



# TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 49/15

18 MAY 2015

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

**No.    DETAIL**

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**1)    OUR PLACE PROGRAMME**

- a) We were very pleased to hear on 20 April that our Operational Plan, produced through our *Our Place* Programme, had been formally approved by the Department of Communities and Local Government, the programme's funders.
  - b) The government's delivery organisation for the programme – *Locality* - has also approved the plan and a case study of the production of our Operational Plan is now listed on their web site.
  - c) Building on the benefits of our involvement in the programme will be based on its three clear objectives: improved health and wellbeing, a renewed and refreshed economy and enhanced community capacity.
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**2)    RESIDENT SURVEY**

- a) The 6-page A4 questionnaire seeking the views of as many residents as possible on a wide range of issues for the town's future has now been delivered on a house-to-house basis by Wight Leaflets.
  - b) Funded by the Our Place programme, the questionnaire includes a reply-paid envelope for its return.
  - c) We're asking anyone who hasn't received one, or who wants more than one so that other family and household members can complete one too is asked to phone us on 853775 and we'll arrange for the copies to reach them.
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**3)    ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

- a) I've been invited to represent Ventnor Town Council at what is described as an informal Round Table discussion of the Community Right to Challenge at the Department for Communities and Local Government's building in London on Friday 29 May.
  - b) The invitation says that it is part of an official policy review of the Community Right to Challenge and considering options and opportunities more widely to enable more voluntary and community organisations to be involved in service delivery.
  - c) The 18 invited include three national voluntary organisations, six local authorities (Kent, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Suffolk, Cornwall and Calderdale) three DCLG staff, two Cabinet Office staff and two Town Councils (Ventnor and Bishop's Stortford).
  - d) Bishop's Stortford Town Council has a Precept of just over £1M and a Chief Executive Officer instead of a Town Clerk!
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**4)    YOUTH OFFER**

- a) The bi-monthly Youth Offer Partners Business meeting chaired by the Mayor as usual on 14 May was well attended with two representatives for each of the Skatepark Committee, Ventnor Together and the Exchange.
  - b) Our Youth Opportunities Officer Laura Reid reported that 110 young people were now registered with the project with increased numbers of participants and volunteer activity in all three areas.
  - c) I've submitted the required financial report for the period 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015 showing that we received £17,367 and spent £17,610.
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**5) CITIZENS ADVICE**

- a) Our Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy has completed arrangements with the Island's Citizens Advice Bureau to provide Debt Counselling sessions for individual residents every alternate Friday afternoon starting on 29 May in the Green Room.
  - b) Sessions are by appointment only.
  - c) The Green Room area's development is proceeding apace with increasing use of the Community Space and growing bookings of the Meeting Rooms.
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**6) WORKING GROUPS**

- a) The Community Development Working Group has met twice since the April meeting of the Town Council: on the 15 April and the 13 May. Meetings have been moved from the traditional 9am slot to 6pm.
  - b) The Public Buildings Working Group has also met twice since the April meeting of the Town Council: 21 April and 14 May.
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**7) TWITTER ACCOUNT**

I'm pleased to be able to report that my use of the Twitter Account @ventnorclerk has reflected the increasing level of Town Council activity and I'm now averaging two Tweets a day!

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