



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE TOWN COUNCIL

2025

CURRENT STRUCTURE

- The Council consists of 11 Members representing the town's four Wards as follows:
 - Bonchurch & Ventnor East Ward: 2 Members
 - Lowtherville Ward: 2 Members
 - St Lawrence Ward: 1 Member
 - Ventnor West Ward: 6 Members
- The town also consists of four Lower Super Output Areas for the purposes of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, of which the town's central area and Upper Ventnor are both within the most deprived 20% nationally.
- The Council's strategic direction has been driven by the need for Regeneration and addressing deprivation, in common with most small coastal towns, with a strong commitment to localism and community development.

ASSETS

- The Council's strategic commitments have led to increasing ownership, management and development of a significant asset base.
- The old Coastal Centre overlooking the English Channel was taken over by the Town Council in 2014 and now provides its own offices and those of the local Police Team with 12 offices for small businesses over two floors above its own and a large and popular community space below.
- When the Isle of Wight Council (the Principal Authority) withdrew funding for the Island's Public Toilets and grounds maintenance under budget pressures, the Town Council took on both and has recently built a new Public Toilet in the town centre, giving the town a total of four.
- Two adjacent, wooded local fields became vacant in 2018 and under the Town Council's management now host 30 allotments and four portacabins that are a base for the town's Community Shed.
- Additionally, the Town Council manages the old youth club, closed by the Isle of Wight Council and now host to Baby Box and the Community Pantry and is also responsible for a paddling pool, first aid hut, outdoor gym, putting green and the town's Award-winning park.
- The Town Council also manages four of the town's eight car parks.

SERVICES

- The Town Council's response to the services cut in the Isle of Wight Council's Budget reductions has been to provide them directly itself wherever possible.
 - Thus the Town Council employs its own cleaners for its Public Toilets, provides its own beach safety, beach cleaning and paddling pool services, operates a locally based youth service with a Youth Officer and two part-time assistants.
 - It has its own grounds maintenance contract and supports the town's Food Bank, Community Pantry and Baby Box services.
 - The Town Council's Wellbeing Café that replaced the closed Mental Health support group has over 100 members and is open Monday-Friday.
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INFRASTRUCTURE

- The Town is facing challenges with infrastructure following the landslips and road closures. There are ongoing issues with Bath Road and the recent rock fall at Belgrave Road.

RESOURCES

- The Town Council directly employs 16 staff with some seasonality and part-time arrangements equating to 10.5 ftes.
- The Town Council has an annual budget, net of income, of approximately £600k.

WEB SITE

The Town Council's website is www.ventnortowncouncil.gov.uk.
