



The purpose of this paper is to provide Members with the latest information on the development of the Boniface Fields project.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The two fields opposite the old St Boniface School occupied recently by the Island Free School is one of four sites now within the Town Council's Regeneration Plan.
 - b) In August the Town Council purchased the three Portakabins installed in the upper field by the Island Free School to ensure that they remained available as part of the overall site development as a significant community resource for the town.
 - c) The Town Council has registered its interest in the site with the Isle of Wight Council as its current owner and had preliminary meetings and discussions with appropriate Officers.
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2) DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

- a) The detailed planning for the use of the site has been delayed by the need to wait until the removal of the very large Portakabin had been achieved and the restoration of the site completed.
 - b) That milestone was reached on Thursday 7 December and our Architect has been commissioned to complete the survey of the site as soon as possible.
 - c) Detailed discussions with the Isle of Wight Council about the basis for the Town Council's development of the site will resume once the resultant drawings are available.
 - d) Two other milestones are marked on the Project Plan: the fact that the current Planning Permission for the three Portakabins expires on 9 April 2018 and the hope that allotments planned for the site can be ready for use in time for the new year's growing season.
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3) REQUIRED WORKS

- a) Some initial works are required to facilitate the first phase of its occupancy and the costs of those are being quantified.
 - b) They include the installation of external lighting, a CCTV facility, separate metering of electricity and water supplies, preparation of the allotment areas, grounds maintenance, disability access and tree surgery.
 - c) There is a requirement to provide a new entrance to the lower field for a planning application to be acceptable that will require significant works in due course.
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4) PROGRESS TO DATE

- a) An in principle agreement has been reached with Ventnor Men's Shed to occupy the older Portakabin on the site from as early as possible in the new year.
 - b) Discussions are underway with two other community-based organisations about possible leasing arrangements.
 - c) The Town Council's Youth Service activity will also occupy some of the Portakabin space with times reserved for it.
 - d) The Project is a routine Agenda item for the fortnightly meetings of the Assets & Services Working Group and will remain so.
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5) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to note the content of this Report and comment accordingly.
