



TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 54/23

9 OCTOBER 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) BEACH SAFETY TEAM

- a) With the hottest September on record, Ventnor Beach was busier than ever last month.
 - b) Our Beach Safety team once again stepped up to the mark, agreeing at short notice to continue running the Beach Safety service until the 22nd September, when the weather turned cooler and wetter.
 - c) Ventnor Town Council's thanks go to Bethany Whitehead, Jack Wonfor, Brian Roberts and volunteer Davin Gibbs for the smooth running and professionalism throughout summer 2023 of this essential service for Ventnor's residents and visitors.
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3) BEACH CLEANING

- a) Staff member Brian Roberts has kept Ventnor's beaches spotlessly clean and tidy throughout the summer season.
 - b) With flags that Brian has made himself and installed at each beach-bin location, means the bins are easily identifiable, encouraging people to dispose of their litter responsibly at these points at Ventnor beach.
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2) FELL RUNNING

- a) Over the weekend of 9/10 September, the Fell Races came to Ventnor.
 - b) On Saturday 9th which happened to be the hottest day of the year(!), over 150 runners started the first race at 11am from the seafront – running up the Cascades, along Pier Street and onwards through Ventnor. There was a further race at 3pm and on Sunday 10th a half marathon. The event culminated on Sunday afternoon with an awards presentation by our Deputy Mayor Mark Jefferies.
 - c) Thank you to all those volunteers who assisted in making the weekend a success.
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4) VENTNOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

- a) From monies raised at the Bonchurch Open Gardens event, Bonchurch Community Association have kindly donated the monies received.
 - b) Chris Gorski, Chair of Bonchurch Community Association presented a cheque to our Mayor Steve Cooper of £1,000 and a further cheque of £500 to Kirsty Chapman of Better Days Café.
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5) VENTNOR COMMUNITY FOODBANK

- a) Our Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy met with Chair of Wootton Parish Council, Barrie Hailstone and their Assistant Parish Clerk, Lorna Morey.
 - b) Wootton are interested in setting up a Foodbank in their village.
 - c) The Harvest Festival at St Catherine's Church collected food and raised £350 for Ventnor Community Foodbank.
 - d) Tony gave a presentation about the work of the Foodbank during the service.
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6) VENTNOR YOUTH CLUB

- a) After our Youth Opportunities Officer Jordan Royl successfully applied for several grants, we have been awarded £3,172 from the Community Capacity Grant and £2,933 from Sport England.
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- b) These grants will enable Ventnor Youth Club to continue to provide free access to opportunities and sessions for young people – improving both their mental and physical health – including the hire of Rew Valley for basketball and badminton sessions and to purchase any necessary equipment.
- c) The Sports England grant enables children, staff or volunteers interested in pursuing a career in Sports Leadership to receive nationally recognised qualifications in leading basketball, cricket, tennis and beach sports.
- d) The Community Capacity Grant will provide cookery classes for children and their families.
- e) Cookery classes have run previously and were a huge success – concentrating on family meals on a budget and giving children confidence in the kitchen.
- f) Importantly, this grant will provide the much-needed additional resources this project requires, by way of additional Sessional Youth Worker(s).

YOUTH CLUB – VICTORIAN LIFE WORKSHOP

- a) Ventnor Youth Club had a visit from the Isle of Wight Heritage Centre, who ran a workshop focusing on Victorian Life – the children were able to explore what rural Victorian life was like.
- b) The children were shown a copy of John Constable’s painting, The Cornfield 1826 – recently loaned to the Isle of Wight and only four other places, from the National Gallery in London.
- c) The children really gained an understanding of what rural Victorian life was like, through a presentation of photographs and artefacts.
- d) The children loved dressing up and trying on some replica clothes from that era, mirroring some of the lives and jobs our Victorian ancestors had.

7) WELLBEING CAFÉ

- a) Café members enjoyed an afternoon as guests of Ventnor Bowling Club. It was a chance to try the game of bowls, in a lovely setting.
- b) On another occasion, two visits were arranged to Ventnor Heritage Centre, with members able to explore some of the history of the town and meet the volunteers who run the Centre.
- c) The group had its final putting session of the season at the Putting Green in Ventnor Park.
- d) Thanks goes to Jackie Tiller of Tee in the Park for hosting these sessions throughout the summer season.

8) MACNAUGHTON-HOWE ARTS FESTIVAL

- a) The MacNaughton-Howe Arts Festival takes place at St Catherine’s Church on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October.
- b) The classes are many and varied - it is about the love of producing all things creative, not being professional. Classes are judged, but all in the name of fun in the participation – every entry is valued and appreciated. Adults £1 and competitors and exhibitors 50p; children are free entry.

9) OUR PLACE

- a) In combination with Warm Spaces, the September Our Place at St Catherine’s Church included guests from Sight for Wight, Veterans Outreach, Footprint Trust, Living Well-Early Help and BabyBox Isle of Wight/Ventnor Community Pantry.
 - b) There will be no Our Place at St Catherine’s Church for the month of October.
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- c) The next session will be held on Thursday 23rd November and lunch is available every Thursday as part of our Warm Spaces initiative.
 - d) Thanks goes to our growing team of volunteers, who are making this project a success!
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10) CHRISTMAS IN VENTNOR

- a) Christmas in Ventnor is happening this year on Saturday 16th December.
 - b) With an opportunity to make a lantern for this year's parade, lantern-making workshops will take place on Saturday 2nd and 9th of December at St Margaret's Hall and Better Days Café.
 - c) There will be craft markets in St Catherine's Church – fundraising for St Catherine's School - and the Baptist Church; a Santa's grotto, lantern parade and winter carnival featuring Ventnor Comic Jazz Band; music in Spring Hill gardens featuring popular local performers and free story-telling sessions during the afternoon.
 - d) The Carnival procession to Ventnor Park - for Carols in the Park – will start at around 6:00pm.
 - e) Singing will be led by Abbey Brass and the Undercliff Singers, with tea/coffee and mince pies supplied by Isle of Wight Defibrillators with Santa in attendance!
 - f) Thanks goes to Jody Berry and Crave Ice Cream for their donations of fabulous presents.
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