



Cuts to local services

Apologies for the brevity of this newsletter, but we wanted to update you on the BBA response to cuts to local services, and also to promote the public meeting being held next Tuesday 7.15 pm at Bembridge Village Hall, where the library and toilets will be on agenda.

I trust that I do not need to draw your attention to the fact that the IW council are planning to close all the public toilets in Bembridge, together with the one at St Helens Green, and in a separate proposal have decided to close Bembridge Library.

The provision of these facilities is vital to residents and visitors alike, and the loss of them could have a severe impact upon our community.

As soon as we were aware of the toilet closures we made a Freedom of Information request to see the documentation supporting the closure list. The information was supplied to us on 7 January, and quite frankly we are appalled not only at the poor quality of the data, but also at the assumptions the council had made in compiling the analysis.

I have supplied to a Bembridge parish councillor a copy of my concerns about the study undertaken, and I am aware that the parish council share the same concerns. I also attended a Bembridge Parish Council meeting last night, and made our views known.

As an association we will of course be formally responding to the IW council about these proposals.

However we would stress that it is also important that individual businesses also write in with their concerns.

To respond to the council:

Toilets:

Responses to the toilet closures have to be received by 31 January

publictoiletconsultation@iow.gov.uk
or by post to Public Conveniences Consultation, County Hall, Newport, IW, PO30 1UD.

Libraries:

Responses to the library consultation should be received by 7 February.

librariesplusreview@iow.gov.uk
or by post to Library HQ, 5 Mariners Way, Somerton, Cowes PO31 8PD

Local councilors:

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Public Meeting

Next Tuesday 7.15pm at Bembridge Village Hall, library and toilets on agenda