



CONNECTED LOCALISM

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 61/13

12 AUGUST 2013

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the responses to date to the invitation to residents to participate more fully in the Town Council's priority settings and policy development

No. DETAIL

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The Town Council discussed the concept of *Connected Localism* as set out in Report 55/13 at its meeting of 15 July 2013 and identified as having *three central characteristics, all mutually reinforcing. It will be open, it will be networked and it will be democratically run.*
 - b) The approach was unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed as reflected in the Minutes of the meeting.
 - c) The starting point was agreed to be an invitation to residents to indicate their willingness to join in an ongoing and genuine conversation about future plans for the town based on regular emails from the Town Council providing briefings on progress and proposals with the opportunity to comment on and contribute ideas to both, starting with those who had signed up to support the Town Council's proposals to retain Salisbury Gardens for the benefit of the town.
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2) PROGRESS TO DATE

- a) A letter from the Mayor was mailed on 1 August individually to the 1,275 residents that had provided their postal addresses in signing up to support the Salisbury Gardens proposals and the letter was also emailed to the additional 34 residents who had registered their support through the web site.
 - b) A matching letter from the Mayor was posted on 5 August to a member of each of the 70 voluntary and community organisations active in the town.
 - c) Copies of both letters are attached to this Report for information and record.
 - d) The invitation is open to all and is included in the Town Clerk's column in the Chronicle edition of 8 August.
 - e) At the time of writing this Report almost 100 residents had registered their willingness to engage in this conversation.
 - f) Some responses included comments welcoming the initiative and a selection of those is attached to this Report.
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CONNECTED LOCALISM

RESPONSES TO INVITATION TO JOIN

Sent: 02 August 2013 15:22

To: alison@ventnortc.org

Subject: info request

Please send us your monthly email regarding progress on Existing and Proposed issues for Ventnor as per the Circular from Steve Stubbings.

Thank you for your interest in other peoples opinions, and best wishes/congratulations to Mr Mayor!

Sent: 02 August 2013 14:43

To: alison@ventnortc.org

Subject: Ventnor Town Council -- letter

Hi Alison

Good grief - is this the beginning of how a democracy should work ??

I am pleased that VTC. is taking tentative, positive steps in the right direction (or rather the direction I perceive as right) . I look forward to your e mail

Sent: 02 August 2013 11:54

To: alison@ventnortc.org

Subject: salisbury gardens

Thank you for your excellent info and the good news about Salisbury Gardens. You now have my e mail address as requested and hope everything goes well. Lets hope we can get some progress on the Winter Gardens it is very much needed. Good luck and if there is anything I can do I may be able to help.

Sent: 02 August 2013 10:07

To: VentnorTownCouncil

Subject: Re; Salisbury Gardens

Hi Steve

Many thanks for the letter of 31st July 2013

Good News for Ventnor. We could do with some!

You now have my email address and I look forward to receiving news of future developments

Good Luck and Best Wishes

Sent: 03 August 2013 09:21

To: alison@ventnortc.org

Subject: Keep me in the loop.

Thank you to Mayor Steve Stubbings for asking me to be involved in the future of Ventnor. I am very pleased to accept your invitation to be involved in and your offer to keep me informed on the future of Ventnor. Hopefully together we can make enough noise to stop the stupid decisions of the past (like selling the Winter Gardens for £1) from happening again.

Sent: 03 August 2013 14:25

To: alison@ventnortc.org

Subject: projects progress

Many thanks for the recent letter re.Salisbury Gardens and on-going projects. It is a credit to the T.C that they are being so pro-active with matters that concern local people and finding new ways for people to be kept informed.

Please contact me via this email address as and when necessary.

good luck and keep up the good work.

Sent: 03 August 2013 09:21

To: alison@ventnortc.org

Subject: invitation

Thank you for your kind invitation to join the discussion about our lovely town.

Please count me in.

Thank you.

Sent: 04 August 2013 12:13

To: alison@ventnortc.org

Subject: Ventnor Town Council - Re: Salisbury Gardens

Dear Steve, Very many thanks for your letter of 31st July acknowledging my interest in retaining Salisbury Gardens for the benefit of Ventnor Town residents. At last we have someone who wants to listen to people's views instead of presenting them with a *fait accompli*. I should be delighted to receive a monthly e-mail keeping me up to date with projects and proposals, and particularly to have the chance to comment if I think it could benefit proceedings.

Sent: 06 August 2013 10:17

To: alison@ventnortc.org

Subject: Community Plans

Dear Alison

We are getting in touch following the nice letter we received from Steve Stubbings. We are interested in Ventnor and its plans for the future, so please keep us informed.



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL



Coastal Centre, Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1EJ

1 August 2013

Dear

I'm writing to thank you for your support for the retention of Salisbury Gardens for the benefit of the town.

Your signature, along with over 1,350 others, provided the Town Council with vital evidence of community support for its plans.

I'm delighted to be able to tell you that we're now in negotiations with the Isle of Wight Council over the terms of a 25-year lease of the building to Ventnor Town Council.

Encouraged by the willingness of so many residents to engage with us in shaping the town's future, we're very keen to include you in ongoing conversation with us about that future.

So this is an invitation to join in by supplying us with your email address to alison@ventnortc.org as a first step. In return, we will send you each month a dedicated email with information about progress on existing major projects and proposals for future ones with an invitation to comment on, or add ideas to, them either through a page on our web site or by direct email.

This is much more than consultation: it's about establishing an ongoing regular conversation drawing on the experience and expectations of Ventnor residents as an essential guide to our decision making. Please join in.

Yours sincerely

Steve Stubbings

Mayor



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL



Coastal Centre, Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1EJ

3 August 2013

Dear

I'm writing to ask if you, or someone else from your organisation, would be willing to join in a major new initiative for the future development of our town.

I've been incredibly encouraged by the more than 1,350 people who signed up to support the retention of Salisbury Gardens. I've written this week to all of them to thank them for their backing and to invite them to supply us with email addresses through which they can continue to be informed about and contribute to future plans for the town.

We're keen to ensure that our local community groups, who have already contributed much to our priorities, are also involved in what we hope will prove to be an ongoing conversation with as many residents as possible.

So I'm asking if you would be willing to supply an email address for that purpose to alison@ventnortc.org. In return, we will send regular dedicated emails with information about progress on existing major projects and proposals for future ones with an invitation to comment on, or add ideas to, them either through a page on our web site or by direct email.

This is much more than consultation: it's about establishing an ongoing regular conversation drawing on the experience and expectations of Ventnor residents as an essential guide to our decision making. Please join in.

Kind regards

Steve Stubbings

Mayor