



## SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

### **PUBLIC REALM (PROJECTS) WORKING PARTY MEETING – 15 AUGUST 2022**

- 1.1. Members agreed that Cllr A Lightfoot would be lead member/Chairperson for the group, but all members would continue to contribute to feedback at Full Council Meetings.
- 1.2. Members welcomed Todd Miller, from Lifeguard service (Waterside), and were updated on usage of accessible wheelchair, and possible development of the project in 2023 and future years; effectiveness of walkie-talkies with a lost child being identified and located following use of the equipment; verbal report on demands on the service in recent weeks, with formal report later in the Autumn. Members agreed possible extension of the service to cover the beach until Sunday 4 September, with clerk to confirm.
- 1.3. Clerks to work with Todd, and colleagues, to relocate the Lifeguard Station at the Broadway Centre Car Park at end of Season, to enable repainting over the Winter – as well as reducing potential of damage; and installation of the lifeguard station base over the winter and before next Summer (but members reassured that current arrangement worked and is an option for the future). Members also appreciated availability of the 'Bunker' and potential space for a jet ski for the service in the future if funds can be raised.
- 1.4. Members agreed to having a presentation to all Lifeguards at the Centre before they finish the summer season – lifeguards have already been recognised by NHS Ambulance Service.
- 1.5. Members reviewed the work streams for 2021-22 and noted the progress made in securing hanging baskets and installation of planters, which contributed to Queens Award, Britain in Bloom and Southeast England in Bloom events.
- 1.6. Members noted current situation re High Street Task Force Project (awaiting report) and possible Regeneration Officer/place plan (to be discussed at September Full Council Meeting) which may cover the Bay and involve Lake and Shanklin Councils.
- 1.7. Members noted current situation with Browns, and Dinosaur Isle, and understand there is a 5-year lease – continue to monitor any developments.
- 1.8. Members discussed potential opportunities re Los Altos but need to review costs (inc. anti-social behaviour) and potential to share costs with Lake Parish Council.
- 1.9. Members noted agreement signed for Ferncliff Gardens to enable Green Town Volunteers to maintain main bed, and the contribution made by Town Council to IWC Maintenance Costs. Members did not wish to suggest extending responsibility.

- 1.10. Members noted discussions with concessionaires and the priorities they had, with a further meeting planned for late Autumn, and that the income from Parking and other activities were going to IW Council. Members may wish to consider applying under the Localism Act, in the future, to manage parking etc and use revenue to support provision of Toilets and Beach services. This would be part of longer-term plan, but residents have contacted clerks expressing concerns that revenue from Parking, eg at Yaverland, is not invested in the Toilets or other amenities. Members also discussed possibility of some beach raking on southern side of pier, and clerks would try and identify potential costs.
- 1.11. Members noted potential of performance space and similar projects and would work with partner agencies if and when funding/grant opportunities are available.
- 1.12. Members discussed Public Wi-fi, and potential link to toilet blocks once developed, and this may be a discussion with Wightfibre in the future as a joint project.
- 1.13. Members noted meeting with Julian Wadsworth, regarding youth projects, on 17 August, but highlighted effectiveness of current working relationship and benefit of pump priming. There was a potential of a grant application at Eastern Sandham Gardens, using STC allocated funds as future match funding. Julian would also update potential £5k beach activity project for later 2022 or early 2023.
- 1.14. Members discussed the longer-term Council Plan beyond the 12-month workstreams established in the working parties, and agreed that the Place Plan discussed recently, and would likely take a lead on this and include elements that come out of the High Street Taskforce project, with members awaiting report from consultants. There is an item scheduled for inclusion on next full Council agenda for contribution of £5k towards a Bay Regeneration Officer post, that may require more details, and that this working party could include this as part of ongoing work-plan.
- 1.15. Members agreed that the work streams across the 4 working parties may need tweaking as there is inevitable overlap, but members agreed it was helpful having contractors available to brief members directly, and that the mayor and lead members would work with clerks to refine the workplans workstreams of the 4 working parties for approval at Septembers meeting.