



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 85/13

14 OCTOBER 2013

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

No. DETAIL

1) BENCHES

- a) By the end of this week all the Memorial Benches in Ventnor Park will have been refurbished during the planned maintenance period.
- b) The Assistant Clerk is always pleased to record information on other benches in need of refurbishment and will pass on the need for action to either the Isle of Wight Council or Island Roads where either of those two organisations have responsibility for the particular bench being reported.

2) COMMUNITY DAY

- a) The excellent Community Day took place at St Catherine's Church last Saturday, funded by Southern Housing Group (SHG) and supported by both Ventnor Timebank and the Town Council it was open to all-comers from 11am to 2pm.
- b) It offered the opportunity to get the best possible advice from SHG on dealing with the consequences of welfare changes and discuss with representatives at the nearly 20 tables with information about the work in Ventnor of that many organisations. There was a steady flow of visitors through the three hours with a constant buzz of animated conversations and entertainment.

3) BORROWING APPROVAL

- a) The Town Council's application to the Department of Communities and Local Government for Borrowing Approval up to a total of £150,000 for the refurbishment and reconfiguration of Salisbury Gardens is granted in a letter from Wayne Caffell of its Strategy and Capital Division of 1 October 2013.
- b) The Approval is valid for 12 months from that date.

4) LOCALITY CONFERENCE

- a) Councillor Leigh Geddes shared her willingness to attend Locality's Annual Convention being held this year in Leicester on 12 and 13 November under the theme *Building Possibility*.
- b) As Members are aware, Ventnor Town Council is an Associate Member of Locality and have benefitted significantly from its advice in respect of Community Rights. Its Annual Convention is the community, voluntary and social enterprise sector's biggest event of the year.
- c) Our legal advisors in respect of Salisbury Gardens, Anthony Collins Solicitors, are one of the Convention's sponsors.
- d) We have accordingly registered Councillor Leigh Geddes as Ventnor Town Council's representative at the event. More details are available [here](#).

5) EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- a) The Town Council's Expression of Interest in the management of the town's car parks was submitted on 25 September 2013 and its receipt has been confirmed.
- b) During the next eight weeks the Isle of Wight Council will determine whether to accept it or to reject it on one of the grounds specified in the Community Right to Challenge regulations.