



TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 60/22

8 AUGUST 2022

The purpose of this Report is to record developments since the last meeting not requiring an Agenda item at this meeting.

No. DETAIL1S

1) MAJOR COASTAL PROTECTION PROJECT

- a) Members and staff met on Tuesday 12 July with the Environment Agency's team responsible for a new scheme to improve the town's coastal defences that may qualify for £41 million of government funding spread over the project period of 2023-2031. The major work will be at the town's western end below Ventnor Park.
- b) The project is planned to strengthen the existing coastal protections after 40 years of wear and tear and, in view of the Agency's predictions of the impact of climate change and rising sea levels, its core is the application of recent studies of controlling the impact of ground water on slippage known as 'dewatering'.
- c) It will begin next year with a phased pilot examining the feasibility of reducing ground movement via a series of deep drainage wells, constructed as close as possible to the shoreline.

2) THANKS TO THE FRIENDS OF VENTNOR BOTANIC GARDENS

- a) A group of the Friends of Ventnor Botanic Gardens came to rescue the areas around our Salisbury Gardens building from the weeds and out of control plant growth with their skill and infectious good humour.
- b) We're very grateful to them for their remarkable improvements to both the building's appearance and access.

3) BEACH LITTER RESPONSE

- a) The installation of four new beach with flags for easy identification and located conveniently opposite the busy takeaway outlets by the Town Council's Maintenance Manager Bran Roberts has been widely welcomed.
- b) Island Roads are also assisting by ensuring that, Monday to Friday their bins are emptied earlier in the morning and the Esplanade cleared of additional rubbish with Brian and team litter-picking the Esplanade on the weekends.
- c) Following a meeting the Mayor and Assistant Town Clerk had with Island Roads' Street Cleaning Supervisor Jez Mew and District Steward Paul Wigman on 29 July, Jez is raising a job for the single bin outside the Mill Bay to be replaced with a double.

4) SKATEBOARDING CLASSES

- a) The Town Council's Youth Worker, Jordan Royle, has accessed funding to provide Skateboarding by experts Wight Trash.
- b) They are running over the summer, free for Ventnor Youth Club members, all equipment provided and Jordan says, 'the group have made amazing progress in only a few lessons and it's great to see them testing their resiliencies and gaining confidence.'

5) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Assets & Services Working Group met on 12 and 26 July and plans to meet next on 23 August.
 - b) The Community Development Working Group's next meeting is on 18 August.
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- c) The Sustainability & Biodiversity Working Group met on 3 August and plans to meet on the first Wednesday of each month.
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