



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 7/14

13 JANUARY 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) CHRISTMAS IN VENTNOR

- a) In its second year, Christmas in Ventnor 2013 was organised by Ventnor Enhancement Fund and held on Saturday 14 December. The event was very successful, with many festive activities throughout the Town and at Ventnor Park.
- b) For the first time since its closure, Bonchurch Post Office opened its doors for the day as an old-world Christmas shop, proving very successful.
- c) The date coincided with the well-attended *Hot Potato* Timebank event, held at the Baptist Church and organised by the Town Council's Community Development Officer.

2) FITNESS CLASSES

- a) Fitness Classes started on Monday 6 January at St Margaret's Hall, Lowtherville Road under the banner New Year, New You.
- b) They are running each Monday from 1-2pm.

3) ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL BUDGET

- a) The Town Councillors will have an informal discussion on the evening of Tuesday 14 January of the challenges and opportunities the budget cuts being forced on the Isle of Wight Council over the next three years will bring for Ventnor.
- b) This, and the potential impact on the town's precept for 2014/15, will also be discussed at the Annual Community Engagement event being held at St Francis Primary School Hall on Monday 27 January starting at 6pm.

4) 9 – 5 PROJECT

- a) The 9 – 5 Project has resumed after its two week break for Christmas and New Year.
- b) Running every Thursday morning at Ventnor Library – when the Library is otherwise closed - it offers informal advice and support from experienced Timebank volunteers for residents looking for employment.

5) ANNUAL CONSULTATION EVENT

- a) This year's consultation with local community organisations and residents with an interest in the Town Council's work and future proposals is arranged for the evening of Monday 27 January at St Francis Primary School Hall with a start time of 6pm.
- b) This year we'll be considering the likely impact on the town of the Isle of Wight Council budget cuts and the consequences for the 2014/15 Precept as well as the opportunity for Ventnor to become one of the 100 areas selected for inclusion in the government funded *Our Place!* programme.

6) SOCIAL MEDIA

- a) The Town Council is expanding its use of Social Media to expand community engagement with the Town Council's work and the issues and opportunities for the town's development.
- b) The Facebook page *ventnor.community-development* run by our Community Development Officer is enjoying increasing amounts of activity and growing numbers of friends.

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- c) The Town Clerk makes considerable use of the Twitter account *@ventnorclerk* to provide information about the town council's work and links to useful information.
 - d) Both are well worth keeping in touch with and encouraging others to do so.
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