



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

THRIVING COMMUNITIES WORKING PARTY MEETING 4 APRIL 2026 (9:30 AM)

1.1. Present: Cllrs Joan Solomon (Chair), Leon Girling and Paddy Lightfoot.

Also in attendance: Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO), Raine Elliss (Deputy Clerk)

For Community Safety Item: Camaron Baxter (Community Safety - Officer Isle of Wight Council), PCSO Matthew Wheeler.

Community Safety

Additional Community Support Resource

1.2. The Community Safety Officer (CSO) had advised Ryde and Newport had declined to fund additional resource. Unfortunately as a result of this and reduction to capacity at the Isle of Wight Council there was no alternative solution at present. Discussions were now taking place regarding a different way forward and a the possibility of more bespoke support.

Issues affecting Sandown

1.3. A number of issues affecting the town were discussed:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspots – reports regarding this issue could be shared directly with the community policing team and would be disseminated to local response patrols.
- CCTV – STC would send details of their CCTV coverage to the local policing team. If approved by Council additional camaras could be considered to protect areas of STC property not currently covered such as the far right of Yaverland Toilets.
- Vehicle ABS – Issues around Yaverland, Fort Street and Avenue Road were noted along with actions being taken. The overspill carpark at Yaverland was a particular issue.

Police Recruitment

1.4. Members were advised STC had been sharing the local recruitment campaign having reached out to H&IWC to see if they can help promote filling the vacancies.

1.5. An update was received an update on recruitment in the local area.

Workstreams

1.6. The committees' short-term goals were discussed:

Eastern Gardens Viewing Platform

- 1.7. Council had approved the costs, Design work was being undertaken and urals. Repairs to the render and electric box, which had been delayed, were on schedule to be completed prior to this.

Phone Box Library

- 1.8. The Phone Box had been installed at the Broadway Centre and would be refurbished in due course.

Beat Surgery

- 1.9. Police Beat Surgeries were now scheduled on a regular basis at the Broadway Centre.

Butt Bin

- 1.10. This project would be taken forward when officer's had capacity.

Community Vegetable Planters

- 1.11. The Deput Clerk had arranged for free planters, soil and vegetables to be provided. These would be sited at the rear of the Broadway Centre and tended by Warm Spaces who would use the vegetables for soup etc to support the provision.

National Reading Project 2026

- 1.12. The Deputy Clerk reported that they are working in partnership with Jean Jones, winner of the National Reading Volunteer Award. The project highlights the importance of early reading and demonstrates how town and parish councils can contribute meaningfully to this national focus through the funding and provision of book bags for local primary schools. All artwork has now been sent to the printers, and draft materials are currently being checked by the schools and the Deputy Clerk. Members will be kept updated on the project's progress.