SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

THRIVING COMMUNITIES WORKING PARTY MEETING
18 AUGUST 2026 (10:30 AM)

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

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

1.2. Members met to discuss the proposed workplan, receive updates where relevant and assign actions.

Community Benefit Society

1.3. Since the initial meeting was held only one further expression of interest has been received and a total of 4 people express an interest.

1.4. The Council website has been updated accordingly and this can now come off.

Community Post Office

The Working Party discussed ongoing concerns regarding local Post Office and Royal Mail services and the impact this may be having on residents. Members agreed that further evidence is required to support any future representations on behalf of the community.

Agreed Actions

1. The Clerk will submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request seeking relevant information relating to local postal and Post Office service provision.
2. The Clerk will monitor the request and provide a follow-up update within 30 days of submission.
3. The Working Party recommends that this matter be referred to the next meeting of Full Council for consideration as a formal Council work stream.
4. Subject to Full Council approval, a resident survey will be prepared and distributed to gather evidence and feedback regarding local Post Office and Royal Mail services.
5. Survey results will be collated and reported back to Council to determine the extent of resident concerns and identify key issues.
6. Following consideration of the survey findings, the Clerk will draft correspondence on behalf of the Council to the local Member of Parliament, highlighting resident concerns and requesting support.
7. Royal Mail and any other relevant service providers will be advised that the matter is being formally considered by the Council and, where appropriate,

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concerns may be escalated to the relevant Government departments responsible for postal services and community access to services.

Recommendation to Full Council

That Full Council:

- Notes the concerns raised regarding local Post Office and postal services.
- Approves the addition of this matter to the Council's work programme.
- Authorises the preparation and distribution of a resident survey.
- Receives a further report following the FOI response and survey outcomes before determining any formal representations to the MP, Royal Mail and relevant Government departments.

Engagement with Police.

1.5. The Working Party will continue to work with the Police around local issues. The appointment of PC Rob Quick and Bethan and the return of PCSO Ash Webb.

1.6. Members would like to invite Donna Jones and MP Joe Robertson to The Broadway Centre for a public consultation on vandalism 101 calls.

1.7.

Planet Aware and Butt Bin

Council agreed to explore the design of its own cigarette butt bins. Once a need has been established, design options and associated costs will be investigated. Four potential locations have been identified, including outside Premier on the Esplanade. Members also expressed a desire to explore partnership arrangements with local businesses and organisations, whereby ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the bins could be shared, subject to the Council supplying the bins.

Community Hub

1.8. A High street location has been sourced for the hub, helping to rebuild grassroots activity in the town and strengthen community capacity, as well as offering accessible space for partnership working.

1.9. Members would like to explore with HMO to understand the need of applicants

Community Vegetable Planters .

1.10. The Planters have been installed at centre ready for planting to be managed by Warms Spaces and other community groups. Councillor Debbie Andre has taken over as Church warden and is using prodyce in warm spaces meals

Health Alliance/ Neighbourhood Research Coordinator

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1.11. Following Early conversations with the Health Alliance regarding a collaboration with the Town Council the initial meeting which was cancelled was not rebooked. Officers would follow-up.

1.12. Members discussed the potential for this Alliance to assist in providing data and insights relating to other ongoing matters. Officers would share co-ordinators details with Cllr Girling to take this forward. Staffing changes have occurred a few times. Needs an initial meeting with Joan to see if still relevant.

Health and Wellbeing Board

1.13. Cllr Boyd had raised the potential of the working party feeding some matters into the HWB. This needed to be clarified. No update

HMOs

STC would like to gain further data to inform SPD to

- LG to share copy of heat map from Cam Baxter.
- LG created planning list of HMO - will share for everyone to check against 8 year applications.
- LG will draft FOI for clerks to submit to Environmental Waste regarding waste and noise complaints.

Confirmed there are two work streams

- Data
- Support

Relevant IWC items to be circulated.

JAG

1.14. The Chairman of the Working Party would continue to attends and feed back to working party bring forward any possible joint initiatives, using the dedicated Trello card to record information.

Phone Box

1.15. The Phone Box had been installed at the Broadway Centre. A Press release will go out this week.

Photo Wall

1.16. The working party discussed the idea of celebrating local identity by showcasing historic and contemporary images that reflect the town's people, places, and heritage.

1.17. It was suggested the Ocean Redevelopment Site Hoarding would be a good space to install such a project. This would be proposed to Council and a proposal developed.

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Resilience Project

1.18. The project which focused on strengthening the town's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, disruptions, and long-term challenges needed to be revisited due to delays in delivery (capacity etc). No update.

Solutions for Yaverland Vehicle ABS

1.19. Officers and the IWC Community Safety Officer were in discussions on what if any steps could be taken by the Town Exploration of practical options to reduce vehicle ABS data in around Yaverland Car Park.

1.20. Once identified they would be circulated to the working party and a proposal drafted for Council. Cam Baxter has not responded - some confusion as he thinks we are talking to Police re type of evidence - he was taking that away.

1.21. There is an issue with Glare on CCTV but Finance approved budget allocation and members wish to ask Donna Jones for funding from her CCTV funding.

1.22.

Yaverland Memorial.

1.23. Working Party Members would like to erect a memorial at Yaverland to commemorate the two lives lost on the beach.

1.24. Council permission would be needed to progress the project.

1.25. Mental Health – (New Work Stream)

1.26. Members wish to understand the support and needs of residents and support available in the community from NHS.

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