



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 13/14

10 FEBRUARY 2014

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

No. DETAIL

1) ANNUAL CONSULTATION EVENT

- a) Almost 100 residents packed St Francis Primary School's large Hall on Monday 27 January for the Town Council's third Annual Consultation Event.
 - b) After an introduction from Mayor Steve Stubbings, recognising his dual role as also Deputy Leader of the IoWC, explaining why our principal authority is faced with the need to cut its spending by £28M by 2016/17 - a combination of a £15M reduction in grants and growing demand for adult social care - Deputy Mayor Jason Mack detailed the likely impact on Ventnor.
 - c) The ten tables, each with a Town Councillor facilitator, then engaged in serious discussion of two issues: Prioritising the list of 10 local services identified in the recently published Possible Savings document and agreeing what level of Precept increase would be acceptable to enable to Town Council to retain the valued services. The feedback demonstrated an encouraging consensus on both issues.
 - d) After a break for light refreshments and networking the Town Clerk gave a presentation outlining the proposed development of Salisbury Gardens and the possibilities for the town of a successful application to the government's Our Place! programme.
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2) BOTANIC GARDENS

Councillors Leigh Geddes and Brian Lucas together with the Assistant Town Clerk met with the Botanic Gardens' John Curtis and Chris last Friday morning for a very positive discussion around ways of working together in promoting this remarkable facility.

3) COOKING WORKSHOPS

- a) A series of Cooking Workshops organised by our Community Development Officer have been a success with a number of spin off including new members, access to work experience and other transactions.
 - b) Workshops that will be repeated are Bread – the initial one had 12 people on it - and Asian.
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4) TRAINING COURSES

- a) Training courses are filling up with 7 on Nutrition, 15 on First Aid and 15 on Food Safety.
 - b) The Carnival Committee are putting forward 6 people for a First Aid course with all their members are signing up to Timebank.
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5) GRANT APPLICATION

A grant application in a total of £9,000 has been developed and submitted to Southern Housing Group to support our community development work in 2014/15.
