



# TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 49/13

17 JUNE 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) LOADING BAY

- a) The last Town Council meeting resolved to ask the Isle of Wight Council to change the timing on the Esplanade loading bay.
- b) The letter in response to that request from their Commercial Manager Sean Newton is attached to this report for Members' information.
- c) Councillor Jim Toogood who raised the matter is content with this response.

### 2) BENCHES

- a) The Assistant Town Clerk has completed the process for the installation of a new Memorial Bench on a concrete plinth above Ventnor sign, with a plaque to the memory of Elizabeth Pugh.
- b) An email from Elizabeth Pugh's daughter Kathleen states: *We went to view the memorial bench yesterday and were delighted with it. It is in a very peaceful position with such endless views of the sea. My mother would have been so pleased with it and I am sure my father will make good use of it when he visits the Island. We cannot thank you enough for your work and assistance in this venture. Payment for the bench is on its way to you.*
- c) We have yet to be able to complete the Memorandum of Understanding in respect of which Benches are now the responsibility of Island Roads and which remain with the Town Council.
- d) We are also seeking clarity about the installation of new benches in the Island Roads territory and their maintenance.

### 3) NALC CONFERENCE

- a) The Town Clerk attended the National Association of Local Council's Conference on *Putting Communities First* in London on 6 June where Ventnor's experience of applying the Localism Act's Community Rights was a case study for one of the Workshops.
- b) Details about the Conference, including some of the presentations given at it, are available on the Town Council's web site.

### 4) TIMEBANK SUPPORT WORKER

- a) A 12-hour per week post will be advertised in the Chronicle and through Job Centre Plus this week with a deadline for applications of Wednesday 26 June.
- b) Interviews will be held the following week with a start date as soon as possible after that.
- c) The post is fully funded by the Awards for All grant.

### 5) TIMEBANK

- a) Our Community Development Officer Julia Aratoon's report to the latest meeting of the Community Development Working Group included some very good news about the progress of Ventnor Timebank.
- b) This included free DVD Loans from the Library for those with Timebank Credits, 208 Friends now registered on its Facebook Page at ventnor community-development and extended partnership working.
- c) Its 9-5 Project in which Councillor Mack and other Timebank volunteers provide informal advice and support for local job seekers at Ventnor Library on Thursday mornings when the

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Library is otherwise closed is well used. Supported access to computers, advice on developing CVs and information about training opportunities are all available from Timebank volunteers in a very relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

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**6) SEMINARS**

- a) The series of four Seminar sessions over four consecutive weeks were very well attended by the new Members of the Town Council and supported by others.
  - b) The sessions covered Public Buildings, Deprivation in Ventnor, Economic Development and Community Development.
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Our ref: SN/hmv/7.001

10 June 2013

Dear David

**LOADING BAY ON ESPLANADE**

Thank you for your letter of 28 May concerning the alleged abuse of the loading bay on Ventnor Esplanade.

Our Parking Operations section is aware of the issues concerning the loading bay. However, it is often difficult to confirm any parking contravention taking place at this location. It is our policy to allow a private car an observation time of ten minutes to provide for loading/unloading items of bulk from a loading bay (and longer for a commercial vehicle).

This necessitates an observation process from the Civil Enforcement Officer, who has to keep the vehicle within sight during this 10 minute period. Furthermore, it is not best practice to undertake any observation in a covert fashion, so if a vehicle is parked without loading, the motorist might observe the Civil Enforcement Officer and consequently move the vehicle. The Civil Enforcement Officer, will naturally think that he has enforced any abuse of the loading bay and move off. The issue in terms of obtaining a secure contravention is the observation process rather than the waiting restriction itself.

If the loading bay continues to be abused, perhaps the answer is to remove the loading bay completely. It would be possible for Parking Operations to contact Island Roads regarding this. I would be grateful for the Town Council's view on this. In the meantime, I will ask the Parking Operations Manager to continue to enforce the loading bay as vigilantly as possible.

Yours sincerely

*Sean Newton*

SEAN NEWTON  
COMMERCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

cc : Mark Downer, Parking Operations Manager