police or leaving their name or telephone number.

It was established in London in 1988 and has now spread across the UK, and is well-established on the Isle of Wight.

Crimestoppers campaigns are designed to breakdown the wall of silence which keeps criminals safe. Calls are not recorded and telephone numbers are not captured. The call will not appear on your phone bill – so no-one will know you phoned.

If you witness any criminal activity, please ring Crimestoppers and help us catch these criminals.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



I would like to extend an invitation to any community-minded resident who would like to become a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for their immediate area. Full support will be given by both Police and IW Council.

Please contact our Northwood Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator **John Pullen on 281250** or me if you are interested in learning more.

NEW COMMUNITY SAFETY HANDBOOK TO BE SENT TO ISLE OF WIGHT HOMES

More than 60,000 homes on the Island will shortly be receiving a copy of a new booklet that has been produced by the Isle of Wight Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The Partnership includes Isle of Wight Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust and the Rural Community Council.

The Isle of Wight Community Safety Handbook 2008 is designed to give advice on how to keep safe and secure while also providing information on what to do should you ever need help. Important contact numbers for a range of services and organisations working to make our Island safer can also be found.

The chance of becoming a victim of crime is very low – the Island remains one of the safest areas of the UK. However, everyone can help to make it even safer by taking sensible precautions, getting involved in neighbourhood watch schemes and other community safety initiatives or simply by reporting problems to the police, council or other organisations.

The booklet contains information on a variety of topics including home safety, personal safety, safe travel on public transport and in taxis, road safety, reporting anti-social behaviour and many more. We would recommend residents to read this booklet and to keep it handy for future reference.

Residents are also asked for their feedback and any suggestions or ideas for the booklet as these will be considered ahead of next year's version.

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The Parish Council is considering the need for more affordable housing in Northwood so that young **local** residents who cannot afford to buy or rent will not be forced to move away. Affordable housing is essentially homes that can be rented or part-bought (shared ownership) from a Housing Association. The idea is to help **local** people of all ages who would like to either stay or return to the village, and in the long term contribute to maintaining the community spirit and village services (shop, Post Office, school, clubs and even the local pubs).

Small schemes such as these of up to 10 homes are often built on non-green belt sites known as 'Rural Exception Sites' that would not readily be given planning permission for building of private homes for sale on the open market whereby:

- All homes on the site are owned by a Housing Association (no homes can be sold privately).
- Houses are either rented or part-sold (shared ownership) to tenants (individuals and families) who are currently unable to buy or rent full priced accommodation on the open market.
- **Only households with a genuine local connection to Northwood Parish are eligible for these homes.**
- Affordable homes cannot be bought by right-to-buy so they will always remain affordable.

Please help by completing the Survey Form sent to you recently. I have spare forms if required.

Finally, remember, I am here to serve you, not myself.

Cheerio for now. Roger M.