



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

THRIVING COMMUNITIES WORKING PARTY MEETING 10 FEBRUARY 2026 (9:30 AM)

1.1. Present: Cllrs Joan Solomon (Chair)

Also in attendance: Cllr Alex Lightfoot, Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO)

1.2. Merging Thriving Community with the Town Centre Revival Working Party was discussed as there is crossover between the two. AN email would be sent to all members of both parties suggesting this.

Community Safety

1.3. The Community Safety Officer (CSO) had advised Ryde and Newport had declined to fund additional resource. Discussions were now taking place regarding a different way forward and a the possibility of more bespoke support.

1.4. The Working Party would invite the CSO, Local PC and the Mayor to a future meeting to discuss this.

1.5. Members noted that the police were recruiting PCs and PCSO for the local areas. The Clerk would reach out to H&IWC to see if they can help promote filling the vacancies.

Workstreams

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

Eastern Gardens Viewing Platform

1.7. The Viewing Platform had been identified as a potential location for another murals. Repairs to the render and electric box were scheduled for March.

1.8. Community murals had provided indicative costs and proposed themes were being discussed.

Decorating Windows and Hoarding

1.9. The CSO had indicated it may be possible to paint the hoardings along the high street. The Chair would seek qualification of whom he expected to give permission

1.10. The High Street rental auction project had not yet progressed and as such there was no update regarding vinyls.

New Projects

Phone Box Library

1.11. The Community Library Phone Box project had progressed with the adoption of the kiosk and decommissioning complete. The arrangements to resite the unit and

begin refurbishment were also underway and it was expected the week commencing 16 February 2026.

- 1.12. It was agreed that the Working Party would look at the next steps: cataloguing the books, how these could be best displayed, seeking donations for any missing genres and replacing stock, signage (how it works and acknowledging those supporting the project and publicising the initiative including a launce event.
- 1.13. A plan would be drawn up to take this forward.

Health and Wellbeing Board

- 1.14. Cllr Boyd had advised Council at a recent meeting that the Isle of Wight Health and Wellbeing board was finalising its strategy. It was agreed that Cllr Solomon, as both chair of the Thriving Communities Working Party and with a It was agreed that the Working Party would look at the next steps: cataloguing the books, how these could be best displayed, seeking donations for any missing genres and replacing stock, signage (how it works and acknowledging those supporting the project and publicising the initiative including a launce event

Medium term goals:

Beat Surgery

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

Dore Exhibition

- 1.16. The results of the Grant Process were expected to be confirmed at the end of March with installation of exhibition to follow in the summer or early autumn. Further updates would be provided one the grant process was completed.

Resilience Project

- 1.17. The centre had been used during the recent flooding as a location which could be opened for emergency shelter if needed. Staff has been on call to facilitate this. The logistics would be further discussed with the IWC to ensure the correct arrangements were in place.
- 1.18. Project forward in the spring with support from the working party.

Long term projects:

- 1.19. HMOs in relation to integration and investigating social support

New Projects

Community Postoffice/ATM

- 1.20. The Working Party had been tasked with exploring the possibility of a Community Post Office and/or Cash Machines following a Councillor reporting complaints from residents about the lack of provision at the Council meeting held on the 9 February 2025. The Clerk would make initial enquiries to take the matter forward.

Photo Wall

- 1.21. Members discussed a photo wall trail similar to one offered by Fuji in London. Cllr Solomon would ask her colleague to send details through for further exploration.

Butt Bin

- 1.22. Cllr Solomon was attending a seminar by Planet Aware on the 11 February 2026. Following the seminar, should it be appropriate the working party will explore a project to put butt bins on their sites.