



# TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 70/12

12 NOVEMBER 2012

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

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**No.    DETAIL**

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**1)    MEMORIAL BENCHES**

- a) The initial condition survey of benches in the Town was completed, as planned, by the end of October.
  - b) It revealed a total of 315 and we now have an archive of images of each with written reports on current condition.
  - c) Nearly 140 of these are Memorial Benches and are the ones for which the Town Council has an ongoing responsibility for maintenance and repair.
  - d) When we have been able to complete the analysis of the information gathered in the condition survey the Town Council will receive a report proposing a pattern of planned maintenance for coming years.
  - e) The priority in the current financial year is the removal of those benches that are beyond repair and that work is in hand.
  - f) A letter received on 5 November from a retired Senior Lecturer in Clacton is the latest to express appreciation of the *immense effort by your Council and Contractors* to put the Memorial Bench I wanted in Wheeler's Bay. She went on to comment that *the quality of workmanship to make this Bench is of the highest order and I would be grateful if you could pass this comment on to the prison* which the Assistant Clerk has done.
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**2)    CHRISTMAS IN VENTNOR**

- a) The ad hoc planning group that has grown up around the Carnival Committee's initiative of a *Christmas in Ventnor* event on Saturday 15 December is making very good progress.
  - b) In addition to the involvement of Councillors Harry Rees and Debby Robinson, Assistant Town Clerk Alison Killick is making a major contribution to the administration of the project and our Economic Development Worker Nicky Cox has also assisted through his contacts with traders and others.
  - c) I estimate that Alison Killick's time commitment will represent a financial contribution to the project of some £700.
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**3)    CHRISTMAS TREE**

The Assistant Town Clerk has made arrangements for a Christmas Tree with lights to be in Spring Gardens for the holiday period.

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**4)    ESPLANADE CLOCK**

- a) The remarkable Alan Philpott continues to repair and maintain the Esplanade Clock on a materials cost-only basis, and even works at saving the Town money on the materials.
  - b) His latest work required among other things the replacement of the front glass; faced with an initial quote of £90, he found a company in Devon who charged £20.91. The invoice total for materials this time was £76.24 with all the related work being provided on a volunteer basis.
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**5)    VENTNOR MUSIC FOR FUN FESTIVAL**

- a) The Assistant Town Clerk has had the first meeting with the organisers of this annual festival
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held in St Catherine's Church at a date yet to be finalised in March next year.

- b) Members will recall that administrative assistance from the Town Council was an essential contribution to the Festival's delivery this year as the Committee responsible for it was short of volunteers at that time.
- c) It proved an important first test of the Town Council's policy of providing support for local groups where it was necessary as an alternative to grants. Although the Assistant Town Clerk will work with the group for next year's event, much less of her time will be required this time.

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