



## Briefing Note – Working Parties

**Date** 24 November 2025  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

### **1. DERELICT BUILDINGS TASK FORCE**

1.1. No meeting held.

### **2. YOUNG FUTURES**

2.1. No meeting held.

### **3. THRIVING COMMUNITIES AND TOWN CENTRE REVIVAL JOINT MEETING**

3.1. The working party met on 27 October, 2025 at 17:30.

3.2. Present: Cllrs Ian Boyd, Paddy Lightfoot, Tracy Mikich and Joan Solomon.

Also in attendance: Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO)

#### Chair

3.3. Members unanimously nominated Cllr Solomon, who accepted, to Chair the Thriving Communities working party (TCWP).

3.4. Members unanimously nominated Cllr Boyd, who accepted, to Chair the Town Centre Revival Working Party (TCRWP).

3.5. Cllr Solomon chaired the meeting.

#### Meetings

3.6. The Thriving Communities Working Party would meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am.

3.7. The Town Centre Revival Working Party would meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am.

#### Workstreams

3.8. Different potential projects were discussed with members agreeing each working party should agree a work plan/streams to be delivered over the next three years. Members would propose projects before inclusion before the next meeting so they could be collated and a plan adopted.

#### Actions

3.9. Both working parties requested an up-to-date neglect case to inform their workplans.

3.10. Both working parties expressed an interest in taking forward a project to improve the appearance of empty shop windows on the high street. Cllr Mikich would reach out to the owners she could and obtain contact details for the council to formally request permission if they were open to the project.

3.11. The TCWP requested an update be obtained on the Sandham Middle site.

- 3.12. Both Groups wished to review parking data to assess parking capacity.
- 3.13. Anti-social behaviour was discussed and the importance of a holistic approach between partners and other agencies. Members noted that while there was an Isle of Wight Community Safety Partnership, whose remit tackle, prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, they did not engage with the Town Council. Cllr Solomon would reach contact the lead officer and invite to work with working parties. 1.12. Cllr Lightfoot would advise on the planned place plan mural locations.
- 3.14. The Clerk would continue to work on potential transfer/lease of seafront shelters and southern water viewing platform.
- 3.15. The Clerk would provide a briefing note on the towns Decorative Lighting as it was now fully depreciated and in need of repair.
- 3.16. The Clerk would prepare of list of the Town Council assets in the Public Realm.

#### **4. THRIVING COMMUNITIES**

- 4.1. Present: Cllrs Joan Solomon (Chair), Camaron Baxter (Isle of Wight Council)

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

##### Community Safety Partnership

- 4.2. The Working Party met with Camaron Baxter the Isle of Wight Council's Community Safety Officer (CSO) via Teams.
- 4.3. Information was provided regarding the structure of the Community Safety Partnership and associated groups.
- 4.4. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) operated at director level on a strategic basis.
- 4.5. The Joint Action group (JAG) is a multiagency meeting who met online. The police were involved and abandoned buildings as well as some other issues affecting Sandown were on the agendas.
- 4.6. The Neighbourhood Management Meeting was held regionally (West Wight, Newport, East Wight)
- 4.7. The CSO had, with local police, attended an IWALC meeting to discuss the issues facing the Island.
- 4.8. The Community Safety Team consisted of two officers. A potential proposal for a third member of staff, with costs split between Ryde, Newport and Sandown would be brought forward to increase capacity in much the same way working with the Public Realm Officers and Planning Enforcement.
- 4.9. Issues discussed with the working party included:
- 4.10. Any funding requests for additional resource would need to be provided before the November 2025 budget preparation meeting.
  - The Town Council had made some improvements to help address anti-social behaviour (Battery Gardens, improvement works at Eastern Gardens) and would be interested in hearing of other initiatives which may help reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.
  - A follow-up would be arranged, online, in March 2026.

##### Workstreams

4.11. Members had been asked to bring forward items to form a workplan. The following were proposed:

4.12. Short-term goals:

- Wall art, murals
- Street illuminations (potential joint project with Town Centre Revival)
- Decorating windows

4.13. Medium term goals:

- Form a network with Community Safety Partnership, PCSO, Neighbourhood Watch -with regular meetings and joint projects.

4.14. Long term projects:

- Working with existing HMOs, to integrate, investigate social support options etc.
- Work to limit future HMOs in this area (currently part of planning committees work).

## **5. TOWN CENTRE REVIVAL**

5.1. Present: Cllrs Ian Boyd (Chair) and Paddy Lightfoot

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

### Christmas

5.2. The Working Party explored the current activities undertaken by the Town Council in relation to Christmas (school project, tree, lighting, carol service) and the need for anything undertaken by the Town Council to compliment activities in town such as the Christmas Fun Day.

5.3. While noting that Christmas was historically an Events Working Party scheme members were reminded working party meetings were open to all councillors and any member could put forward suggestions.

5.4. The possibility of sourcing funding to reinstate the Christmas Garden at Battery Gardens was also discussed.

### High Street Rental Auctions

5.5. Members were updated on the application to access HM Land Registry E-Services to begin work on the High Street rental Auctions project. The application should be processed no later than 27 November 2025.

### Pier Street

5.6. Consideration was given to if looking at developers to partner would be practical. However, it was agreed that, given the history of the site, this should be left until a confirmed way forward had been agreed with the Isle of Wight Council.

### Ocean Hotel

5.7. Discussion took place around how the Ocean Hotel frontage could be improved. The Clerk would pick this up again with Planning Enforcement as permission would be needed.

- 5.8. Members discussed grouping areas geographically to ensure a thematic approach was taken to delivering projects rather than each site/asset being treated in Isolation. For example, Yaverland, Culver Parade and Sandham Grounds all sat adjacent to the Browns and International School of Rewilding Site and would benefit from a cohesive approach.
- 5.9. The Clerk would look into obtaining a map from the Isle of Wight Council clearly showing the land they held which along with Town Council land would help form a clearer picture of the Public Realm.

#### Workstreams

- 5.10. Cllr Lightfoot advised he was working on a document which could inform a 4 year plan on which workstreams could be based.

#### Next meeting

- 5.11. There would be no meeting in December. The next meeting was scheduled for February 2026 but any discussions between members during this period would be passed to officers.

## **6. EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT**

- 6.1. The working party met on 7 October, 2025 at 10:00 am.
- 6.2. Present: Cllrs Joan Solomon, Gary Young.

Also in attendance: Reverend Mark Williams, Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Administration Assistant

#### Remembrance

##### *Service of Remembrance*

- 6.3. All arrangements were in place (road closure, band, PA, first aid, marshals, wreaths). The Order of Service has been finalised and proofed by the Vicar. Councillors would collate on 4 November 2025 between 11:00 and 12 noon. 800 copies would be produced.
- 6.4. The school poppy art would be collected and dropped to Cllr Solomon on the 21 October 2025 at the library for display from the start of November.
- 6.5. The vicar had confirmed the dates for private blessing and laying of a wreath at the Esplanade memorial which would be open to all councillors.
- 6.6. The Working Party met on 4 November 2025 to produce the Order of Service.

##### *Armistice, Anzac, VE Day and VJ Day*

- 6.7. The vicar had confirmed the dates for private blessing and laying of a wreath at the Esplanade memorial which would be open to all councillors.

## Christmas

- 6.8. The Christmas Window Competition forms and posters were collected, and the working party would canvas the high street in pairs. ID Badges were requested and would be produced.
- 6.9. The details of the Carol Service at the Church were finalised. Refreshments would be served from 19:00 with the event starting between 19:00 and 20:00. It was agreed mulled punch would be served rather than mulled wine due to sensitives around alcohol. The Church would make the catering arrangements for the event, with the Town Council contributing to costs. The poster for the event was finalised. The Band had their own order of service.
- 6.10. Officers had begun obtaining quotes for a Christmas Ice rink in 2026 to inform the budget. The type of rink was discussed and it was agreed a real ice rink would be preferred.

## Easter

- 6.11. Cllr Solomon and the Vicar were now in touch and would discuss the possibility of an Easter event.

## Engagement with Schools

- 6.12. The school was on board with the Remembrance Poppies Artwork (no competition – to encourage remembrance). Details of an Easter activity had not yet been confirmed.

## Community Engagement

- 6.13. Posters for the budget consultation, which had been launched on the 1st had been put up at all council sites. Cllrs canvassing for the Christmas Window Competition would also ask shops to display the posters.
- 6.14. Meeting closed at 11:00