



The purpose of this report is to update Members on the latest developments with this initiative to include residents in the future development of the Town Council's work.

No. DETAIL

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) This initiative was a direct response to the active engagement of over 25% of the town's electorate with the Town Council's commitment to retaining Salisbury Gardens for the town.
 - b) A letter from the Mayor to all 1,295 residents who had signed up to support that commitment thanked them for doing so, informed them of the change in policy at County Hall about the building's future and invited them to join in an ongoing conversation with the Town Council about its future work.
 - c) As previous reports to the Town Council have shown, this is also aligned with the moves towards a more connected form of localism, one that is committed to being open, networked and democratically run. A range of pilots throughout the country have explored different approaches to it.
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2) VTC PLUS

- a) The Mayor's letter invited residents to provide an email address as the basis for such a connection, through which they would then receive a regular email providing updates on current developments and the opportunity to contribute to future policy and practice.
 - b) To date, 155 residents have accepted the invitation and another 10 have asked to be included in a letter post equivalent in the absence of an email address.
 - c) This is planned to be an ongoing *conversation* and not simply a one-off opportunity to comment on Town Council proposals as they arise.
 - d) To facilitate this, all responses – without the identifying names and email addresses – will be available to the whole group through the web site and, once the necessary adjustments to the site have been made, the process will get underway, which we expect to be by the end of September.
 - e) Involvement in the conversation is open to any resident by supplying an email address to the Assistant Town Clerk – alison@ventnortc.org – or who asks to be added to the postal list by phoning Alison on 856905 or writing to: Ventnor Town Council, Coastal Centre, Dudley Road, Ventnor PO38 1EJ.
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