



# TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 18/15

9 FEBRUARY 2015

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

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**No.    DETAIL**

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**1)    SALISBURY GARDENS CELEBRATION**

- a) The opportunity to see the refurbished Salisbury Gardens was taken up by around 150 residents and partners.
  - b) Six of the building's business tenants were on site and opened their offices for the conducted tours, giving people a sense of the building's new home for small local business development.
  - c) Steve Stubbings, as the Mayor during the three years campaigning and planning to retain the building for future services to the town and Jason Mack as the current Mayor provided a short formal opening ceremony half way through the 11am – 2pm open time and Town Councillors and staff provided tours of the building's four floors.
  - d) Salisbury Gardens is well and truly launched on the next stage of its 140 year life for the town.
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**2)    CONSULTATION EVENT**

- a) This year's Annual Consultation Event held at St Francis Primary School Hall on Monday 26 January was attended by over 70 residents.
  - b) The programme included two rounds of discussions by each of the 10 table groups of major issues for 2015: the development of the amazing new *Green Room* facility at *Salisbury Gardens* and the Budget and Precept for 2015/16: with very positive responses to both.
  - c) In the Budget session, groups faced the issues of services likely to be lost through IoWC Budget cuts and the costs of funding them from the Precept. As last year, there was unanimous support for doing what it takes to retain those essential to the town's future.
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**3)    VISION GROUPS MEETING**

- a) A meeting of the Our Place programme's Vision Groups on Tuesday evening, 3 February, worked with Nicky Cox through the costings and benefits of the range of projects proposed in the Operational Plan.
  - b) The outcomes will be worked up into the Cost Benefit Analysis framework that Locality requires and incorporated into the final version of the Town's Operational Plan due to be submitted by the end of this month.
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**4)    STEVE FOTHERGILL MEETINGS**

- a) Funding from our Our Place Programme made possible two meetings yesterday for Agencies and residents with Professor Steve Fothergill of Sheffield Hallam University - the UK academic expert on Coastal Towns – on Monday 5 February.
  - b) We booked St Catherine's Church for both meetings: a lunchtime session of senior staff from the Agencies working with the Town Council in the government's Our Place programme and an early evening meeting for residents involved and interested in the programme.
  - c) Staff from 15 Agencies joined Councillors and Town Council staff for the lunchtime, chaired by Steve Stubbings. With a buffet lunch provided, Steve Fothergill spent an hour and a half with a presentation and following discussion summed up by one senior Agency participant in a subsequent email as: *I thought it was a really good presentation, it really chimed and the discussion after was sparky and useful.*
  - d) The evening session, attended by over 40 residents, was also stimulating: described in the discussion session by one resident as *energising*.
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Steve Fothergill's presentation can be read or downloaded by clicking [this link](#).

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**5) YOUTH OFFER**

- a) The latest business meeting of the Youth Offer Programme Partners took place on 28 January, chaired by the Mayor and attended by representatives from all three partners – Ventnor Skate Park, Ventnor Together's Café 34 and the Exchange – along with the Clerks, Community Development Officer and the two Town Council staff employed for the project.
  - b) Our Youth Opportunities Officer, Laura Reid, reported that the project had met all its first quarter deadlines with 41 young people already involved in the developing range of activities and Charlotte Denness, our Sessional Youth Worker, told the meeting that the extra two nights of activity provided through Café 34 were now well established with football at Ventnor Central one evening and a range of organised activities on the other.
  - c) The three partner organisations each shared highlights from their first quarter's provision and plans for the January to March period. Possible new developments included the use of the Youth Bus in Ventnor once a month, an inter-town Skatepark league and a major summer Fun Day event.
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**6) CASE STUDY**

- a) Just three of the 120 areas involved in Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Our Place programme have been selected as Case Studies, and Ventnor is one of them.
  - b) The Case Studies are the responsibility of the national Community Development Foundation and its staff member will spend the day of 11 February with us during which she will conduct 5 interviews including with the Mayor, our Economic Development Officer Nicky Cox, three Vision Group members and a senior officer of one of the Agencies working with us: each interview is expected to last 40 minutes.
  - c) When completed, the Case Studies will go to Locality and the DCLG for their agreement. Ventnor will be identified as the area of the Case Study but individuals who participate in the research will remain anonymous. The Our Place case studies will be shared through national, local and social media to grow interest in Our Place and strengthen the movement for change. The deadline for the final case studies is March 2015.
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