



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10 PRESENTED BY THE TOWN MAYOR COUNCILLOR IAN WARD



Sandown Town Council

Since the last Annual Town Meeting the Council has met on 11 occasions. We continue to act on behalf of the local Community on many wide and varied issues. We respond as a Stakeholder Consultee for the Isle of Wight Council, Central Government and other Bodies. The Town Council has been well supported by Isle of Wight Ward Councillors, Heather Humby and Ian Ward who regularly reports on events at County Hall as they affect Sandown and the Bay Area.

Grants

Grants amounting to £7750 were given to various local organisations to support many activities in the Town.

Awards

Our Clerk worked to obtain a grant of £50,000 from Play England and we now have a new play area at Sandham Grounds for the older children. Our Council worked with the Isle of Wight Council and aided them to put in a successful bid for an adiZONE to be built in Sandown at Sandham Gardens. This is a facility for all ages and includes an out door gym. It is a facility that will be open 24/7 free to all.

Town Councillors.

There are Town Councillors on The Yar Working Party, Sandown Partnership, Tonny-Charente Twinning Association, St Pete Beach Sister City, Island Waste Advisory Group, Sandown Operatic Society, South Wight Youth Theatre, Sandown Youth Club, Sandown Forum, Bay Regeneration Working Party, and the Isle of Wight Beach Environment Advisory Committee. A police Liaison Working Party has been established to create stronger links between the Police and the Council. Our Councillors and our Clerk are committed to training and have been on various training courses throughout the year.

Sandown Bay Buoys

Our 8 buoys that are put into Sandown Bay from May to October have proved to be successful and we have received some thank you's from mainland boat owners.

Town Council Meetings

The Council continues to support the need for appropriate Regeneration for Sandown. The Council continue to bring to the notice of the Isle of Wight Council problems that effect residents of the town including the state of some of the buildings in Sandown, the state of the roads and HMO's. We were finally consulted about the Revetment and we made our views known about the dangers to pedestrians from cyclists using the Revetment We have also been consulted on Gambling Act 2005, Local Bus Consultation, Future of the Youth Service, Isle of Wight Dog Exclusion Order to name but a few.

We have had the Police and our Town Centre Manager attending our meetings as well as Kevin Burton talking on traffic matters. Jim Fawcett came to inform the Council about the Island Insulation Scheme that was being launched. Stuart Maine came and talked to us about the Fire and Rescue Service and the proposals for Sandown. The Sandown Bay Protection Forum came and talked to the Council about Set Netting in Sandown Bay. This is an issue that the Council is pursuing.

The Council ceased its membership of the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils as it felt the money could be put to better use. The Council has continued to aid Christ Church with a builder's enclosure to enable them to work on the Church as they had obtained additional funding for further repairs.

The Council continues to review its Risk Policy, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Mr Gareth Hughes our Internal Auditor reports regularly to the Town Council.

Sandown in Bloom

Sandown Town Council continues to run the Sandown in Bloom Competition. The entries were wonderful and we had more entries this year. Our Judge Bernard Cawley came and presented the prize and I thank everyone who took part for making this event a success especially our Clerk who cooked a wonderful hot forked buffet for all our guests.

Remembrance Day

There was a large turn out for the Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial and I must thank the Sandown and Shanklin Military Band for playing at the Service. I must also thank the Reverend Chris Feak for arranging and for conducting the Service, the Ryde Sea Cadets who carried out their duties so professionally,

to all our veterans who took part and our brownies, cubs, guides and scouts who helped make the parade a success. Lastly I must say on that morning it had been announced the death of another British soldier in Afghanistan reality came home to all of us when we had the 3 young soldiers standing in front of us with their campaign medals on, saying “When you go home tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow we gave our today”

Broadway Centre

The Council discussed the way forward with the Broadway Centre and amongst the issues were:-

- That the Council spends £400,000 on the building and takes out further loans.
- That we let South Wight Housing Association build a brand new Centre in an exchange of land and also getting some money.
- That part of the Broadway Centre is sold and the remaining part is done up and we could be debt free.
- Explore a Trust

The Council looked at these options with the following results:-

a. Costs of renovating and repairing the main building

The estimated costs of renovating and repairing the main building at the Broadway Centre which was not all inclusive as it did not take account of a new ring main, corridor between Yaverland and Clerks office or soundproofing of rooms was £199470 +Vat Tenders would have to be sought and specifications would also have to be drawn up.

b. Sale of Land to include Los Altos

An estimated value of a portion of the site that included Los Altos was approximately £600000

c. Southern Housing Association

Southern Housing Association proposal was an exchange of land with a new build. Concerns regarding problems that could be encountered with insurance and also the site. Sandown Town Council would receive less than £100000 from Southern Housing Association.

d. Set up a Trust

Liz Murrey Bembridge Parish Clerk came and talk to the Council about Trusts as she has knowledge of the advantages and pitfalls that Trusts can have.

The option the Council has agreed in principle to pursue is to keep the main school building and to get specifications drawn up for tenders. The others have been rejected. This work is ongoing.

Broadway Centre Lights

Thanks to Sandown Rotary for all their hard work in decorating the Broadway Centre with Christmas lights. Sandown Town Council sponsored the light by paying for the electricity and also agreed for them using the Broadway again this year.

Planning

The Committee met on 17 occasions over the past year and considered 59 planning applications 10 less than last year. Of these applications the Council supported 43 and objected to 13 and made no comment on 3. The Committee commented on 6 Premises licences. The Committee made comments on the Island Core Strategy for Waste Sites as well as responding to the Environmental Agency on their consultation of Coastal Defence and East Yar Strategy. I would like to thank Cllr Blezzard for his diligence as Chair of the Planning Committee.

The Mayor's Events.

I have attended many events over the last year and I thank everyone for the kind welcome I have received and my apologies to those organisations whose events I was unable to attend. I attended the Wight in Bloom presentations, Sandown Carnival, Sandown Regatta, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day for 40 Commando Royal Marines, Reception for Serviceman returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, Carol Services at St John's, and Methodist Churches, the Sandown Business Association, IW Council Chairman's Charity event, the opening of local Art Gallery as well as officially opening Sainsbury's.

Mayors Charity

My Mayors Charity was Help for Hero's. With a lot of help from many people we raised £600

I would like to thank my fellow Town Councillors and our Town Clerk for all their work and support. My wife for the many lonely evenings she's had, and also for accompanying me to many of the events. The County Press for attending our meetings and giving a balanced report.

Lastly, I am extremely grateful to the residents of Sandown and my fellow Town Councillors for giving me the privilege of being Mayor of our town of Sandown. It is an honour I will treasure for the rest of my life.

SUMMARY OF SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2009-10
Presented by Valerie Taylor M.I.L.C.M. Town Clerk

Accounts

The accounts for 2009-10 show the cash brought forward at the beginning of the year for 2010-11 is £169,405 which included the PWLB loan of £119,975.

The cash balance brought forward is £49,430 less ring fenced items to the value of £7,676. Included in the ring fencing are the following:-

- £2,523 Skate Park and YOF money,
- £651 Archivist,
- £750 One Million Bloom,
- £1,598 Skate Park,
- £1,534 for Buoys
- £620 Play England.

This leaves the Council with a working balance of £41,754 not counting the PWLB loan.

A target was set when I was appointed Clerk 5 years ago, to bring the balances up to a minimum of £30,000. This has continued to be achieved and has been exceeded over the last year. This will prove to be beneficial with all our projects coming to fruition at Sandham Gardens. This working balance is in line with the Audit Commission recommendations. Included in the 2009-10 accounts is outside funding of £50,000 that I was successful in obtaining from Play England

Our internal auditor is Mr Gareth Hughes who thoroughly audits our accounts on a regularly basis. Income and expenditure is presented to the Council together with the Councils spend against the budget on a monthly basis.

Sandown Town Council has received the Auditor's certification from the Audit Commission for the 2008-09 Accounts.