

# SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

JUNE 2019

## MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year 2017/18 was a very difficult year but thanks to very careful budgeting this year the Town Council's Finances have improved so that we were able to reduce the town's precept while still maintaining our assets. We also received the VAT refund.

This year has been a moving forward year with many hurdles to be overcome. However I am pleased that we have worked through the difficulties.

The year started with the opening of the Broadway Centre. Not just Town Council offices but a venue for local organisations while providing good community facilities. This year has seen a huge increase in regular bookings from training sessions, conferences, to Citizen Advice outreach and Alzheimer Cafe and many more. We are pleased to welcome them to Sandown.

The Rainbow Playground was our first priority and we thank Morrisons and the Jenkins family for their contribution to the refurbishing of the whole playground. This is now a first class facility for our young people, together with the Skatepark and MUGA for the older ones.

The War Memorial has now been granted Grade II listed status and has been cleaned and inscriptions tidied up. The Remembrance Service was very well attended again and is now the second largest service on the Island.

The toilets have been repainted for this season and full refurbishment is being planned using the VAT refund and money raised the precept.

We held a Public Consultation for the first time and although attendance was disappointing we hope many more will attend in the future. The public were able to put their ideas and gripes to Council members and every one of the comments have been studied and where

possible will be acted on. Many of the observations related to IW Council and they have been passed on to them.

The Town's Newsletter has been reinstated with Town Council information, delivered directly to your homes.

The Green Towns have taken on the floral displays in the town and we thank the volunteers for their continuing hard work.

Regeneration of Sandown is slowly taking place with a new 5 star hotel underway. The White City complex rebuild is also underway.

Heritage UK has expressed their faith in Sandown by building the best Crazy Golf amenity on the Island. We thank them for their trust in the Town Council in providing this wonderful facility and we look forward to the next phase at Sandham Gardens.

This year, Sandown has been honoured with two Beach Awards- The Best Beach Award from Countryfile magazine and the Seaside Award from Keep Britain Tidy. You will see the Seaside Award flag flying over the beach and we hope that the Best Beach Award will find its home in the Broadway Centre.

I was delighted that the Bay Councils (Sandown, Lake and Shanklin) have worked closely together for the World War 1 celebrations. We have built up a good relationship with the Bay Councillors and I hope this will continue for the good of the whole Bay.

Finally, my thanks to Town Councillors who have given much of their time over the last year and to the Town Clerk for keeping us within the rules.

Cllr Jacqui Mereweather  
Mayor 2018/19

## STATEMENT FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL IN RESPONSE TO PUBLICATIONS PUT OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

“The Town Council received a grievance by an employee which was dealt with by the Council in accordance with its responsibilities, powers and policies. Grievances are confidential and all councillors are bound by this confidentiality and matters relating to a grievance should not be disclosed under any circumstances.

Due to this confidentiality, the Town Council is unable to comment publicly on the content of the statement recently published.

Breaches of confidential information by the Town Council or its Councillors and employees, lays the Town Council open to proceedings by those affected. The Council can however state that at all times, it has acted in accordance with their responsibilities, powers and policies.

The Town Council has not breached GDPR or confidentiality. Breaches of confidentiality and GDPR by employees or councillors of the Town Council will be dealt with by the Town Council in accordance with their responsibilities.

The Town Council has paid £2,160 plus £432 VAT to solicitors for legal advice and is expecting a further invoice of similar amounts.”  
End of statement.

## TOWN COUNCIL BUSINESS- HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT IT?

The Town Council has to conduct its business within a legal framework and the Town Clerk is responsible for the administration of this.

All information for the public regarding the town council business, as required by law, is available via our Town Council website.

If a matter is confidential, the information will not be discussed in public or made available.

## QUESTIONS AND QUERIES

If you have any problems or concerns about matters in your street or the town and want information, ask a question or make any suggestions, please contact your local Town Councillors - they were elected to serve you, want to hear from you and will be very happy to help.

## CONTACT A COUNCILLOR

Your Councillors details can be found:

- ❖ On the website  
[www.sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk)
- ❖ On the Town Council notice boards inside the Broadway Centre & outside the Old Post Office at Beachfield Rd.
- ❖ From the town council office:  
Email:[admin@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@sandowntowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Telephone (01983) 408287

If you would like a Councillor to phone you, please ring the office, as above, and we will arrange it.

## SANDOWN SOUTH WARD

**Mayor:** Cllr Gary Young  
**Cllrs:** Connie Cowley  
Ronnie Teasdale  
Ian Ward  
Alex Lightfoot  
Paddy Lightfoot.

## SANDOWN NORTH WARD

**Deputy Mayor:** Cllr Paul Brading  
**Cllrs:** Heather Humby  
Chris Dupré  
Debbie Andre  
Jacquie Mereweather  
Raj Patel