

Heavenly Hayling let's keep it that way.

How time flies as I come up to 35 years of living on our lovely Island. It is the beauty of the Island and the people that has kept us here and I am very keen to keep it this way.

I am delighted that James Hassett, our HBC Operations Director is taking such a keen interest in refreshing the Hayling Island Master Plan; James is very enthusiastic about us capitalising on our environment for water sports activities.

You may have read that councillors can issue £100 or £200 community grants totalling £1,000. The process will be explained to us next week and I will then look forward to receiving applications in due course.

For the last two months I have helped blue badge holders across the Borough gain refunds for parking charges at the Havant Health Centre; if you are affected, please contact me.

However, the hot topics are the LOCAL PLAN and charges and reduced services at our AMENITY TIP.

In October the Community Centre was packed with 200 people for the HIRA AGM (for which I am the honorary auditor) and to hear from HBC on the implications of the Local Plan. The Government is committed to building at least 250,000 new homes per year and have determined the number of houses to be built in each authority based in immigration levels and demographics. Consequently, Havant will build an extra 5,000 homes above the existing plan including 1,000 on Hayling.

Provided a development is sustainable, a planning application will likely be approved, if not by HBC, then by Government Inspectors who will enforce house building as per their NPPF.

Therefore, if we Islanders want to halt development we can either change the Government or more practically prove that a planning application is not sustainable and by proving that our infrastructure is inadequate.

I have never accepted that developer "Independent surveys" are truly independent, my preference being for HBC to commission surveys and bill the cost onto the developers but I cannot get this changed.

I'm devastated about what has happened to our Amenity Tip. Following the Tories 4% rise in HCC Council Tax and with their extra housing proposed on Hayling, surely there can be no justification whatsoever for them to cut The Tip opening hours. A consequence is the six employees there have had their income significantly cut – How their cut in service was publicised by the Tories as a success is beyond the pale.

Five months have elapsed since the EU Referendum. I am fiercely optimistic about Brexit which will bring a reduction in food prices, greater employment opportunities and export growth and a reduced demand for housebuilding. I am convinced Brexit will be good for Islanders.

As the evenings become darker, can I urge I cyclists to wear reflective material and use CYCLE LIGHTS; I have seen too many Islanders cycling in the dark in the dark!

Let me finish by saying if you have anything I can help you with, please ask.

Cllr John Perry

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