



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 114/18

10 DECEMBER 2018

The purpose of this paper is to record developments since the last meeting not requiring an Agenda item at this meeting.

No. DETAILS

1) FEASIBILITY STUDIES

- a) Councillors Jason Mack and James Toogood together with Nick Cox and me had our first meeting with ERM C since their appointment for the two Feasibility Studies on Wednesday 21 November.
- b) We were joined for the first half hour by Chris Barron of Eagle Eye Environmental Solutions Ltd to discuss how best to check the potential contamination of the land in Upper Ventnor and agreed a study costing between £3k - £4k, that still fits within the available funding for that study.
- c) ERM C are aiming at having the studies ready for presentation to the Town Council by the end of January.

2) ACCESSIBILITY FORUM

- a) The initial meeting of the new Accessibility Forum convened by Tony McCarthy took place in our Green Room on Tuesday 13 November.
- b) Members toured the town centre a week later to identify the range of dangers and barriers are present for people with disabilities.
- c) They returned with an extensive photographic gallery illustrating very clearly many of the changes that would need to be made for the town centre to be properly accessible.

3) LIBRARY STEERING GROUP

- a) The Group met on Tuesday 20 November at our offices; it includes the Head of the Isle of Wight Council's Library Service Rob Jones and our Librarian Tanith Hicks, Tess Jessop and John Carter from the Friends of Ventnor Library who is the Group's Chair.
- b) The Agenda this time included the *borrowing statistics* for this year so far compared with the same period last year, the report on the *Pop-Up Library* the service operated in Ventnor Central during the roof repairs to its High Street building, an update from John Carter on the growing local interest in *Daphne Carter's* remarkable photographic collection, the progress with the *Ventnor Central* project and activities put on by the *Friends*.

4) SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC)

- a) Most of the Island's Clerks are members of the national professional organisation, the SLCC.
- b) Last Thursday evening the quarterly meeting of the Island's Branch was at our Green Room and both Alison and I joined in. Chaired by Val Taylor, we discussed the report from the National Forum, relationships between the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) and the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC), an update on the issue of bullying of Clerks and the SLCC Website.

5) SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES HEALTH AND WELLBEING FORUM

- a) The latest meeting took place on 22 November at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lake..
- b) The Guest speakers on this occasion were Julian Fountaine from the Fire & Rescue Service and Sue Lightfoot on Transforming Learning Disabilities.

6) WORKING GROUPS

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- a) The Assets & Services Working Group met on 13 November and 4 December and its next meeting is booked for 13 November.
 - b) The Community Development Working Group met on 5 December.
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