



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

# Press Release

## BOLD BLUEPRINT FOR BRIGHTER FUTURE

Members of Sandown Town Council met recently to discuss immediate priorities for the Town, as well as outline plans for the future priorities that the Town Council can take forward, and those that partner agencies or organisations lead on. A draft planning document has been produced that will be brought to full Council at the next meeting for further discussion / amendment and hopefully adoption.

In the immediate term the Town Council has funded a Beach Safety Service and the installation of Buoys in the Bay, as part of a commitment that has secured Blue Flag Status for Sandown. They are in the final stages of opening St John's Public Toilets following a major refurbishment; and work on the Steven Jenkins Playpark is planned for later in July, and to be completed before the school holidays.

Longer term plans include work on Eastern Gardens Toilets, where funding has been allocated. Looking beyond that the Council will also be looking at further projects in Sandham Gardens and potentially Los Altos park and Ferncliffe gardens.

Councillors also wish to help shape plans for Derelict Buildings in the Town, the future use of Browns, looking at how it can work towards regeneration of the High Street, as well as other initiatives working alongside partner agencies and helping influence other areas of activity within the Town, such as accessibility and public transport.

Town Mayor Paddy Lightfoot said 'The Town Council have allocated funds for immediate projects, such as Toilets and Sandham Grounds, and these have longer term implications. We are also looking at longer term issues and emphasising a wish to work with other organisations and agencies on bigger initiatives and projects, which can only be realised by working in partnership, and by co-operation'.

This work plan will be the driver behind setting up a number of working parties (task & finish groups) formed by councillors but with the expectation that they will include members of the public whose special interests / expertise will aid the work of these groups. The working parties will be open to the public to attend and it is expected that they will also engage residents through public consultation as plans develop.

The aim is for the plan to be a 'living document' that is reviewed and updates on a regular basis. Projects and activities may be added or removed and budgets allocated / re-allocated as the Council sees fit If priorities change.

Details of the plan will be discussed at the Town Council Meeting planned for Monday 19 July 2021, from 7pm.

Town Clerk: Richard Priest

The Broadway Centre, 1 Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight. PO36 9GG

Tel: (01983) 408 287 / (01983) 300 329

Email: [admin@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk) [townclerk@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk)



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