



Mrs Valerie Taylor MILCM
SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

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**ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL REPORT 2008-09 PRESENTED BY
THE TOWN MAYOR COUNCILLOR IAN WARD**

Sandown Town Council

Since the last Annual Town Meeting the Council has met on 13 occasions. We publicise our Council Meetings in the Chronicle which every householder in the electoral division of Sandown gets every 2 months, in the Town Council Notice Board as well as on our website.

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 were given to various local organisations to support many activities in the Town. Sandown Carnival received a grant towards Christmas Eve Fun Day which they stepped in and organised this event for the Town as well financial support for the Fireworks Event that they held on the 5th November 08. Total amount paid in grants 2008/9 was £7,000

Awards

Our Clerk worked with a group of young people to obtain a £20,000 Grant to go towards the building of the Skate Park. She has been successful in obtaining yesterday a grant from Play England for £49,000 for the play area phase at Sandham Grounds.

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, and the Bay Regeneration Working Party, the Isle of Wight Beach Environment Advisory Committee. Our Councillors and our Clerk are committed to training and have been on various training courses throughout the year.

Skate Park Youth Project

At last our Skate Park is completed. Our Clerk acted as Project Manager for the co-ordination and building of the Skate Park and all the headaches that this involved. Our young people have a tremendous facility and I must thank Sandown Partnership for working so hard on this project and especially Cllr Val Stephenson who continues to raise money with me at the Sunday Car Boot Sales at Fort Street Car Park for the second phase which is a multi purpose games area.

No Cold Calling Zones Project

Sandown Town Council funded an information pack that was delivered to every household in the Sandown Electoral Area that made Sandown a No Cold Calling Zone. This was done to try to inform all householders especially the elderly and vulnerable what to do and who to contact about door step traders. You will hopefully all be displaying your yellow stickers showing your house is a no cold calling zone.

Sandown Bay Buoys

To encourage visitors to call at Sandown the Council have purchased 8 buoys that are put into Sandown Bay from May to October so visiting boat owners will have some where to moor and hopefully come and spend in our Town.

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 the state of some of the buildings in Sandown. The Council was consulted on the design of Yaverland new toilets and their suggestions were listened to and acted upon

We have been successful in getting Richard Davis to take on the role of the Older Persons Champion for Older Voices.

We have continued to voice our concerns over the future of Shanklin Theatre and have requested that repairs to the theatre are urgently carried out.

We have had the Police and our Town Centre Manager attending our meetings Hannah Birks from Island 2000 Trust invited artists to put forward their ideas for the wall at Eastern Gardens the results are there for all to see.

The Council supported the retention of our two local primary schools and had a meeting with the representatives of the Isle of Wight Council and the Portsmouth Diocese.

The Council had a meeting with Mr Curtis-Botting to consider a no drinking zone for Sandown. The Council has raised concerns about the seats being taken away from the High Street as there is no where for our elderly to sit down.

The Council no longer runs the Markets as the Isle of Wight Council can no longer grant the Town Council a Licence as all stall holders have to be registered with them. However, led by the Sandown Community Partnership we have established a car boot sale in Fort Street car park on Sunday mornings, the proceeds of which are going towards our planned multisport area.

The Council has received a presentation from Lee Matthews regarding the involvement of Sandown in the Island Games. The Council has met with Cllr Pugh and raised issues of concern including Houses of Multiple Occupancy, Regeneration of the Bay Area, Tourism, Battery Gardens, Shanklin Theatre, Youth Service, Motor Cross and Extreme Sports, Sandown Airport and Planning.

The Council gave permission to Christ Church for a builder's enclosure to enable them to work on the Church as they had obtained a Lottery heritage Fund for the repairs.

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

We have heard from a representative of the Optio Car Scheme. We have set up a Police Liaison Working Party.

The Clerk reported to the Council that she had submitted a bid to the Isle of Wight Council for the 2nd and 3rd phase of the Play Area, as Play England has awarded the Isle of Wight Council £1,200,000 for 2 years to cover 22 projects and bids had been requested from the Councils.

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 numerous consultation documents including the following:- Code of Standards Committee, Balance of Power between Local and National Government, Election Day-Weekend and E-Voting, Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations. Creating an Environment for the Third Sector, Parish Charter, Consultation Regarding the Making and Enforcement of Byelaws, Consultation on new toilets for Pier Street, Codes of Conduct of local Authority Members and Employees. Old Enough to make a Mark Consultation, Parish Team Consultation, Consultation on Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity and Consultation on Local Bus Services.

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 High Sheriff Alan Titchmarsh 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 despite the weather and I must thank the Sandown and Shanklin Military Band for playing at the Service as well as Malcolm McGregor the piper who led the Parade. I must also thank the Rev. Chris Feak and the Rev Chris Etherington 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.

Broadway Centre Lights

Thanks to Sandown Rotary for all their hard work in decorating the Broadway Centre with Christmas lights that have been kindly donated by Oscar Stretch. Sandown Town Council sponsored the light by paying for the electricity. Money was raised for 4 charities and many people especially the children enjoyed the lights and the snow machine.

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, IW Council Chairman's Reception, Sandown Regatta, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day for 40 Commando Royal Marines, Reception for Serviceman returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, reception for the War-time Home Service Veterans, Carol Services at St John's, the Baptist and Methodist Churches, the Sandown Business Association Reception, Regatta Queen selection, IW Council Chairman's Charity event, the Army Benevolent Fund lunch, the Hospice sponsored Big Cycle ride, the opening of Yaverland toilets, Brading Villa for the visit by Prince Edward, plus various other fund raising and other events within the town.

I would like to thank my fellow Town Councillors and our Town Clerk for all their hard work and support. Also, Ray and Joan for everything they do. My wife for the many lonely evenings she had, and for accompanying me on many 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 2008-09 Presented by Valerie Taylor MILCM Town Clerk

Accounts

The accounts for 2008-09 show the cash brought forward at the beginning of the year for 2009-10 was £164978 which included the PWLB loan of £119,975.

Within this cash balance is ring fenced items to the value of £10,882. These include £3,283 Skate Park and YOF money, £651 Archivist, £750 One Million Bloom, £3,000 Esplanade Lighting, £1,628 Skate Park and £1,570 for Buoys.

This leaves the Council with a working balance of £34,121 not counting the PWLB loan. A target was set when I was appointed Clerk to bring the balances up to a minimum of £30,000. This has been achieved over the last three years. This working balance is in line with the Audit Commission recommendations.

Included in the 2008-09 accounts is outside funding of £20,000 that I achieved with a group of young people for the skate park.

Our internal auditor is Mr Gareth Hughes who thoroughly audits our accounts quarterly. 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 2007-08 Accounts

BROADWAY CENTRE REPORT PRESENTED BY COUNCILLOR DAVE ROGERS CHAIRMAN OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

The Broadway Centre is used on a regular basis by groups such as The Isle of Wight Council, the Health Authority, Blood transfusion Service and smaller organizations from both Sandown and the wider Island. It is most creditable that the annual room rental income has risen from £16,300 to £18,697 during the life of this Council.

As many of you will know Sandown Town Council has a new flag that is flown at the Centre. The previous white background was quite impractical and after much discussion the committee chose a light /mid blue. Given the feedback that I have received this is a most popular choice.

The Committee met to discuss the Consultants Survey report that showed work to the value of £365,000 was required to bring the Centre up to scratch and this total did not include V.A.T. This total is not put about to scare people. It is an estimate calculated by a

highly regarded Chartered Civil Engineer. The Committee prioritized the work that needed immediate attention and this came to £230,900. A list of those immediate repairs is attached at the end of this report however be mindful that this total does not take into account any additional work that may be found once the refurbishments are commenced.

Funding has been pursued by the Clerk to finance this work and she has worked her way through a list that was drawn up. The funds suggested were -

1. The Principle Council where no grant was available.
2. 106 Contributions - there is no 106 money available in Sandown at the present time as it was earmarked and used for the skate park.
3. Landfill Tax under objective D3 where we did not meet the criteria.
4. Awards for All and Lottery Funding (Big Lottery Funding Reaching Communities) who after discussion decided that we did not meet their criteria.
5. English Heritage who stated that they have no funding available to support the many Victorian School buildings requesting help.
6. The Clerk has also worked her way through various charitable trusts all to no avail so at the present time the only funding available would be through the parish precept.

During the year there has been ongoing maintenance that reflects the age and decline of the buildings. Roof tiles have been re-secured and replaced and the window arch in Los Altos has been repaired to stop the window from falling out and I mean the whole frame not just a piece of glass. The heating system has continually broken down and is totally inadequate and the use of electrical heaters has highlighted the fact that the ring main rating will not support enough electric heaters to heat this building in winter.

The future of this Centre will be decided by the new Council and they have some tough decisions to make. As things stand at present and as I have stated previously the only way of financing the required repairs and upgrades is through the Parish precept although to ease that burden the Clerk will continue to chase any available money but as I have been told, with the recession and the Olympic Games coming up don't hold your breath.

Let me make my personal position clear. I attended this school from 1945 to 1950 when Mr. Moody was the headmaster and teachers of the like of Trevor Williams, Ginny Castle and Lillian Janes were quite brilliant and through their efforts did much to shape the youth of Sandown. It was the days of separate boys and girls playgrounds and the current Council Chamber was where I once sat as Form 3 with Mr. Cooper as my Form Master. It was the time that each Christmas Mr. Moody would appear in each class with a large enamel mug full of threepenny pieces and shout "who wants a drink out of my mug" and we all lined up and were quite happy to be given just one coin each. It is the school that my father attended and his father before him so I will take no lectures from those who tell me that I have no feeling of the history or heritage of the school and just want to get rid of the place. I am more than happy to retain this building but not at any cost.

However let us be realistic for one moment. The Questions to be addressed by the new Council are, if we want to keep the centre are we happy to saddle the electorate of Sandown with a bill for a sum approaching £400,000 pounds remembering that no other Town or Parish Council provides like facilities but they can all use these for a few pounds and those who have shouted loudest for retention have never come up with any source of funding. The alternative is to consider selling the whole or part of the site which in itself throws up a whole host of new questions.

If retention is favored should we go ahead and spend the £120,000 pound loan without having the rest of the money in place because the priorities have changed since the survey. The first problem to be dealt with must be the drains most of which have fractured or become blocked, and it is anyone's guess where all the effluent is going because it is not going into the sewers.

This will be followed closely by two new heating systems and new windows and these items will take up most if not all of the loan. There is light amongst all of this gloom and it comes in the shape of the staff that we have at this centre. The caretaker Mr. Ray Marshall and his wife Joan work their socks off to keep this centre up to scratch and Val Taylor the Clerk who has generally sorted out most problems before I get to hear about them. They alone have made this job so much easier and I am sure that Councillors will all join me in a vote of thanks to them for their outstanding contribution to the upkeep of this Centre.

	COST
MAIN BUILDING	
Roof	
Re-secure all loose and slipped slates	£1,650.00
Replace render and pointing to original verges	£687.50
Minor Repairs and redecorating of all timber and bargeboards and fascia	£3,781.25
Repairs to guttering and down pipe	£550.00
Walls	
Carry out repair to loose parapet stones on western gable end	£2,062.50
Render and repoint repairs	£3,162.50
Insert Cintec Harke Anchors in SE corner	£1,495.00
Make good cracked mortar joints	£250.00
Provide 178x102x19 UBx5700 long connecting beams inclusive of padstones and connection to main rafters over Sandham Room and Yaverland Room	£2,970.00
Remove existing steel rod ties over Sandham Room	£250.00
Construct hanger brackets and 47x147 trimmer beams to ceiling in Sandham and Yaverland Rooms. Trimmers 5450mm long	£1,500.00
e.o. Previous item for 47x197 C24 Plate Bolted to walls	£125.00
Provide New Windows as quote already received (60% of £24500)	£14,700.00

Remove and reinstate radiators on external walls	£2,304.00
Replace staircase to first floor office including redecoration, modification ect	£1,000.00
Upgrade disabled access ramps and balustrades	£2,500.00
Upgrade WC's to include reinforcing first floor Archive Store, Unisex disabled WC and replace staircase to first floor	£25,000.00
e.o. Previous item for 47x197 C24 Plate Bolted to walls	£125.00
Remove existing steel rod ties over Sandham Room	£250.00
Construct hanger brackets and 47x147 trimmer beams to ceiling in Sandham and Yaverland Rooms. Trimmers 5450mm long	£1,500.00
Los Altos	
Resecure all loose and slipped slates	£275.00
Recover the flat roof over boiler room inclusive of lifting lower slates on adjoining slopes and dressing down. Alwitra is recommended for durability.	£923.00
Recover the flat roof over male WC inclusive of lifting lower slates on adjoining slopes and dressing down. Alwitra is recommended for durability.	£639.00
Replace small section of decorative hanging tile hanging above main window in south elevation	£550.00
Provide new windows as quote already received (40% of £24000)	£9,800.00
Remove and reinstate sanitary ware	£300.00
Remove and reinstate radiators on external walls	£576.00
Upgrade disabled access ramps and balustrades	£900.00
Hall to accommodate male WC's and Unisex disabled WC	£80,000.00
Drainage	
Replace rwdp gully and trap	£375.00
100mm drain under grass	£315.00
New soakaway in grass	£840.00
Dig out and replace 150mm vc pipe under parking area and reinstate Depth n.e. 1 m	£11,480.00
Dig out and replace 150mm vc pipe under parking area and reinstate Depth average 1.25m.	£6,720.00
Replace or rebuild New Inspection Chambers	£3000
Dig out and repair MH6 not greater than 2m deep	£1,220.00
Repairs to Boundary Wall	£1,500
Scaffolding and other H&S aspects	£12,500.00
Allow for general Prelims and overheads	£15,000.00
Central Heating	£20000
TOTAL EXCLUDING VAT	£230,900.75

**PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT PRESENTED BY COUNCILLOR BOB BLEZZARD
CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Committee has met on 19 occasions over the past year and considered 69 planning applications. It is significant that this figure is down 37% from last year's figure of 110 and this must to a great extent be attributed to the effects of the recession. The Committee objected to 17 or around 25% of applications. To date two of these applications have been withdrawn and eleven have been dealt with by the Isle of Wight Council. Of these seven have been refused representing a 64% success rate for our objections, a significant improvement on the previous year.

The Committee remains very concerned at the proliferation of HMO's, (not helped by an appeal decision by the Planning Inspectorate), the demolition of hotels to make way for residential development (despite the recession) and the apparent wish to cram additional housing into every undeveloped space within housing estates, in some cases filling up space allocated for gardens.

The recession is of course highlighted in Sandown High Street by the demise of Woolworths. We are of course delighted to welcome Sainsbury's to fill the void and hope that the presence of this flagship store will give the retail sector a welcome boost.

The committee commented positively on the Island Plan Core Strategy which is continuing through the consultation process at a snails pace.

As this will be my last report before the election I would like to thank my fellow committee members and the Clerk for their work over the three years I have been Chair of the Planning Committee.

**ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON
THE 22ND APRIL 2009 AT THE BROADWAY CENTRE SANDOWN.**