



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 77/12

10 DECEMBER 2012

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

No. DETAIL

1) POLICE CONTACTS

- a) Although Sergeant Richard Stapleton was very willing to accept an invitation to attend Town Council meetings on a quarterly basis, work rotas and commitments have made it impossible.
 - b) His colleague, PC Sue Gill, has now made contact to explain the issues and suggest that the Town Council appoints someone to meet with her and members of the South Wight Safer Neighbourhood Team to hear about current issues and get answers to questions with a brief to report back to the next Town Council meeting.
 - c) Her email setting out the times when this could happen over the next twelve months is available to Members with this report.
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2) ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

- a) Town Council's staff team were joined by staff from Job Centre Plus, Southern Housing Group, Ventnor Library and the Isle of Wight College on Wednesday 5 December for a round-table lunchtime discussion of how to maximise opportunities for unemployed Ventnor residents to access employment.
 - b) Much work is already being done by those agencies and the purposes of the discussion were to share information about what each is already doing and assess any additional contribution Ventnor Town Council could make.
 - c) Our Economic Development Worker, Nicky Cox, led the session by summarising what had already emerged from his individual meetings with the agencies and setting out the Town Council's commitment to maximising the local benefit and effectiveness of the agencies and how that might be done.
 - d) Discussion focused on how the joint resources could best be co-ordinated in the context of the changes that will follow the move to Universal Credits as the basis of welfare support and employment access next year.
 - e) Some interesting developments should now be possible and we expect to bring proposals to the Town Council in the new year.
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3) CHRISTMAS IN VENTNOR

- a) The work involved in developing the Christmas in Ventnor Day from idea to delivery has been continuing throughout the month on a regular basis with strong contributions from Councillors Harry Rees, Jim Toogood and Debby Robinson all supported with enthusiasm and efficient administration from Assistant Town Clerk Alison Killick.
 - b) Alison Killick has been directly responsible for the arrangements that have resulted in a 'Park & Ride' facility for return journeys from Upper Ventnor through Southern Vectis's willingness to provide a bus for the day with no charge other than fuel and the commitment of John Killick as its unpaid driver.
 - c) Nicky Cox has had a valuable role in relationships between the organising committee and the town's traders while he and Councillor Jason Mack have delivered leaflets advertising the event to every home in Upper Ventnor.
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4) SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

- a) Around 30 people turned up to an event arranged by the Town Council's Community Development Worker Julia Aratoon to promote the role of Social Enterprise in local regeneration.
- b) Held at the Baptist Church, it opened with an inspiring presentation by Dawn Davis from the Creation Development Trust that has been at the core of the major regeneration of two south Wales mining villages dropped deep into deprivation by the closure of the mines.
- c) That was followed by Julia Aratoons's short presentation on the progress of Ventnor's Timebank. The networking that followed was high quality too.

5) CELEBRATING A CILCA QUALIFICATION

- a) The Town Council's Assistant Clerk received on Friday 30 November the deserved news that she had achieved the Certificate in Local Council Administration from the Society of Local Council Clerks.
- b) The Town Clerk is very keen to record and recognise both this achievement and the quality of Alison Killick's invaluable contribution to the work of Ventnor Town Council since joining it in early October 2010.

6) BUSINESS RATES

We finish this month with reporting the good news for the Town's traders, contained in the Autumn Statement, of the extension of Small Business Rate Relief to April 2014 and look forward to continuing to work with them in developing the essential contribution they bring to the town's life and attractiveness to visitors.
