

Councillor Peter Bingham – Central Wight ward

Annual Report May 2011

In July 2010 I was advised by my doctor reduce my workload and as a consequence gave up my responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Resources. I was persuaded by my colleagues to continue as a Councillor but restricting myself to Ward duties.

Last summer Council Officers recommended that the Military Road be allowed to fall into the sea at Brook because remedial works would have been too expensive. I was able to persuade my Cabinet colleagues that this was unacceptable and that an alternative solution needed to be found. As a result, work has now been carried out, at an affordable price, and the future of the road has been secured for some years. In the longer term a more radical solution will have to be found but at least we have a breathing space.

Despite the financial situation and the consequent changes to Council services the major issue in the Ward this year has been the application for three huge wind turbines on Cheverton Down; I have had more contacts from residents worried about this proposal than on all other issues combined. I have always maintained that the centre of the Island's AONB and on top of the ridge line is the wrong place for a development on this scale, have strongly opposed it and spoke on behalf of residents at the Planning Meeting where the application was turned down. The developer has appealed against this decision and a Planning Enquiry is currently underway where I have again made the case against this particular development. A final decision will be forthcoming in about six weeks.

Throughout the year I have attended meetings of all four Parish Councils in the Ward – Rookley, Gatcombe, Shorwell & Brighstone and successfully resolved a number of issues concerning each of them and their residents.

Peter Bingham

17.05.11