



VENTNOR COMMUNITY FOODBANK

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 55/20

13 JULY 2020

The purpose of this Report is to welcome the launch of the new Ventnor Community Foodbank and record the Town Council's support for it.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) There were indications in December that the Isle of Wight Foodbank was planning to close its Ventnor site, a move that the Town Council questioned in an email to the Isle of Wight Foodbank of 6 December with a reminder of the high and growing levels of deprivation in the town.
 - b) When the closure was confirmed as taking effect from 30 June, the Town Council's Community Development Officer met with the volunteers that had been running the Ventnor operation from the Baptist Church, finding them determined to maintain the local service.
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2) ORGANISATION

- a) Both the Baptist Church and St Catherine's School confirmed their continuing support for the work and the new Ventnor Community Foodbank was formally launched on 1 July, maintaining the same opening times of 10 to 12 every Tuesday and Thursday at the Baptist Church.
 - b) As its launch Press Release stated it *will still offer food parcels to families and individuals experiencing food poverty – but will no longer require vouchers.*
 - c) Rather than establish a new formal organisation, it is currently operating in partnership with Babybox.
 - d) Meetings are being held regularly and early responses from residents are very encouraging.
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3) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to:

- i) confirm formally the Town Council's support for the Ventnor Community Foodbank; and
 - ii) consider any other support it is able to offer alongside the work of its Community Development Officer.
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