



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

10 SEPTEMBER 2012

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

No. DETAIL

1) MEMORIAL BENCHES

- a) The Assistant Town Clerk recently received an email from the person for whom she arranged the new Memorial Bench in Flowersbrook that is encouraging evidence of their significance for those who provide them.
 - b) It read: *'I am so pleased with the seat I cannot begin to tell you; my aunt and cousins too are over the moon. I also have been down taking photo's and have e/mailed them the photos...thank you again so much, I know we shall enjoy sitting on the seat and bringing back happy memories.'*
 - c) The current charge for a Memorial Bench is £500 plus VAT that covers the manufacture of the bench by the Isle of Wight Prison, the memorial plaque and the installation of the bench at the agreed site.
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2) PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

- a) As previously reported, there is no evidence in the past of a planned maintenance programme for what is now a total of over 100 Memorial Benches in the town
 - b) The Town Council agreed to make a £1,500 funding provision for such a programme in its Budget for the current year and that was subsequently matched by a grant from the Isle of Wight Council's Economic Improvement Fund bringing the available total to £3,000.
 - c) The first stage is a full condition survey and we are planning to conduct that during October by extending the employment of Dave Gray for one month beyond his time with us as Beach Safety Worker to complete that stage. This will be funded from the existing budget allocation.
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3) COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

- a) Following the discussion at the August Town Council meeting I registered the concerns about the absence of a reference to the Community Right to Bid in the Isle of Wight Council's recently published Capital Receipts Programme for 2012/15.
 - b) I received a phone call in response from Strategic Manager Assets Barry Cooke to assure us that the Community Right to Bid is listed in the Isle of Wight Council's Forward Plan with a decision due in October.
 - c) However, the consultation set out on the Forward Plan for that policy is restricted to Isle of Wight Council's officers and Members.
 - d) As the Right will include Town and Parish Councils, I have suggested to Councillor Harry Rees as the Town Council's representative to the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) that he raise the issue of the need for wider consultation on the implementation of the Community Right to Bid and more publicity for its implications for the Island's voluntary and community organisations – and town and parish councils. He has agreed to list the matter on the Agenda for IWALC's meeting.
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4) CHRISTMAS IN VENTNOR

- a) The Carnival Committee are keen to promote a Christmas in Ventnor event for the town on Saturday 15 December.
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- b) Councillors Harry Rees, Jim Toogood and Debby Robinson have attended two recent planning meetings for the event and, in line with the Town Council's policy of providing support for local organisations, the Assistant Town Clerk has also attended them and agreed to undertake some of the admin tasks.
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