



OUR PLACE PROGRAMME

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 36/15

13 APRIL 2015

The purpose of this paper is to inform Members of the developments in the Town Council's Our Place Programme since the meeting of 9 March, provide an initial summary of the benefits from it and identify the work to be done.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Town Council submitted its application to join the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Our Place Programme on 20 January 2014: the requirement for successful applicants was to produce an Operational Plan for the area by 20 February 2015.
 - b) The top line objective of the Town Council's application was to produce an Operational Plan *that by its implementation will lead to improved health and wellbeing, a renewed and refreshed economy and enhanced community capacity.*
 - c) The Town Council was informed of its acceptance onto the Programme by email on 25 February 2014: almost exactly 12 months before the requirement to submit the Operational plan that was the programme's then objective.
 - d) Ventnor 16 other Town and Parish Councils across the country among the 123 successful applicants.
 - e) The Programme has been managed throughout on behalf of the DCLG by the national membership organisation *Locality*.
 - f) The first requirement was the submission by 6 May of a Development Strategy for the process of producing the Operational Plan: that target was met on 4 April.
 - g) The Town Council received a total of £33,000 grant support for its application during the process, £13,000 of which resulted from an acceptance of the *Breaking New Ground* element of its application.
 - h) Following a three week extension of the deadline for submission of the Operational Plan, Ventnor's was submitted on 10 March.
 - i) All submitted plans were then passed to the DCLG for assessment.
 - j) The Mayor attended a DCLG sponsored Celebration Event for the programme at the Local Government Association's Offices in London on 20 March.
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2) BENEFITS TO DATE

- a) The Operational Plans that are at the heart of the Programme were never intended to be records of successfully completed Projects, rather a detailed Planning for achieving social and economic change through the greater involvement of residents, public agencies and the private sector.
 - b) In addition to the existence of Ventnor's Operational Plan, a wide range of benefits have stemmed directly from the town's involvement in the Programme and the process of arriving at the Plan. These include:
 - o funding for over 50 meetings of Vision Groups, meetings with public agencies and private sector;
 - o direct involvement in discussions about the opportunities and challenges of the town's future by over 70 residents and the continuing commitment of core individuals to realising the programme objectives;
 - o seminars with all the major public agencies delivering services in the town and the sharing of information they made possible;
 - o detailed outlines of 15 Projects and plans for their implementation;
 - o greater involvement of all major partners and the strengthening of working relationships
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- with key staff members of them;
 - the production of a Ventnor version of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: see section 3 below;
 - funding for a house-to-house survey of residents views across the range of issues highlighted by the Programme: see section 4 below;
 - funding for a major IT upgrade as the foundation for our *Breaking New Ground* proposal: see section 5 below;
 - funded access to consultants including a Relationship Manager, a Public Data expert and a day of meetings with the national academic expert on Coastal Towns;
 - heightened profile for the town through its involvement in and contribution to the national Programme resulting in the production of two Case Studies of the town's experience of the programme for national circulation; and
 - a document of considerable value for future external funding applications.
- c) Overall – and notwithstanding significant frustrations about the Programme – the team at the centre of the Town Council's leadership of it (the Mayor, Clerk, Economic Development Officer and Community Development Officer) is clear that the central objective of securing an acceleration of the strategy the Town Council has been following for the past three years has been delivered by it.
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3) JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA)

- a) The Department of Health's definition of JSNAs is that they *are assessments of the current and future health and social care needs of the local community. – these are needs that could be met by the local authority, CCGs, or the NHS.*
 - b) They were introduced in 2007 as statutorily required jointly produced studies of each local authority area by Public Health, the NHS and the Local Authority.
 - c) The Island's JSNA published in 2011 was one of the major stimulants of the Town Council's strategic approach of the last three years highlighting, as it did so strikingly, the deprivation of two areas of Ventnor.
 - d) The discussions with the Head of Public Health Strategy, Anita Cameron-Smith during the Our Place programme included a proposal to her for the production of a Ventnor-specific JSNA with the additional research requirement being funded from the programme.
 - e) This was met with a very positive response and Anita Cameron-Smith, and her researcher have arranged to present the result to the Mayor, Clerk and Development Officers on 11 May.
 - f) It is likely that this local JSNA will considerably strengthen the Town Council's request to partner agencies for greater engagement with the challenges it will reveal and linked future external funding applications.
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4) RESIDENT SURVEY

- a) Included in the funding applications to the programme is provision for a town-wide house-to-house-survey modelled on the Town Council's previous experience in its testing of resident support for retention of Salisbury Gardens.
 - b) It will involve a six-page A4 sized questionnaire delivered by hand to every household and containing an A5-sized Freepost envelope for return.
 - c) The questionnaire draws on a number of sources including a DCLG sponsored one developed for use by Local Authorities in 2008/9 – we had the benefit of the one used by Salisbury found during Nicky Cox's research for the Programme and another used by East Hampshire during Tony McCarthy's time with them – the experience of the Our Place programme itself and
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inputs from our Development Officers.

- d) It is currently at the printers and will be ready for distribution from Monday 20 April; a copy of the artwork for it is attached to this report.
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5) BREAKING NEW GROUND

- a) This element of the Programme is detailed in the Operational Plan and is too complex to be summarised in this Report.
 - b) In essence it involves the application of advanced IT Frameworks to facilitate two linked developments that will very substantially strengthen the Town Council's ability to secure the focused and collaborative routine engagement of the public agencies responsible for delivering services in the town and the real-time sharing of related data.
 - c) This innovative proposal is the product of Nicky Cox's past experience at this level and his work with the Town Council over the last two years: the essential first step has been significant investment in an upgrade of the Town Council's IT system funded from the Programme and soon to be completed.
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6) CHILDREN IN POVERTY

- a) As Members know well, one aspect of deprivation in the town is the much higher than average numbers of children in poverty.
 - b) Funding has been allocated within the Programme for a significant piece of research into extent, causes and responses in collaboration with the Children's Centre.
 - c) Its Manager is keen to guide and facilitate this element of our Programme and work will start once the changes in the management of the Island's Children's Centres from Spurgeons to Barnardo's has been completed.
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7) NEXT STEPS

- a) The Operational Plan provides a substantial foundation for the next two years of the Town Council's work.
 - b) In addition to completing the elements identified in sections 3 to 6 of this Report, some of the projects identified by the Vision Groups are already in development and the remainder will be assessed for their viability and initiated as funding becomes available.
 - c) The Our Place Programme has advanced the Town Council's progress towards a fully-fledged Strategic Plan for the town's future to be developed collaboratively within the partnerships developed during it involving residents, public agencies and private sector.
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8) RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to note the contents of this Report and comment on it accordingly.

SECTION E – PROJECTS

Our Operational Plan – produced by the Town Council as part of the Government’s *Our Place Programme* - identified a number of projects to be delivered in partnership between residents and Agencies. The aim of the Plan is to improve economic prosperity and health & wellbeing and increase community engagement in the town.

E.1 THE PROJECTS

Please tell us how important you think each is by ticking one box against each.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Provision of health and social care services to enable self-care and independence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developing support networks for older people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extending opportunities for the town's young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain Ventnor's beaches to the highest standards of cleanliness and safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manage and operate a selection of local car parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain Ventnor's green spaces to high standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a community space in Upper Ventnor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve access to local jobs and training provided by local employers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide better and cheaper transport services to and from Ventnor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordable and decent accommodation for local residents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local opportunities and support for existing and new business start-ups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

E.2 YOUR INVOLVEMENT

Please let us know if you would like to know more about the projects and/or to join one or more of them.

	Yes	No
Would you like more detail about any or all of these projects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you be interested in joining the group responsible for delivering any of these projects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have answered yes to either of the above please provide your email address (it will not be shared with anyone or published without your permission)

Please indicate which project(s) you are interested in assisting

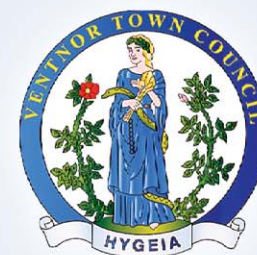
Please use this space for anything else you would like to say to us:

We are offering a £100 thank-you to the first name drawn by the Mayor from among those who have included a name and address here:

No name or address details will be passed to anyone else or published in anyway.

It's really important to us that your responses to this questionnaire reach us safely. So we have included a pre-paid envelope with it: no additional stamp is needed. Please fold the questionnaire to inset it in the envelope and put that in the most convenient post box for you.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey.
Your views are very important to your Town Council and will guide us as we plan to deliver services in the future.**



The Our Place Survey



AS PART of the Town Council's involvement with the government's Our Place Programme, we have been funded to conduct a survey of all the town's residents. So we are asking that you complete this questionnaire as soon as you can.

Things are changing in Ventnor and for the Town Council. We have recently:

- restored Salisbury Gardens for use as a community space and business centre
- taken on beach cleaning and grounds maintenance services from the Isle of Wight Council that has stopped funding them
- secured funding to run the local Youth Service
- taken on management of the Youth Centre (now Ventnor Central)
- completed negotiations to take on the management of four car parks
- successfully completed a year-long government programme called *Our Place* to produce an Operational Plan for the town.

As we start to build on these achievements, deliver the Operational Plan and look to the town's future we need your views to help us shape our future.

Section A – PRIORITIES

We want to respond to residents' priorities in our future planning.

Please tell us yours by ticking one box in each line below.

[illegible]

Section B – FACILITIES

Your Town Council are responsible for the development of Salisbury Gardens, the management of Ventnor Central and want to secure the future of Ventnor Library. We want your views.

B.1 SALISBURY GARDENS

The top two floors of the new Salisbury Gardens are now offices for 10 businesses; the ground floor is the base for our Offices and those of the local Police Team. The Lower Ground Floor, now known as *The Green Room*, has two quality Meeting Rooms that can be combined into a larger one – all with amazing sea views – a kitchen, activity spaces and resources; this is the new community space. *The Green Room* gives us the opportunity to arrange for advice support sessions to be available locally. Please tick the box against any that would interest you or members of your family:

- Debt Advice

☐

● Money management

☐

● Citizens Advice Bureau

☐

● Isle of Wight Law Centre

☐

● CV Writing

☐
- Job Seeking Support

☐

● Short training courses

☐

● Adult Education courses

☐

● Health & Wellbeing services

☐

● None of the above

☐

B.2 VENTNOR CENTRAL

The Town Council agreed to take on the building previously known as Ventnor Youth Club under a Tenancy at Will the day after the Isle of Wight Council closed it. Its future is still in doubt as it needs extensive refurbishment for it to comply with fire and health and safety regulations and be fit for use. We are keen to know how important you think the building is to the town and the uses it might have if the necessary funding can be found.

Very Valuable

Valuable

No opinion

Little Value

No Value

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

How valuable do you think the building is to Ventnor?

Very Often

Often

Sometimes

Not Often

Never

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

How often have you or your family made use of it in the past?

What would you like to see being provided in the library if it can be refurbished?

B.3 VENTNOR LIBRARY

Ventnor’s Library will be changed to what the Isle of Wight Council calls a Community Supported Library later this year. When that happens the Isle of Wight Council will continue to fund one Librarian but only if the Town Council funds the running costs.

Very Valuable

Valuable

No opinion

Little Value

No Value

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

How valuable do you think the Library is to Ventnor?

At least annually

At least monthly

At least weekly

Infrequently

Never

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

How often do you or members of your family visit Ventnor Library?

Strongly support

Support

No opinion

Oppose

Strongly oppose

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

How would you feel about its relocation to Ventnor Central?

Substantial increase

Slight Increase

No change

Less use

Much less use

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

How would its relocation to Ventnor Central affect your use of it?



Section C – OPPORTUNITIES

The town’s economy is vital to all of us. Knowing more about your views will be invaluable for our future planning.

C.1 YOUR VIEWS

Please tick one box on each line to show how much you agree or disagree with the statements below.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

It’s easy for people I know to find work

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

It’s important to resist the loss of local Hotels, B&Bs and self-catering facilities

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Our High Street is in good health

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Tourism is essential for the town’s future

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Tourism in Ventnor is changing

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Numbers of Summer visitors are declining

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☐

The town needs other industries and services to stimulate its economy

C.2 ABOUT YOU

Please tick one or other of the boxes on each of the lines below:

Yes

No

☐

☐

Do you work in Ventnor?

☐

☐

Do you work elsewhere on the Island?

☐

☐

Do you work on the mainland?

☐

☐

Do you work from home?

☐

☐

Do you work full-time?

☐

☐

Do you work part-time?

☐

☐

Do you work part-time but would prefer to have a full-time job?

☐

☐

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

☐

☐

Are you retired?

☐

☐

Would you like to start your own business?

☐

☐

Would you like to have more information and support for starting up or running your own business?

☐

☐

Would you be interested in local office space?

If you have answered **yes** to any of the questions above coloured in red and would like more information about any of them, please provide your email address (it will not be shared with or given to anyone else or published without your permission)

Section D – ENGAGEMENT

Your answers in this section will help us secure more funding for the work that needs to be done. Our staff team has been successful in securing external funding of more than £260,000 over the last two years: the information you give us below will help to build on that success.

D.1 YOUR INVOLVEMENT

Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below by ticking one box in each line.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I am involved in community activities

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I would like to get more involved in community activities

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I feel involved in the decision-making that goes on in my community

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I would like to be more involved in the decision-making in Ventnor

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☐

☐

☐

☐

Living in Ventnor sometimes leaves me feeling isolated

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☐

☐

☐

☐

The travel from Ventnor to Newport is a real issue

D.2 YOUR INTERNET ACCESS

Please tick one or other of the boxes on each of the lines below:

Yes

No

☐

☐

Do you have regular access to the Internet at home?

☐

☐

Do you have regular access to the Internet at work?

☐

☐

Do you have an email address?

☐

☐

Would you like to have informal training on internet or email use?

☐

☐

Would you like to have formal training on internet or email use?

☐

☐

Would you be interested in joining a local voluntary organisation?

☐

☐

Would you be interested in joining Ventnor Timebank?

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☐

Would like to receive more information about Ventnor Timebank?

If you have answered **yes** to any of the questions printed in red above and would like more information about any of them, please provide your email address (it will not be shared with or published without your permission)

