



VENTNOR & UNDERCLIFF HERITAGE

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 48/13

17 JUNE 2013

The purpose of this report is to ask Members to consider a request from the recently formed Ventnor & Undercliff Heritage Partnership Group for formal sponsorship by the Town Council, without financial commitment.

No. DETAIL

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Last year the Isle of Wight Council offered a significant grant to each of the Island's Business Associations for a relevant project to support local economic development.
 - b) The Ventnor Business Association developed a project for a Heritage Trail and believed that they had every reason to expect a grant of £38,000 to implement it.
 - c) However, the grant offer was never progressed although significant work on the project had been carried out in preparation for the proposed 10 interpretation boards.
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2) NEW ORGANISATION

- a) Rather than see the project fail, a new organisation – the Ventnor and Undercliff Heritage Partnership (VUHP) - has been formed and the work continued by its founding members.
 - b) The organisation is seeking sponsors for the project, defined as *persons or organisations who contribute funding or material assistance to the Partnership*.
 - c) As the attached paper makes clear, VUHP is requesting that the Town Council agree to be a sponsor of the project and provide appropriate *material* assistance.
 - d) It is also clear that no financial assistance is being requested.
 - e) Also attached to this report is the organisation's constitution for Members' information.
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3) RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to consider the request for the Town Council to become one of the organisation's sponsors.

Paper for Ventnor Town Council 17th June 2013

During 2012 the Island County Council encouraged Island Business Associations to bid for funding to support local economic development. The funds were available because of savings amounting to £2.3m.

The Ventnor Business Association developed the *Town Heritage Trail Project* which would consist of ten interpretation boards, a supporting leaflet with map and a dedicated website to which smartphone apps could be linked.

Work was undertaken to write text and source photographs for the boards, outline costings were drawn up and a presentation for the County Council was prepared. During 2013 it became clear that the funding for these projects would not be forthcoming and the County Council has since been re-elected.

Rather than waste the work that had been done, it was decided to form a new organisation known as the *Ventnor and Undercliff Heritage Partnership* (VUHP).

<http://www.ventnorheritagetrail.co.uk/>

The aim of the VUHP will be to present and promote the heritage of Ventnor and the Undercliff, Isle of Wight, in a range of formats and activities.

Our objectives are to:

- Engage residents and visitors with the local heritage;
- Encourage interest and learning in local heritage, and provide links to sources of further information;
- Encourage visitors to the area because of its heritage offer;
- Develop a network of people and organisations that are involved with local heritage provision".

The Town Heritage Trail is the central focus of current activity and funding will be sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The VUHP is seeking sponsors for the project who are defined as: "Persons or organisations who contribute funding or material assistance to the Partnership".

We would like the Ventnor Town Council to become a sponsor by offering advice and assistance to the VUHP. The Town Clerk has experience of a similar heritage trail in Brading and has already provided very useful advice. We are not seeking financial assistance from the Town Council.

We have already secured financial support from Red Funnel to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the town trail project and the Ventnor Local History Society has offered to verify the accuracy of our trail board texts.

We will also be making contact with businesses, schools and other organisations in the Undercliff to see what potential the town trail project may have for them and to demonstrate to the Heritage Lottery Fund that there is local support for it.

We would like to request that the Ventnor Town Council agrees to become a Sponsor.

Richard Downing. Chairman. VUHP. 3rd June 2013.

Ventnor and Undercliff Heritage Partnership: Constitution

Amended and Adopted on the 30th Day of May 2013

1. Name

The name of the organisation is **Ventnor & Undercliff Heritage Partnership (VUHP)**

2. Aim

To present and promote the heritage of Ventnor and the Undercliff Isle of Wight in a range of formats and activities.

3. Objectives:

- 3.1 To engage residents and visitors with the local heritage.
- 3.2 To encourage interest and learning in local heritage, and provide links to sources of further information.
- 3.3 To encourage visitors to the area because of its heritage offer.
- 3.4 To develop a network of people and organisations that are involved with local heritage provision.

4. Powers:

- 4.1 To develop projects, activities and media that are suited to the objectives.
- 4.2 To raise funds, receive grants and donations, and obtain sponsorship to meet the objectives.
- 4.3 To open and manage a bank account.
- 4.4 To work in co-operation with other organisations including Ventnor Town Council and Isle of Wight Council when applicable.

5. Partnership:

- 5.1 The Partners will manage, make decisions and direct policy in accordance with this constitution and the objectives.
- 5.2 There will be a minimum of three partners.
- 5.3 Partners may co-opt additional Partners by majority decision.
- 5.4 Partners will appoint Officers as appropriate with the minimum requirement being Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 5.5 Partners may appoint Associates and Sponsors.
- 5.6 Partners may recruit and train volunteers to assist in meeting the objectives.

6.Categories:

- 6.1 **Partners** will manage the Partnership and will be required to donate a non refundable £50 contribution upon appointment.
- 6.2 **Associates**. Named persons, other than Partners, who contribute to meeting the Partnership objectives.
- 6.3 **Sponsors**. Persons or organisations who contribute funding or material assistance to the Partnership.
- 6.4 **Volunteers**. Persons who assist the Partnership by contributing their time.
- 6.5 **Officers**. Partners and/or Associates who carry out named roles and responsibilities.

7.Meetings:

- 7.1 Meetings will be called, as required, by a majority of Partners.
- 7.2 Decisions will be made by a majority of Partners present and not less than three.
- 7.3 At the end of the financial year a meeting will agree the annual accounts and receive annual reports from Officers.
- 7.4 The Partners may establish working groups to perform certain functions.

8.Finance:

- 8.1 A Treasurer will manage accounts.
- 8.2 All monies received by or on behalf of the Partnership shall be applied to further the aim of the Partnership and for no other purpose.
- 8.3 Any bank accounts opened for the Partnership shall be in the name of the Ventnor and Undercliff Heritage Partnership.
- 8.4 Any cheques issued shall be signed by two of the nominated Partners.
- 8.5 The Partners shall ensure that its accounts are independently examined every year.

9. Amendments to the Constitution:

Can only be made by a majority of Partners at a meeting to which all Partners contribute.

10. Dissolution:

The Partnership may be dissolved by a majority of Partners at a meeting to which all Partners are invited to attend and contribute. Any remaining monies, after payment of all debts are paid, will be distributed to groups with similar objectives.

Signed

Richard Downing - Chairman
Ventnor and Undercliff Heritage Partnership

30th May 2013