



# GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 73/14

8 SEPTEMBER 2014

The purpose of this paper is to ask Members to consider the choices set out in a letter from the Isle of Wight Council's Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces Service for the future funding of grounds maintenance from 1 April 2015.

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**No.   DETAIL**

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**1)   CONTEXT**

- a) Following discussions between senior staff of the Isle of Council's Recreation, Leisure and Public Spaces and Town and Parish Clerks and Councillors, the Service's Strategic Manager Alex Minns has now written to all Town and Parish Councils to ask them to indicate their preferred option for grounds maintenance when the Isle of Wight Council ceases to fund it from 1 April 2015.
- b) Maintaining the Island's 400 hectares of parks, greens, plants and grassed areas currently costs £700k a year. Of that total £200k is for cemeteries and that work the Isle of Wight Council will continue.
- c) Of the remaining £500k, Principal Parks – of which Ventnor had two: Ventnor Park and the Cascades – account for £350k.
- d) The Isle of Wight council has now decided to continue funding the Island's Principal Parks, though the Cascades is no longer classified as one of them: removing Ventnor Park from local responsibility reduces the total being considered now by £38,160.
- e) Nansen Hill LNR and the Landslip SSSI (£5,500) and Rew Down LNR (£7,300) have also been removed from local responsibility.
- f) The new list of Ventnor areas for which grounds maintenance will not be funded after 31 March next year – attached to the this report – consists of 18 sites with a current contract cost in total of £20,067.

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**2)   OPTIONS**

- a) The attached matrix, issued by Alex Minns, identifies five options for funding these costs and asks the Town Council to complete the matrix with its choices by the end of October.
- b) The listed options are:
  - A) Fund all the sites in a new Isle of Wight Council grounds maintenance contract at current specification.
  - B) Fund all the sites in a new Isle of Wight Council grounds maintenance contract at a reduced specification.
  - C) Make a % contribution to sites in a new Isle of Wight Council grounds maintenance contract.
  - D) Maintain the sites through the Town Council's own contractor.
  - E) Not make any contribution to the new grounds maintenance contract or carry out maintenance.

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**3)   RECOMMENDATION**

- a) As these decisions can be made at the Town Council meeting of 13 October and still meet the deadline set out by Alex Minns, the Council is recommended to ask the Public Buildings Working Group to consider the issues in more detail and report to that meeting.
  - b) The Town Council may also choose to specify specific elements of the choices that it would wish to be explored by the Group.
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Name of town/parish council

Ventnor Town Council

Area	Current cost £	Grounds maintenance (Please mark your choice with an 'X' and include percentage under Option C)				
		Option A Fund the following elements in the new IWC grounds maintenance contract at current specification	Option B Fund the following elements in the new IWC grounds maintenance contract at a reduced specification	Option C Make a contribution to the cost of the following elements in the new IWC grounds maintenance contract - please mark with a %	Option D Maintain the following areas through the town/parish councils' own contractor	Option E Not make any contribution to the new grounds maintenance contract or carry out maintenance of the following areas
St Boniface Gardens	85.00					
Donkey Bank Bonchurch	15.00					
Bonchurch Triangle	118.00					
Judds Walk	694.00					
Eastern Gardens	2333.00					
Flowerbrook	648.00					
Havensbush	229.00					
Lowtherville	925.00					
Hamborough Road/Shore Hill/Cascades	9962.00					
Ocean View Road	44.00					
Salisbury Gardens	1443.00					
Smugglers Haven	1089.00					
Steeplehill Down Road	150.00					
West Cliffs	992.00					
Kings Bay Car Park	140.00					
Victoria Corner	86.00					
Shore Road	594.00					
North Street play area	520.00					