

Cllr Claire Critchison – representing Chale, Niton, Shorwell and Whitwell

It has been a challenging role, but I am still grateful for being voted into this position in 2021 and it has been an honour to serve the community. I look forward to continuing for the next three years.

Some of the main issues and achievements in 2026 have been:

Food pantry – Based in Chale but available to all residents in the south wight. Helping to get this going and keep it going has been a big community effort and I really hope we can make it sustainable to ensure its future.

Quiet lanes

I continue to push for official quiet road status to be applied to the rural lanes that run from Chale, through Atherfield and Yafford onto Shorwell and Brighstone. This would establish an area where slower road users have priority over motor vehicles without losing access needed for local residents and farm requirements.

Around 22km network of 'backlanes' within the National Landscape, with a proposed lower recommended speed limit of 20mph, and priority given to walkers, runners, cyclists, and horse riders. Similar to the Adgestone Quiet Road.

Road safely

One of the most frequent requests I receive is for safer roads and lower speed limits. Speeding divers is a worry for many residents, especially those with impaired mobility.

The IW council speed review has identified several areas on the island that are recommended for highway changes. These are mostly only in areas with the most accident data.

I will continue to support changes to the highways to improve pedestrian use as well as the 20s plenty initiative to be implemented in our villages and town centres.

Community Speedwatch

The best way to get the data needed for any traffic intervention is a community speedwatch session.

I would like to get speed watch teams set up for all villages, but I don't have enough volunteers to make it happen in Chale. If you would like to join the volunteer teams or be the group coordinator, please get in touch for more information.

Flooding – I have continually requested drain clearance and case files to be compiled for highway improvements. The most recent flooding in February took us by surprise, I have supported affected homeowners with sandbags, advice, and reports to the flood authorities.

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