

REPORT FROM CLLR IAN WARD BEM IW COUNCILLOR & TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR SANDOWN SOUTH

IW COUNCIL & SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS - THANK YOU ALL!

I would like to give my sincere thanks to all those Sandown residents who took the trouble to vote on 6 May, especially those who have kindly continued to support me. I regard it to be a huge honour to represent Sandown South. I wrote in my campaign literature that I am focused upon the regeneration of Sandown, so I am pleased that I can continue to do that work. Thank you again!

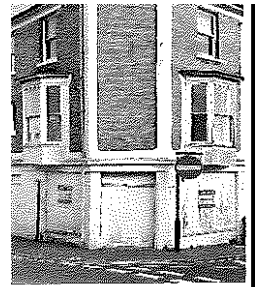
THE OCEAN HOTEL HAS BEEN SOLD

First the good news. In my last report I said that the sale of the Ocean Hotel was imminent; and so it proved, the Ocean Hotel now has new owners. The not so good news is that on 8 May it caught fire! At the time of writing no direct cause has been identified although people had been seen inside the building. I have been in contact with the new owners who are working up plans for the future and said they would let me know in about a months' time. They are also looking at tidying and screening the site which will be a step forward.

Subsequent reports in the media say that the new owners will not be establishing a hotel. I have asked our planning dept to verify that there is a planning policy that protects seafront hotels.

THE WHITE CORNER BUILDING DID NOT SELL AT AUCTION

This building on the corner of Station Ave and Fitzroy St is the subject of a compulsory purchase order that I got agreed by the IW Council Cabinet. That CPO process is now underway and in addition a Sec 21 5 enforcement order to make the building safe has been issued to the owner. The owner is trying to sell the building and it went to auction on 5 May. Unfortunately, it did not sell but the owner is to resubmit it to auction in June. I have discussed with the Head of Public Protection at what point do we stop accepting excuses from the owner.



WHY DO RESIDENTS DUMP DOMESTIC WASTE AROUND LITTER BINS?

Two or three times per week I find Station Avenue car park has household rubbish scattered around. It comes from residents who for some unaccountable reason think that it quite acceptable to dump their household rubbish alongside litter bins. The animals then rip open their bags and the waste just get scattered about. Why don't they use the normal waste collection service like most residents? In previous reports I have told residents how they can get the proper waste bins if they don't have them - They are free! I will order new bins for residents if need be.

ISLAND LINE UP DATE

The software problems being encountered by the train manufactures are being systematically overcome. Until quite recently when they fixed one software problem, they were then encountering the next one, but I am told that is now a rare occurrence.

There will be four trains on the Island shortly which will enable staff training to be started in earnest. The fifth is undergoing testing on the mainland and once declared serviceable it will be shipped over. Currently there is no firm date for the service to restart, but there is a likelihood it will be in July barring further problems.

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