



COMMUNITY USE TUMBLE DRYER

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

PAPER C

14 JANUARY 2026

This report is to ask Members to consider installation of a community-use tumble dryer in the toilet lobby area of the Green Room, Salisbury Gardens

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The primary purpose of this proposal is to provide a reliable and accessible tumble-drying facility for public use, supporting individuals and families facing financial hardship – particularly during the colder winter months and in emergencies – living in accommodation without drying facilities and vulnerable residents such as the elderly or homeless
 - b) This proposal aligns with the Town Council’s commitment to community wellbeing and inclusive public services
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2) PROPOSED LOCATION

- a) Installation of a public-use tumble-dryer is proposed within the toilet area of the Green Room, an accessible space to the public and used as a community facility by the Wellbeing Café four days a week.
 - b) The location has adequate ventilation via an extractor fan and space for safe installation and use.
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3) COST CONSIDERATIONS

Estimated costs:-

- a) Purchase of a condenser-tumble-dryer:-
 - o a member of the public has kindly offered to purchase a tumble-dryer and donate to the Green Room for community use. He is a volunteer at the Wellbeing Café and sees how this will benefit the group.
 - b) Ongoing energy costs:-
 - o users will pay for each drying cycle based on the Council’s current electricity unit rate to cover energy usage.
 - c) additional electrical capacity in the form of a new double-socket will be required
 - o A member of public has offered to fund this work
 - d) additional fire extinguisher type “ABC” (dry-powder)
 - o Circa £50
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4) COMMUNITY GRANTS – SUCH AS HSF (HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND)

- a) Through grant funding, HSF funded the washing machine installed in the Green Room.
 - b) However, the Isle of Wight Council have highlighted its lack of use, asking Ventnor Town Council to increase its usage - especially in the winter months.
 - c) The main reason for non-use is lack of a drying facility; residents are unable to carry heavy wet washing from the Green Room to the launderette, or home – with very few owning a car.
 - d) Local Charity, BabyBox, are aware of residents who would benefit from using the washing machine, but have declined due to the lack of drying facilities.
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5) MANAGEMENT PLAN

- a) Tumble-dryer usage will be managed by a designated member of staff, by implementing a booking system to manage access and prevent misuse.
 - b) A charge of £2.00 will be made per load of washing to cover the approximate 5KWh of electricity used. This charge will be reviewed each time the building’s electricity unit rate changes.
 - c) Regular inspections will ensure safety and hygiene standards are met. Usage guidelines and instructions will be displayed in the laundry area and verbal, written and easy-read instructions provided for each new user.
 - d) Users will be required to remain on site for the duration of the use of the tumble dryer to ensure it is suitably monitored
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- e) Usage will be limited to four dryer sessions per calendar month per household, except in emergency circumstances. This is in consideration of the fact that when starting Universal Credit, there is often a period of up to 5 weeks before receipt of the first payment.
 - f) Users will be approved based on strict criteria:
 - o They must be local to the Ventnor area
 - o At least one of the following circumstances must apply:
 - i. demonstrated receipt to means-tested benefits (e.g. Universal Credit, Council Tax Support etc.)
 - ii. experiencing verified financial hardship (e.g. referral from accredited advice agency, social services, Isle of Wight Council, health visitor etc.)
 - iii. Emergency circumstances (e.g. appliance breakdown, homelessness, flood/fire etc. – limited to one emergency session per quarter pending verification)
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6) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to:

Consider the proposal for a community use tumble dryer to be installed at Salisbury Gardens, which will only cost the Council in terms of a minimal amount of staff time for management.
