



TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 10/23

13 FEBRUARY 2023

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

No. DETAILS

1) SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF OUR SPACE

- a) Held at St Catherine's Church from 10.30am to 1.30pm on Thursday 26 January, the first in what will now be a monthly event, the Town Council's *Our Place* provided residents with advice from a wide range of agencies, a Warm Space and a hot lunch.
 - b) Its regular flow of residents had the opportunity to chat with Veterans Outreach, Barnardo's, Ventnor Community Shed, Baby Box Isle of Wight, Ventnor Community Pantry, People Matter IoW, Living Well & Early Help, Citizen's Advice, Wessex Cancer Trust and Ventnor Community Foodbank.
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2) NEW PLAYGROUP

- a) Tony McCarthy has accessed funding to set up a new playgroup in the Family Centre.
 - b) The sessions, starting on 16 January, are run by Eloise Preston and will be weekly for 13 weeks and twice weekly after that; sessions will run during School Term Time only and there are limited places available.
 - c) The project is funded by a grant from the community Capacity Early Help Fund from the Isle of Wight Council's Children's Services and is supported by Barnardo's.
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3) VENTNOR YOUTH CLUB

- a) Ventnor Youth Club got their hands messy and covered in lard, making super-easy-DIY birdfeeders.
 - b) The children used pine-cones, string, lard & bird seed, to create a hanging feeder for their gardens or, grandparents' gardens!
 - c) The Town Council's Youth Officer says: the children care about our British Countryside & especially the animals – they were saddened to hear that UK bird populations have been declining e.g. (but not limited to); Tree sparrow 98%, Starling 71%, Turtle Dove 71%.
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4) RUGBY PUTS VENTNOR IN THE NEWS

- a) To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the game of Rugby, 200 rugby balls are being sent out around the world to help raise awareness of the game.
 - b) Ventnor was chosen to receive one of the globally sent out rugby balls to be involved in this event. Ventnor is the only town on the Island and is one of the very first recipients of these anniversary Rugby balls.
 - c) Local resident John Bagshawe, who went to Rugby School, organised the event to celebrate Ventnor's achievement in being selected to receive one of the 200 Rugby balls globally that took place on the Esplanade at noon on Saturday.
 - d) The event was filmed by Ventnor film-maker David George and publicised earlier on Radio Solent by our Business Development Officer Nigel Slater-Bishop.
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5) VENTNOR DAY 2023

This annual celebration of the town's communities will take place this year on Saturday 1 July from noon to 6pm in Ventnor Park.

6) THE FUTURE OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) last week published a Report based on its research with the Local Governance Research Centre (LGRC) at De Montfort University (DMU). *The Future of Local Council Clerks* is available [here](#).

7) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Assets & Services Working Group met on 10 and 24 January and plan to meet next on 14 February.
 - b) The Community Development Working Group met on 24 January.
 - c) The Sustainability & Biodiversity Working Group met on 17 January and its next meeting will be on 21 February
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