



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL REPORT 2007-08 PRESENTED BY THE TOWN MAYOR COUNCILLOR GARY YOUNG

Sandown Town Council

Since the last Annual Town Meeting the Council has met on 12 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 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 Sandown Carnival to support the Fireworks Event that they held on the 5th November 07. Total amount paid in grants 2006/7 was £8350

Awards

To obtain Quality Council our Clerk had to obtain her CiLCA qualification. After this she continued to work on putting together a Portfolio for our Council to apply for Quality Council Status. We were successful and have been granted Quality Town Council status the 535 Council to achieve this. On the Island we now have 11 as Shanklin and Totland have just achieved their Quality Status. This means 33% of our Island Councils have Quality Status more than any other county. I congratulate and thank Val our Town Clerk for all her hard work and achievements.

Town Councillors.

There are Town Council Representatives on The Isle of Wight Association of Local 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, 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 including the new Code of Conduct training.

Youth Project

Our Youth project is progressing. Our young people will soon have the much promised skate park and I must thank Sandown Partnership for working so hard on this project and especially Cllr Val Stephenson as well as Cllr Jacquie Mereweather and Cllr Ronnie Teasdale. Our Council is committed to this project and I know that the Partnership is working hard to access funds for the second phase. The delay was caused by a delay in obtaining the lease.

Town Council Meetings

The Council has adopted the new Model Code of Conduct Order 2007. The Council supports the need for appropriate Regeneration for Sandown. The Council has brought to the notice of the Isle of Wight Council the state of some of the buildings in Sandown and has had to complain on a number of occasions about the state of some of the toilets.

I have chaired a joint meeting with Lake Parish Councillors regarding the proposed closure of the Health Centre at Lake which resulted in the Health Authority having to go out to public consultation. The Council had people from Trading Standards to come and talk to us about No Cold Calling Zones and we are implementing No Cold Calling Zones for the whole of Sandown in the new financial year.

We have endeavoured to get an Older Persons Champion for Older Voices. (I am told that in next years report we will be able to say we have succeeded.) We have supported the retention of Shanklin Theatre. We have had the Police and our Town Centre Manager attending our meetings. We have commented on the timing of Wightaire and suggested it is not held in August again. We had Hannah Birks from Island 2000 Trust come and talk to us about the Art Project at Eastern Gardens.

The Council has reviewed its Risk Policy and appointed Mr Gareth Hughes as the new Internal Auditor due to the retirement of our previous Auditor and I would like to thank Mrs Grist for the work she has done for us. The Council has supported the request to the Office of Fair Trading to look at the Isle of Wight ferry fares. We have discussed the Beach Cleaning and Public Cleansing contract and have asked the Isle of Wight Council to let us see the proposed schedule of the cleaning of the toilets before it goes out to tender. The Council has supported the Clerks request to work with the Isle of Wight Council to draw up a local Emergency Plan for Sandown that will dovetail into the Island Emergency Plan.

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:-

Draft Submission on Consultation on the Electoral Division of the Isle of Wight, Proposed Isle of Wight Dog Act. Propose changes in the Licensing Act 2003. The proposed closure of Island Post Offices. Education consultation in which the Council did not support the closing of our local primary schools and did not support any of the 3 options proposed by the Isle of Wight Council for the future of Education. The Council has had numerous consultation meetings with the Isle of Wight Council and the Architects regarding the proposed new toilets at Yaverland. The Council was consulted on the continuation of the tripartite agreement between the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and the Isle of Wight Council. We have consulted the electorate of Sandown on the Broadway Centre in an Opinion Poll.

Events

Sandown Town Council continues to run the Sandown in Bloom Competition. The entries were wonderful and I thank everyone who took part for making this event a success. The Sandown in Bloom Awards were given out in November and everyone enjoyed the presentation evening.

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 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, for the Ryde Sea Cadets that carried out their duties so professionally and to all our veterans that took part and our brownies, cubs, guides and scouts who helped make the parade a success. The Council sponsored the Mountbatten Hospice Appeal Light up a Life evening and I wish to thank Sandown Operatic Society for the entertainment and the Rev Chris Feak for his help with this event.

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 be at.

I attended the Wight in Bloom presentations, Sandown Carnival, IW Council Chairman's Reception, Sandown Regatta, the Official opening of the new Health Centre at the Heights, Remembrance Day Service and many more. The Mayor reported he was at Sandown High School yesterday at the Launch of Sandown Rocks.

I would like to thank the Clerk for all her hard work and support, Ray and Joan for everything they do, my wife for keeping my diary and accompanying me on many events and the Council for giving me the privilege of being Mayor of Sandown and lastly I would like to thank the County Press for attending our meetings.

Summary of Accounts

The Clerk presented a summary of the 2007-08 accounts and reported that the cash brought forward at the beginning was £30858. We have received £279384 and paid out £107895 in 2007-08. Our receipts are high because it includes our PWLB loan of £119958. Our cash balance is £171489 including our PWLB loan. Disregarding our PWLB loan we have a cash balance of £51531. There are some items that are ring-fenced included in that figure amounting to £16801. The ring fence items are:- £750 1 million in bloom, £15400 youth project, £651 for the archives. A target was set to bring the set at bringing a balance forward 3 years ago to £30000 and this has been achieved.

BROADWAY CENTRE REPORT PRESENTED BY COUNCILLOR ROGERS CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADWAY CENTRE.

The Broadway Centre is regularly used, mainly by groups such as the Isle of Wight Council, the Health Authority and local organizations and it is worth noting that since this Council has been sitting the income from letting rooms has increased from approximately £16,300 to £18,007 Per annum and this will hopefully continue to increase year on year.

This may also be an opportune time to dispel the rumour that has been spread around the town that the centre is not open at weekends. Provided that the booking fits in with the caretakers leave requirements and the income is more than the Council's costs, weekend bookings are being taken.

The only major change this year has been the installation of a new fire alarm system which meets all the current legislation. One minor change is the removal of the green corrugated shed adjacent to the church wall although there is still some clearing up to be carried out in this area.

Councillors will know that we have acquired a PSB loan of £120,000 to update this public building to meet all the requirements of current Health and Safety and Disabled Regulations and to renew the heating systems in both buildings. The need for this was brought home to us in January when the system packed up completely and the centre was therefore closed for four days.

There is a knock on effect once this work is commenced. Again we are bound by the legislation that states that as soon as we install a more efficient heating system we must lower our carbon footprint and Councillors will know that we are awaiting the survey report on the buildings and the work required to achieve this. This will of course entail additional expenditure and we will have to see if this can be contained within the existing loan. I understand the survey report has been prepared in draft form and the finished article should be with us within the next two weeks.

Regrettably Mr. Hall the Archivist retired early last year and a subsequent inspection by a qualified Archivist highlighted several shortcomings in our storage arrangements. This also seems an opportune time to say that we do not hold the town archives. By a kind and generous arrangement Mr. Findon the owner of the Isle of Wight Chronicles has allowed this Council to act as custodian of these papers and this is all we hold apart from a few photocopied maps and photographs and notes compiled by Mr. Hall on local families and events. It is however the intention of the Council to implement the Archivists findings and in the next month all

of the papers and other information will be moved to a cupboard off of the Culver room where the temperature is better suited to storage. By then we will also have an idea of the type and amount of correct files required for the stowage of these items.

The highlight of the year was the opinion poll held by this council to obtain the electorates view on the future of the centre. This was disappointing as of the 5253 eligible voters 57.4% did not bother to express an opinion. Of the 2232 people who voted, 868 stated they would like to retain the centre as it is.

Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to the caretaker Mr. Ray Marshall and his wife Joan who work so hard to keep this centre what it is and also to the Clerk who has generally sorted any problem before I hear about it. They have made this job so much easier and I hope that all Councillors will join me in appreciation of their outstanding contribution to the upkeep of this centre.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT PRESENTED BY COUNCILLOR BLEZZARD CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING.

The Committee has met on 19 occasions over the past year and considered 110 planning applications. Of these the Committee objected to 32 or about 30%. To date 30 of these applications have been dealt with by the Isle of Wight Council. In ten cases (33.3%) the IW Council agreed with Sandown and refused the application. Seven applications (23.3%) were withdrawn and thirteen applications (43.3%) were approved against the recommendation of the Town Council.

On one occasion the Committee changed its recommendation on a planning application for a development at the corner of Leed Street and The Broadway from recommending approval to recommending refusal. This was done following receipt of further information from a neighbouring resident. The Committee will not always get it right and will base its recommendations on information available at the time. Where we get it wrong and can subsequently rectify the situation we will do so.

I attended the Isle of Wight Planning Committee on two occasions during the year to put forward the Town Council's objections to two applications. One application was for a house on land at the entrance to Culver Way, Yaverland and one was for a house of multiple occupancy (HMO) at Grafton Street. In both these cases the IW Council Planning Committee accepted our objections and refused the application. The Grafton Street application has been resubmitted and at the time of writing this report the result is not known. The resubmitted application is to be considered at County Hall on 22 April and an update will be given at the Town Meeting.

Other items dealt with during the year include submitting comments on the new Island Plan Core Strategy and on the new nationally standardised planning application forms.

ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON THE 23RD APRIL 2008 AT THE BROADWAY CENTRE SANDOWN.