



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

20 FEBRUARY 2012

The purpose of this report is to provide a record of the programme of initial meetings in the Town Council's developing Community Engagement strategy together with feedback from them.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The information about the town's ranking in the recently published Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 (IMD 2010) and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2011 was discussed at an informal Members' meeting on 28 November together with an outline framework for a community engagement strategy.
 - b) The Town Council confirmed its commitment to close working relationships with all those providing services to and activities in Ventnor at its meeting of 12 December and asked its Clerks to make the detailed arrangements for an initial series of four meetings between 16 January and 6 February.
 - c) The arrangements for meetings on each of the four Mondays in that period were developed by an informal working group convened by the Town Clerk and consisting of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor together with Councillors Jason Mack and Carol Jones.
 - d) Invitations from the Mayor and Town Council were sent to representatives from as many of the services and organisations for which it had been possible to identify contact details.
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2) PROFESSIONAL AGENCIES MEETING, 16 JANUARY

- a) Twenty-two agencies active in the town were invited to a breakfast meeting at 8.30am on Monday 16 January; originally scheduled for the Windsor Carlton Hotel, it had to be moved to Phileas Fogg's restaurant due to the number accepting.
 - b) Senior staff from 20 agencies joined with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jason Mack and the Clerks to view the presentation on the recently published deprivation data with a lively discussion for an hour following it.
 - c) There was a very clear indication of their willingness to engage with both the Town Council and the issues highlighted by the data as well as collaborating more closely with each other in maximising the benefits their services could deliver here.
 - d) Positive developments flowing from the meeting have already included:
 - the signage project with St Catherine's school listed at item 11 on the Agenda for this meeting of the Town Council;
 - an opportunity for a funding contribution to the community capacity building project from Southern Housing Group;
 - partnership working with the NHS's Public Health team around obesity, maternal health, smoking and sexual health;
 - an Adult Education Fair in the town; and
 - extended use of the Youth Centre and Library facilities.
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3) NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS MEETING, 23 JANUARY

- a) The five national organisations with outlets in the town were invited to a breakfast meeting at the Windsor Carlton Hotel on Monday 23 January.
 - b) All five – The Co-operative, Tesco, HSBC, Alliance Boots and Lloyds – accepted the invitation and joined in the hour's discussion of the issues facing them and the town following the presentation.
 - c) Contacts have been established as a result through which further individual discussions have been invited about future developments and projects.
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4) LOCAL ORGANISATIONS MEETINGS, 30 JANUARY & 6 FEBRUARY

- a)** The remarkable number of voluntary and community organisations working in the town prompted the arrangement of two meetings rather than one to ensure that everyone had the chance to be genuinely engaged in the discussions and to contribute to proposals for future development.
 - b)** Thirty-six representatives from 22 organisations joined members of the Town Council at St Francis School Lower Site Hall on Monday 30 January.
 - c)** Following a welcome and introduction from the Mayor and a viewing of the presentation the groups around each of the six tables, with a town councillor facilitator, were asked to rank the major deprivation factors and agree a list of up to four priority activities or projects the town could promote to begin to reverse the deprivation in its two central areas.
 - d)** After 45 minutes, and time to make good use of the light refreshments provided, the conclusions from each table were read out and listed on the main screen.
 - e)** The same pattern was repeated the following Monday, 6 February, this time with 51 representatives from 31 organisations and eight tables in the same venue.
 - f)** The information collected through the feedback is included in the documents attached to this report.
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