



BEACH CLEANING

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 26/15

9 MARCH 2015

The purpose of this paper is to ask the Town Council to discuss and, subject to any proposed amendments, to approve arrangements agreed by the Public Buildings Working Group for the Beach Cleaning Service from 1 April this year.

No. DETAIL

1) CONTEXT

- a) The Isle of Wight Council's (IoWC) decision to cease funding for Beach Cleaning as part of its required budget reductions for the financial year 2015/16 prompted the Town Council to assess the costs of taking on the service itself and to consider arrangements for doing so.
 - b) The IoWC's more recent acknowledgement that it had a statutory duty to provide a level of Beach Cleaning service has not changed the reasons for continuing with the Town Council's commitment to take on the full service itself and the Public Buildings Working Group has been planning accordingly.
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2) STATUTORY DUTY

- a) The IoWC's assessment of its statutory duty for beach cleaning was defined in a letter from its Strategic Manager for Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces Alex Minns dated 23 January 2015.
 - b) *Ventnor Beach:*
 - o The current level of cleaning is once a day from 1 March to 30 June, twice a day from 1 July to 31 August and once a day during September with occasional cleaning outside of those dates.
 - o The proposed statutory duty level is 3 times a week between May and September but once a day during the May and summer school holidays.
 - c) *Bonchurch Beach:*
 - o The current level of cleaning is once a day from 1 March to 30 June, twice a day from 1 July to 31 August and once a day during September with occasional cleaning outside of those dates.
 - o The proposed statutory duty level is once a week between May and September.
 - d) There is no mention of Steephill Cove or Orchard Bay although both have had some level of cleaning under the current contract.
 - e) The letter from Alex Minns confirms formally that the statutory level will not be sufficient to maintain the Blue Flag status.
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3) TOWN COUNCIL PROPOSALS

- a) The Public Buildings Working Group has, from the beginning of its work on this service, assumed that current levels will be maintained.
 - b) This will be achieved by the deployment of two current employees, Wendy Marshall and Dave Gray to the delivery of the litter picking element of the service: Wendy Marshall has previously been employed by the IoWC's contractor in the seasonal litter picking of Shanklin's beach and Dave Gray knows Ventnor's as well as anyone.
 - c) The disposal of the filled bags will be undertaken on a schedule to match the litter picking rotas, through a contract with Ace Waste on the basis of their estimate for the work; Ace Waste is the already established Town Council contractor for the disposal of waste from Salisbury Gardens.
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4) BLUE FLAG AWARD

- a) Retaining the Blue Flag for future seasons will be a challenge: it is necessary to satisfy 33 criteria set out in a 37 page document across the four categories of water quality, environmental management, environmental education and safety.
- b) The Alex Minns letter does include a welcome commitment to work with Town and Parish Councils that are interested in retaining their Blue Flag award.

5) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to consider the proposals set out in this Report and following any agreed amendments to them to agree the basis for the service delivery for the financial year 2015/16.

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