



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL REPORT 2006-07 PRESENTED BY THE TOWN MAYOR COUNCILLOR MEREWEATHER.

Sandown Town Council

Since the last Annual Town meeting the Council has met regularly and has held 13 Town Council Meetings. It has continued to act on behalf of the local Community on many wide and varied issues. It has continued to respond as a Stakeholder Consultee for the Isle of Wight Council, Central Government and other Bodies. The Town Council has been well supported by Ward Councillors, Heather Humby and Ian Ward who regularly reports on events at County Hall as they affect Sandown and the Bay Area. The Town Council look forward to continue working with them this year.

Grants

Grants were given to various local organisations to support many activities in the Town. Sandown Business Association received a grant towards their Christmas Eve Fun day as well as The Big Top which was a first for Sandown to put on an event cover 8 days with activities and shows for everyone. Total amount paid in grants 2006/7 was £7350.

Awards

Sandown Town Council has won two awards. The first was a Parish Award of £4000. The second was a 1 Million Bloom Award of £1500 which will allow the Band Stand at Sandham Gardens to be planted up with sustainable plants, and also an area of Sandown Station where the disabled ramp is to be enhanced and planted with sustainable plants in collaboration with Sandown Partnership who also won an award for this project.

Town Councillors.

There are Town Council Representatives on The Association of Parish and Town Councils, 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, and the Bay Regeneration Working Party. Our Councillors are committed to training and have been on various training courses.

Youth Project

Our Council is committed to this project which is being led by Sandown Partnership as they can access funds. This will enable our young people to have somewhere to go and something to do. The Council has allocated £12000 towards this project and we are waiting for the completion of a lease for this to go ahead.

Town Council Meetings

The Town Council has been in continuous communication with the Isle of Wight Council regarding the state of the public toilets in Sandown especially Eastern Gardens and the toilets in Sandham Grounds. As a main tourist destination our toilets were disgraceful. We have been promised more cleaning of the toilets this year as well as some of the toilets being upgraded. The Council agreed to work with Cowes Business Association to bring a French Market to Sandown. This event was very popular.

We have pursued the concerns ratepayers have raised regarding the unsightly buildings in the town. We have supported the retaining of our own Fire Service and not joining up with Hampshire. We have attended the presentation of the Yaverland Regeneration proposal.

Inspector Kenny has attended our Council meeting regarding Policing in Sandown and also the problems caused by young people drinking and vandalising our town. Additional meetings have also been held with representatives from Safer Communities. Mr Hards from the Citizen's Advice Bureau attended a Council Meeting and talked about how they could help Sandown residents.

The Council has talked about the Town Hall and the future of the Broadway Centre. No decision has been taken by the Council except that when all the facts are known it will be put before the electorate of Sandown who will, through a ballot referendum decide. The Council supported the building of the new Sandown Medical Centre and also lobbied the Isle of Wight Council to make sure they knew how critical a new surgery was for the town.

Town Council Consultation

A large amount of consultation now takes place where our Council's opinions are sort and this is debated at our Council Meetings. We have responded to the following consultations this year:-

Isle of Wight Council Bay Regeneration Consultation.

Island enquiry into Ports Sustainability.

Isle of Wight Subsidised Bus Service.

Post Office Consultation.

Fire and Rescue Consultation.

Isle of Wight Boundary Revision.

Isle of Wight Education Consultation.

Isle of Wight Youth Engagement Strategy.

Regional Housing Strategy Review.

South East Plan.

Isle of Wight Community Speed Watch-Pilot Scheme.

Yaverland Car Park Proposal.

Events

Sandown Town Council has run the Sandown in Bloom Competition this last year and she thanked every one who entered for making this event a success. There was a large turn out for the Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial and the Mayor thanked Staff Sergeant Lloyd who had just returned from Iraq for doing one of the readings. She also thanked the Rev. Chris Feak for conducting the Service and also the Rev Antony Oakley for the Service at the Methodist Church.

She reported that our French Twinning Association led by the Mayor of Tonney-Charente visited us in September. It was a very successful visit and a number of us went on a reciprocal visit paid for by ourselves to Tonney-Charente this March and were made to feel very welcome they were hospitable hosts. The Council again supported the Mountbatten Hospice Appeal Light up a Life and she thanked Sandown Operatic Society for the entertainment and the Rev Chris Feak for his help with this event.

The Mayor's Events.

At a request from the Business Association a meeting was arranged with Southern Vectis, Police, Hoteliers and Safer Communities to sort out the problem in the High Street caused by a late night bus being withdrawn. This led to a successful outcome.

She had attended the Wight in Bloom presentations, Sandown Carnival, IW Council Chairman's Reception, Sandown Regatta, the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the new Health Centre at the Heights, Remembrance Day Service, and the joint Sandown Townswomen's Guilds Annual Carol Concert. She thanked everyone for their warm welcome and apologised to those organisations whose events she was unable attend. She has also attended numerous consultation meetings on matters relating to Sandown.

The Mayor reported that £202 had been raised at her coffee morning for the scanner appeal. She reported that a number of organisations had held events for her Charity and had paid the money direct to the centre. The scanner fund was now at £8000 and she hoped the incoming Mayor would continue this appeal. Cllr Mereweather thanked the Clerk for all her hard work and support and the Council for giving her the privilege of being Mayor of Sandown for a second year. She hoped everyone would support the incoming Mayor in May as you have supported her.

SUMMARY OF THE ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported on the 2006-7 accounts. She reported that they were a solvent Council with £28760 in the Premier account and £2098 in the current account giving a total amount of cash at the year ending being brought forward of £30858. She reminded the meeting that £16000 of that money was ring fenced for projects including the Youth Project.

As a Council they had exceeded the bank interest and room hire targets but had not met the market or Chronicle target but money was still to come in for the Chronicle. The loan on the Broadway Centre had been renegotiated giving a saving to the Council of £2300 per year. The Council had hit most of its financial budget headings. The installation of the Fire alarm to comply with legal requirements was coming out of this years finances. The Clerk reported that the Council had been a very prudent Council looking for Best Value for goods purchased. She also said she would like to see the Council achieve a financial reserve of 3 months.

BROADWAY CENTRE REPORT PRESENTED BY CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADWAY CENTRE COUNCILLOR GARY YOUNG.

Cllr Young reported the Committee has met on 4 occasions during the year. Hiring charges have been reviewed and increased due to a rise in utility costs and as there had been no increase in charges for two years.

A new cooker had been purchased for the Main Hall kitchen and a dishwasher for Los Altos kitchen. Yaverland Room has new tables, and Los Altos has been redecorated. Continuing repairs have taken place during the year. Island Waste has put recycling bins at the Broadway Centre and it is hoped that Sandown residents use them.

To meet the new Fire Regulations the Archivist's Office is now the Archivist's store room and no members of the public are allowed to have access to it. A new fire alarm system is being installed to meet the new fire regulations. Failure to have done this would have resulted in not being able to hire our rooms to members of the public.

Discussions have taken place regarding repairing and upgrading certain facilities in the Broadway Centre which will prove expensive. The Council has agreed to the recommendation from the Management Committee to apply for a £120000 loan to cover the work that needs to be carried out, pending a decision on the future of the Broadway Centre which will be made by the electorate of Sandown in a referendum ballot. Cllr Young thanked both Ray and Joan Marshall for their splendid work at the Centre and said how much it is appreciated.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Blezzard reported that the Planning Committee had met on 20 occasions during the year and had commented to the Isle of Wight Council on 101 Planning Applications and our Councillors had also attended Planning Training.

The Committee had commented on the South East Regional Plan which will have serious implications for the Island and for Sandown. There is a great deal of concern within the Council about the number of hotels that are being demolished and replaced by flats. This is not only reducing our tourism base but also employment opportunities in the town.

Sandown Town Council had raised concerns with the Isle of Wight Council during the year about the increased development in Sandown and the lack of infrastructure in our town to support new developments.

As a Planning Committee we have raised concerns about the lack of adequate Planning Enforcement in Sandown by the Isle of Wight Council. It is understand that these concerns

ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH APRIL 2007 AT THE BROADWAY CENTRE SANDOWN.

SANDOWN TOWN COUNCILLORS

Mayor Cllr Gary Young 404479

Deputy Mayor Cllr Ian Ward 403324

SANDOWN NORTH

Cllr D. Beevers 402486
Cllr Connie Cowley 404823
Cllr Chris Dupre 401430
Cllr Jacquie Mereweather 404415
Cllr Val Stephenson 402332

SANDOWN SOUTH

Cllr Bob Blezzard 402259
Cllr David Rogers 403259
Cllr Ronnie Teasdale 400150
Cllr Penny Woolley 864961
Cllr Cathy Wright 402259

TOWN CLERK

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