



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

YOUNG FUTURES WORKING PARTY MEETING 27 JANUARY 2026

1.1. Present: Cllrs Alex Lightfoot, Liam Cregg, Ian Boyd (Chair) and Debbie Andre

Also in attendance: Julian Wadsworth, Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO) and Lorraine Elliss (Deputy Clerk)

Town Hall

1.2. Members were updated on the opening of LIFT from the Town Hall. The soft launch started two weeks ago with some snagging to be completed before the public and guests would be invited to view the facility in next few months.

1.3. External Signage was also to be installed.

1.4. The offer was designed to be holistic. Offering structured activities and drop ins.

1.5. Scheduled programmes sports activities (boxing, netball, cricket), music sessions and confidence-building workshops. These were designed to support young people, particularly in developing interview skills. The Arts Work project working on the subway mural was also using the facility.

1.6. Since opening, the centre has seen an increase of approximately 50 new young people using the provision

1.7. Consultation with Young People on what would be offered would be ongoing.

PlayZone

1.8. The Clerk provided members with an update on the new 2G pitch; the bookings and lighting system which were now working and the allocated time slots for both the Young People's sessions and Sandown and Lake Football Club had been loaded into the system.

1.9. The booking system would be open to the public from 1 February 2026.

1.10. Members were also updated that completion of the wider issues around the PlayZone project namely the other lighting on sight. flooding and toilet provision.

1.11. New lighting had been procured but could not be installed until permission had been obtained from the Isle of Wight Council (property) or the lights de-accrued.

1.12. Cllr Debbie Andre advised she would speak to IWC legal team to request progress on this matter.

1.13. The BYP has secured a football coach to deliver sessions on the play zone. The sessions would focus on encouraging young people to play sports with respect and sportsmanship. The groups will be mixed ages and gender in teams of football 6-7 and 8-9 with mixed ability and encouraging positive attitudes and the hope to reward the

young people with a trip to a football stadium or similar rewards not on performance but on attitude and behaviour.

- 1.14. Future sessions to feed into the clubs may also be developed in the future.
- 1.15. The working party agreed to explore the possibility of installing covered benches in the area to support outreach activities.

Skate Park

- 1.16. Cllr Lightfoot updated members on the plans to begin the Skate Park Refurbishment Project.
- 1.17. A recent meeting with John Cattle Skate Club had been held. It had been agreed engagement would be undertaken through skate sessions in the park from Easter until September. The BYP would also undertake consultation exercises.
- 1.18. The club had also recommended a professional who could support the early design phase.
- 1.19. this work will include producing an early summary of findings to support the development of initial design ideas and to inform the overall feasibility and budgets of the project. The outcome of this scoping exercise will be reported back to Full Council for further consideration before progressing to the next stages of project development. It is estimated this would cost approximately £500.
- 1.20. Quotes had now been received for ground-penetrating radar survey. The purpose of this survey is to confirm that no historic structures, voids, or other underground features
- 1.21. It was agreed that the following recommendations would be made Full Council on 9 February 2026
 - (i) THAT the council delegate authority to the Clerk with approval from the Mayor to engage an expert to undertake the initial scoping and feasibility steps for the skate park project up to the value of £500.
 - (ii) THAT the council delegate authority to the Clerk to engage a ground-penetrating radar survey of the Skate park and adjacent areas.

Outreach Space

- 1.22. The Council has approximately £40,000 available to support the provision of a container or office space for the Bay Youth Project to support young persons' outreach work at the park. The proposed location for this facility is Sandham Grounds, within the open space between the Sky Nets and Rainbow Park.
- 1.23. It was agreed that the following recommendation would be made Full Council on 9 February 2026

THAT the council delegate authority to the Clerk with approval from the Mayor to procure and install the outreach base with a budget envelope of £40,000.