

It has been another busy year as Chairman of the Council and Ward Councillor.

I will be standing down as Chairperson of the IW Council. My year as vice Chair and two years as Chair have been a fantastic opportunity but I am ready to pass the role onto another councillor. I am very grateful to have had the chance to be in the position and it has given me many opportunities to attend events, present awards, represent the council and support the community.

I will continue to represent my ward area in the South Wight of the Island.

I have followed up resident enquiries on many issues, including road safety, wightfibre, planning, rights of way and much more.

The rainfall experienced on the Island has been exceptional and the villages were affected in many ways. Roads were impassable, homes and businesses flooded, and crops ruined. I contacted many agencies to arrange for emergency information and had the main roads reopened as soon as it was safe several times. I have been liaising with Island Roads to investigate the ongoing flooding issues at Leechmore, Bowcombe, Whitwell Road and Emmett Hill.

I have attended meetings to discuss the issues with the Military Road. This will be an ongoing problem for this lifeline route in the South and West Wight. I will continue to represent the interests of residents at stakeholder meetings.

It was a pleasure to be a part of the Niton Lantern Parade in December, and ensure it continued by organising the event with the help of a fantastic team of local volunteers.

Supporting and attending village events and community facilities is very important and I will be continuing to encourage people to champion local businesses, shops, libraries, pharmacies, pubs, community groups, bus services, schools, sports clubs etc.