



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 64/13

12 AUGUST 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) WAR MEMORIAL

- a) Members will recall the commitment to monitor the potential movement of the War Memorial at three-monthly intervals over 18 months with the work being carried out by Tari Willis Associates.
 - b) Their first monitoring visit in April established the baseline as a 200mm (8 inches) lean from the vertical over the height of the Memorial.
 - c) The report of their second visit, carried out on 26 July, states that the lean is still 200mm and, consequently, there had been no movement over the three months.
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2) CABINET OFFICE CONTACT

- a) We were visited on Thursday 8 August by Vicky Westhorp from the Office for Civil Society (OCS), located within the Cabinet Office.
 - b) Victoria is part of the OCS's Local Intelligence Team with responsibility for the South East. Her introductory email stated that *Ventnor's work on community rights has clearly not gone unnoticed* and went on to say that she was interested in *hearing more about your work with voluntary organisations in the town and the community engagement strategy*.
 - c) The OCS holds responsibility for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in the Cabinet Office. It replaced the Office of the Third Sector following the general election in 2010. Nick Hurd is the minister for civil society, the first to take the title. On its launch, Hurd, alongside the minister for the Cabinet Office Francis Maude, said that government policy would focus on three fundamental issues:
 - o making it easier to run a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation;
 - o getting more resources into the sector: strengthening its independence and resilience; and
 - o making it easier for sector organisations to work with the state.
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3) CAR PARKS LOCAL MANAGEMENT

- a) Work is continuing on the preparation of an Expression of Interest in Ventnor Town Council taking on the local management of the Town's eight car parks and car parking on the Esplanade.
 - b) An initial draft has been prepared by the Locality Manager who provided the original support and advice for this use of the Community Right to Challenge. After work on it by the Town Clerk and staff team a revised draft will be forwarded to Andy Stafford, our Consultant for this project who will produce a third draft.
 - c) That draft will be available for consideration by the Town Council at its meeting of 9 September in advance of the closing date for submissions this year of 30 September.
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4) WINTER GARDENS

- a) The Mayor and Town Clerk met with the Hambrough Group's Kevin Susmilch on Friday 19 July to discuss the lack of progress on the planned development of the site and the consequences for the town, as previously reported to Members.
 - b) The Group's Operations Manager will be asked for an update on their agreement to make arrangements for an appropriate hoarding for the site.
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