



The purpose of this report is to update Members on two situations relating to the Beach that have been highlighted since the last meeting.

No. DETAIL

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The function of the Beach Safety project has required clarification following issues raised by a third party.
 - b) The issue of access by dogs to the western end of the Beach has aroused strong local interest.
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2) BEACH SAFETY PROJECT

- a) A third party urged some Members to support the purchase for the project of a Rescue Board and other rescue equipment.
 - b) The Beach Safety Project is now in its third year following the decision of the Isle of Wight Council to discontinue the Lifeguard services for the beaches of Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor and to offer the four Town Councils a share of an annual grant of £25,000 to make a contribution to safety on their beaches.
 - c) Ventnor Town Council opted for a First Aid provision, as the signage of the Hut from which it operates clearly indicates, with one staff member employed full time during the season supported by volunteers, all with an appropriate First Aid qualification.
 - d) In addition to a significant number of recorded first aid incidents each year, the team has also provided a valuable function in providing beach users with information.
 - e) It is not a Lifeguarding service, nor any form of substitute for one: where rescue is required they task is to alert the emergency services.
 - f) The Insurance cover for the Project is only effective up to, but not beyond, the waterline.
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3) DOGS ACCESS

- a) Confusion among both dog owners accustomed to accessing the western end of the beach with their dogs and other users of the beach when the former were reminded of the Isle of Wight Council's change to its regulations for dog access to Ventnor Beach, made in 2010 in order to ensure the continuing award of Blue Flag Status for the beach.
 - b) The Isle of Wight Council have acknowledged, and apologised for, the fact that the signage about dog access to the beach had not been amended to reflect the change in the regulations and, consequently, the use of the western end by dog owners had continued.
 - c) Councillor Harry Rees attended the public meeting arranged by dog owners concerned about both the change and the way it had been recently restated to explain the situation directly and the Isle of Wight Council issued a clarifying statement and changed the signage accordingly.
 - d) The whole beach is closed to dogs for the period 1 May to 30 September as required for the retention of its Blue Flag status.
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