



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

# Press Release

## LONGTERM LIFEGUARD LEGACY

Sandown Town Councillors celebrated the development of a longer term beach safety strategy, working with Todd Miller, national trainer and manager of the local service.

Members highlighted the provision of safety buoys in the Bay, alongside provision in Lake and Shanklin, which has helped address jet-ski concerns of residents; the provision of a lifeguard station, a base for lifeguards and look out station for beach safety; securing grants for the provision of accessible beach wheelchairs; partnership work with Sandown & Shanklin Independent Lifeboat Service; provision of walkie-talkies for local concessionaires; provided sea safe sessions for local young people; first aid and defib provision; and investment in Eastern Gardens Toilets.

Mayor Paddy Lightfoot said 'This partnership approach has secured grants, enabled capacity building, increased accessibility, help secure the Island's only blue flag, and more importantly provided a high quality beach safety service for the benefit of residents and visitors.' Deputy Mayor Alex Lightfoot added 'The Town Council value the work of Todd and his team of lifeguards, with the benefit of longer term certainty we can continue to develop the beach safety service, apply for additional funding for specific projects, and jointly work to increase accessibility.'

The Town Council recently approved a budget that continue this long term provision for beach safety, alongside matched funding to support grant applications, as well as other beach side initiatives which will shortly be announced once plans are finalised. Todd Miller concluded 'Working with Sandown has enabled the service to grow, providing more opportunities for younger people, as well as skilling up local school children and trainee lifeguards to build long-term capacity and provision.'



Picture L-R Sandown Mayor Paddy Lightfoot, Todd Miller, Cllrs Sue Betts, Frank Baldry, Heather Humby MBE, Toby Wilcock, Jenny Hicks, Ian Fletcher & Deputy Mayor Alex Lightfoot.