



# BONIFACE FIELDS DEVELOPMENT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 4/18

15 JANUARY 2018

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the development of Boniface Fields.

## NO. DETAILS

### 1) BACKGROUND

- a) Boniface Fields is one of four areas in the Town at the centre of the Town Council's Regeneration Plan.
- b) The Town Council is committed to retaining this important green space for the town and developing it as a community resource.
- c) As part of that plan, the Town Council purchased last August the three Portakabins installed on the upper field by the Island Free School for use as temporary classrooms and the School kindly agreed to leave the new steps joining the two fields in place following the move to its new building in Upper Ventnor.

### 2) PORTAKABINS

- a) The older Portakabin in the upper field is now the base for the Ventnor Men's Shed, providing them with the space to expand their already strong membership and extend the range of their activities.
- b) They moved in on 8 January and an in-principle lease has been agreed that will be activated following the Town Council's discussions with the Isle of Wight Council whose support for the development is invaluable.
- c) Discussions are well advanced with a group of local Artists for them to take on a lease of the two Portakabins that are one on top of the other.

### 3) ALLOTMENTS

- a) The site drawings that the Town Council has commissioned indicate sufficient space for around 20 new Allotments, a particularly important extension of the Town Council's statutory responsibility to provide Allotments from the restricted opportunity of the current three that are all that have been possible to date.
- b) An invitation to submit an Expression of Interest in taking on one of these new Allotments will be launched at the Consultation evening on 29 January and made available through the Chronicle and the Town Council's web site.
- c) An Allotment Association will be formed from among the successful applicants.

### 4) PLANNING PERMISSION

- a) As Members are aware, the current temporary three year Planning Permission for the Portakabins expires on 9 April this year.
- b) Preparations for an application for a further three year temporary permission period are well advanced and a request for a pre-application meeting is likely to be submitted next week.