

# TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with updates on some areas of the Town Council's ongoing work.

#### NO. DETAIL

### I) PUTTING GREEN

- a) The process is now in place for the recruitment of a new Concessionaire. It has been developed by the Isle of Wight Council in consultation with us.
- **b**) The advert was placed in the County Press edition of Friday 9 December with interested parties asked to complete an application form and supply it and specified supporting documentation to the Isle of Wight Council by noon on Friday 23 December.
- c) The three people who had expressed an interest to us previously have been informed of this process.
- d) Applications will be evaluated at an officer meeting that includes the Town Clerk arranged for 1.30pm on Friday 6 January.

## 2) MEMORIAL BENCHES

- a) The Assistant Town Clerk has enabled five new memorial benches to be installed since the last Town Council meeting with one more almost ready to be added.
- **b**) The one at Flowersbrook is in memory of Doris Breese (previously Doris Downer); the one under the Ventnor sign on the cliff walk is in memory of Joanna White.
- c) Monks Bay now hosts one in memory of Iris Dumont with two more on the Esplanade near Alma Road. One of those is in memory of Sam Anderson named 'Sam's Seat' and the other is the one the Town Council agreed last year to donate to mark the distinctive contribution to the life of both the Town and its Council of Robbie Mew.
- d) These bring the total number of benches in the Town to 136.

#### **3)** GRIT BINS

- a) The six bins the Town Council agreed to finance at its last meeting have grown to nine as Bonchurch Community Association have agreed to add a further two and St Lawrence Community Association another one.
- **b)** The Assistant Clerk has provided the Isle of Wight Council's Highways department with photographs of all nine identified sites along with a request for their approval of them.
- c) Further information may be available by the time of the meeting.

## 4) THE HAVEN

- a) The response to the request of the November Town Council meeting for an update on progress with implementing the proposed response to the serious nuisance the Town is suffering from rotting seaweed trapped in the Haven came in an email from Peter Hayward, the Isle of Wight Council's Strategic Manager Highways & Transport.
- b) He said: we have agreed a variation to and extension of our contract with Cheetah Marine to provide 'the additional requirement for the removal of sea weed at Ventnor Haven as and when necessary and possible to ensure the Council's compliance with environmental legislation' until August 2013. This does not commit Cheetah Marine to any particular approach although does allow them to react on a daily basis to proactively manage seaweed accumulations as and when necessary and possible without the need to refer specific

operations to ourselves for approval and face the inevitable delay that such a requirement would impose which may compound the problem.

c) Cheetah Marine are proceeding with the preparation of the mobile pump which they expect to be operation by the end of the year.

## 5) MUSIC FOR FUN FESTIVAL

- a) We have agreed to provide admin support for the 2012 *Music for Fun Festival* as the Committee finds itself unexpectedly short-handed.
- **b)** This involves a mailing of the publicity material and application forms to all Island Schools, that we will have completed by the time of the Town Council Meeting, with a follow up round of phone calls in early January and the processing of applications.
- c) The rationale for providing this support lies in the fact that this is another annual event that brings people to the Town, in this case young people and their parents, while giving the Committee time to consolidate their support to continue the sequence in following years.
- d) It also fits with the Town Council's developing policy of assisting local voluntary and community organisations with their own capacity building.

## 6) OUTFIT OPENING CEREMONY

- a) We have also completed a mailing of invitations to the opening of the Outdoor Fitness Area on 2 January 2012.
- **b)** A mailing list has been developed in discussion with Stephanie Toogood and Evelyn Knowles and printed invitations been mailed to all on it. The event is, however, open to all.
- c) Town Councillors are asked by Stephanie and Evelyn to have an active role in the ceremony itself by demonstrating the various items of equipment.