



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 82/15

14 SEPTEMBER 2015

The purpose of this paper is to record developments in the past month not requiring an Agenda item at this meeting.

NO. DETAIL

1) BASIC SKILLS

- a) Our Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy has ensured that Basic Skills courses are going to be available locally for Ventnor residents, preventing the need to travel to Newport to attend courses provided by the Isle of Wight Council's Community Learning Service.
- b) The opportunity to develop skills with English will be available every Wednesday morning from 16 September, Maths every afternoon on Thursdays from 17 September and Computer skills every Thursday morning from 17 September.
- c) All courses are free and places can be booked by phoning 817280.

2) MATERNITY COVER

- a) We have appointed Fran Noctor to the Maternity Cover post of Timebank Support worker with a start date of 5 October.
- b) There were two applications from a ring fenced offer to residents already involved in Ventnor's Timebank.

3) TRAMPOLINES

- a) The two professional standard trampolines housed at Ventnor Central were dragged out of the storage cupboard and sustained some damage during the recent unauthorised break in.
- b) Tony has arranged for them to be lent to St Catherine's as they have qualified trainers on their staff, space to store them and a range of planned activities for them.

4) SICKNESS LEAVE

- a) Two members of the staff team are currently on certificated long-term sickness leave: Dave Gray since 29 July and Laura Reid since 13 July,
- b) Current Certificates run until 30 September for Dave Gray and to 13 September for Laura Reid.

5) MEN'S SHED

- a) The Men's Shed project that grew out of the Our Place programme and is based in Ventnor Central is making good progress with the setting up of an appropriate voluntary organisation structure.
- b) They meet weekly on Tuesday mornings and have received financial support from Age Concern of £3,500.
- c) The search for a permanent site is underway.

6) IMAGES OF VENTNOR

- a) The iconic, striking, large black and white images of old Ventnor have now found their natural home in our two meeting rooms within the Green Room area of Salisbury Gardens.
- b) They have been professionally mounted on the walls with three in each room and make a welcome addition to the atmosphere of the rooms as well as opening them up again to public view.

7) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Community Development Working Group met on Tuesday 18 August with the Youth Offer, Timebank Support Worker, Resident Survey, Men's Shed and the Library on its Agenda.
- b) The Public Buildings Working Group met on Tuesday 11 August and 8 September and have included Car Parks, Salisbury Gardens, Cascade Gardens, Land Ownership, HSBC Bank, Dinosaur Labryinth, Sea Breeze Playground and Ventnor Central in its discussions.

8) YOUTH OFFER

- a) The latest Youth Offer business meeting that brings together the three partner organisations and staff and chaired by the Mayor took place on Thursday 10 September in our Green Room.
 - b) The development of the programme is so encouraging that I've attached the latest progress report we've just submitted to the Isle of Wight Council as the project's funder is attached to this Report for Members' information.
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VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

BRIEFING NOTE

YOUTH OFFER UPDATE

8 SEPTEMBER 2015

This is a summary report of recent, current and ongoing events and activities within the Town Council's Youth Offer Programme for the Isle of Wight Council.

1) EXCHANGE

- a) In June we finished our season of Sunday workshops with a fantastic song writing session led by accomplished Island musician Paul Armfield and a comic book workshop by Adam Gaterell. A total of 17 young people attended these two sessions and the final pieces of artwork and recording of the song made with Paul were all fantastic products to go home with.
- b) At the end of June we began our Young Writers Group for an older age range of 16 - 19. Meeting weekly we have explored the differences between stage plays, screenplays, radio and TV have worked through a whole range of different exercises. We began with just 1 participant but now have 4 attending each week and as we expected targeting this age range is a much slower and more challenging process but it has been great to see them develop so much already over such a short space of time.
- c) After a short break the group re-starts next week and we hope to continue gradually building numbers over the autumn.
- d) In July 3 of our Young Creatives worked with actor Joe Bone on developing characters, in a brilliant workshop in which an entire fictional village full of different characters and some very amusing plot lines were created!
- e) In August we hosted the Ventnor Fringe and as part of this we really developed and expanded the Fringe Review project. The Review team, which partnered up some of our Young Creatives with members of the Fringe team (who are aged between 20 - 24 themselves) together produced a daily newspaper which was distributed across the Festival and featured reviews of performances, artist interviews, recommendations and comedy and proved to be very popular with audiences.
- f) Some of the Young Creatives also helped produce the daily podcast show. You can listen the final products online here: <https://www.mixcloud.com/TheVentnorFringe/>
- g) Following its huge success last year we also brought back to the Fringe Kilter Theatre's brilliant 'Last Post' installation. An immersive theatre experience that aims to get children into writing. Their specially converted vehicle was located on Ventnor seafront for two days, with free entry throughout, welcoming approximately 300 people over the two days.
- h) Our new season of events launches in 3 weeks with loads more workshops and events planned!
- i) I should probably also mention that we now have a total of 81 Young Creatives signed up the scheme! Our target is to hit 100 by the end of the year.

Report by Jack Whitewood

2) SKATEPARK

- a) John Cattle has delivered 14 hours of Skateboard sessions in Ventnor since the beginning of June and run ten hours of the Summer Sessions.
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- b) Around 30 children and young people have engaged with the sessions.
 - c) He is planning to continue weekly sessions from 13 September with the potential for increased hours during the school holidays some of which will take place indoors at Ventnor Central.
 - d) An unforeseen but very welcome by-product of the Project has been its stimulation of substantial developments for the long term future of the facility: new Committee Members have engaged with both enthusiasm and expertise.
 - e) It is now well down the route of charitable registration and has a clear plan for substantial fund raising to refurbish the whole structure.

3) CAFÉ 34

- a) There have been 18 new sessions held since June with 15 new young people and 15 existing young people attending.
- b) Sessions have included an art workshop with Rachel Berry and the young people made cakes and sold them from Café 34 during the Fringe.
- c) Plans are in place to provide football and basketball on Tuesdays from September at Ventnor Central,
- d) In addition, a grant of £3,300 from the Office of the Police Commissioner has been secured to assist with the running of Café 34 itself

4) UPPER VENTNOR OUTREACH

- a) Another extension of the Project has been the development of a Youth Outreach programme on Monday evenings in Upper Ventnor.
 - b) This area has the town's largest proportion of young people but for many years has had no local dedicated youth work.
 - c) Our Sessional Youth Worker is both qualified and experienced in outreach work and that has resulted in 13 young people attending a premises based programme of football at St Margaret's Hall.
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