



The purpose of this Report is to inform Members of a current issue in the management of the seaweed accumulations in the Haven and a request for support in its resolution.

**No. DETAILS**

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**1) BACKGROUND**

- a) The level of release of Hydrogen Sulphide from the accumulations of seaweed in the Haven throughout the summer of 2010 seriously threatened the town's visitor economy as well as making life miserable for residents.
  - b) It prompted emergency discussions within the Isle of Wight Council as the organisation responsible for the facility and between it and Ventnor Town Council.
  - c) The solution of the Isle of Wight Council funding Cheetah Marine to operate a small craft fitted with machinery to suck up the seaweed, chop it up and pump it out over the sea wall has worked well since its inception in 2011.
  - d) The Isle of Wight Council became so concerned about the cost of the operation – currently £75,120 a year – that it commissioned a consultant's report to examine a more permanent solution to the problem last year.
  - e) Although the Report has not yet been released, our understanding is that none of the potential alternative solutions will work.
  - f) Given that the issue represents one of the most serious risks to the town as a place to live and visit the continuation of the Cheetah Marine service is essential.
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**2) REQUIRED REPAIRS**

- a) Damage to the pump head and engine now require major works and, as the attached email from Cheetah Marine's Sean Strevens makes clear, that requires resolution of the company's need for the extension of its current premises on Ventnor's Industrial Estate.
  - b) The email indicates that the discussions about the extension started 10 years ago but that the resolution is now urgent given the range of pressures facing Cheetah Marine in continuing the current service.
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**3) REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**

The Town Council has been asked to provide support for Cheetah Marine's latest approach to the Isle of Wight Council.

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**4) RECOMMENDATION**

Members are recommended to establish a small working group including the Clerk and Councillor James Toogood to meet with Cheetah Marine's Sean Strevens to discuss the details of the present situation and, subsequently, contact the Isle of Wight Council to provide support for progressing the issue.

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**From:** Sean Strevens  
**To:** [Ashley.Curzon@IOW.gov.uk](mailto:Ashley.Curzon@IOW.gov.uk)  
**Cc:** [Newton\\_Sean](mailto:Newton_Sean); [Brand\\_Jonathan](mailto:Brand_Jonathan); [jatoogood@gmail.com](mailto:jatoogood@gmail.com); [David Bartlett](mailto:David_Bartlett); [keith](mailto:keith)  
**Subject:** townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk <townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk>;  
**Date:** 27 September 2018 15:44:48

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Afternoon Ashley,

We have some major re fit work to do on the seaweed dredger, it has worked well since 2011 but now has serious issues with the pump head and the diesel engine.

The picture shows the seaweed which has come in just this week.

The problem we have is that we are very busy with boat orders and the seafront workshop is full for the next 10 to 12 months.

To be able to do the work on the dredger at the seafront I need to complete some of our boat fit out work on Ventnor Industrial estate.

This means that I need to make Unit 8 viable for boat fit out as soon as possible.

Our vessel build costs are escalating due to the weak pound and ever increasing rates, insurance and labour costs which means we will struggle to keep up with subsidising dredging in the future unless we get more efficient with our boat building.

We have tried over the last 10 years to sort the Unit 8 situation and have even had approval from the fire brigade to move the tower to the front which will make their training easier and free up the space for us to invest in a new building. We would carry on paying the lease to the Council and also pay for the new building and moving the fire tower. This way the Council carry on earning from the site.

If we do not get this sorted now I think that the future of the dredging work is at stake and Ventnor will stink again.

The Town Council are on side as they understand the severe problem Ventnor has if we can not keep up the dredging.

Best regards

Sean

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Sean Strevens, M.R.I.N.A  
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+44 (0)1983 852398 / +44 (0)7974 126378  
[sean@cheetahmarine.co.uk](mailto:sean@cheetahmarine.co.uk) | [www.cheetahmarine.co.uk](http://www.cheetahmarine.co.uk)

**From:** Curzon, Ashley  
**To:** ["Sean Strevens"](#)  
**Cc:** [Newton, Sean](#); [Brand, Jonathan](#); [jatoogood@gmail.com](mailto:jatoogood@gmail.com); [David Bartlett](#); [Keith](#)  
**Subject:** RE: townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk <townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk>;  
**Date:** 27 September 2018 17:08:53  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Hi Sean,

It is a long time since we discussed unit 8 so I will need to speak to colleagues on the background to this.

I will get back to you shortly.

Regards

Ashley

**Ashley Curzon** | Assistant Director of Regeneration – Economic Development,  
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**From:** Sean Strevens [mailto:[sean@cheetahmarine.co.uk](mailto:sean@cheetahmarine.co.uk)]  
**Sent:** 27 September 2018 15:45  
**To:** Curzon, Ashley  
**Cc:** Newton, Sean; Brand, Jonathan; [jatoogood@gmail.com](mailto:jatoogood@gmail.com); Ventnor Town Council; [keith](#)  
**Subject:** townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk <townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk>;

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