



## Briefing Note – Working Parties

**Date** 9 February 2026  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

### 1. DERELICT BUILDINGS TASK FORCE

1.1. No meeting held.

### 2. YOUNG FUTURES

2.1. Meeting held 8:00am on Tuesday, 27 February 2026.

2.2. 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

2.3. 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.

2.4. External Signage was also to be installed.

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

2.6. 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.

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

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

#### PlayZone

2.9. 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.

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

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

2.12. 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.

- 2.13. Cllr Debbie Andre advised she would speak to IWC legal team to request progress on this matter.
- 2.14. 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.
- 2.15. Future sessions to feed into the clubs may also be developed in the future.
- 2.16. The working party agreed to explore the possibility of installing covered benches in the area to support outreach activities.

#### Skate Park

- 2.17. Cllr Lightfoot updated members on the plans to begin the Skate Park Refurbishment Project.
- 2.18. 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.
- 2.19. The club had also recommended a professional who could support the early design phase.
- 2.20. 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.
- 2.21. 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
- 2.22. 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

- 2.23. 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.
- 2.24. It was agreed that the following recommendation would be made Full Council on 9 February 2026
- 2.25. 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.

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

3.1. No meeting held.

### **4. TOWN CENTRE REVIVAL**

4.1. No meeting held.

### **5. EVENTS WORKING AND ENGAGEMENT PARTY**

5.1. Meeting held 9:30am on Tuesday, 2 February 2026.

5.2. Present: Cllrs Joan Soloman, Frank Baldry, Gary Young.

Also In attendance: Reverend Mark Williams and Deputy Clerk.

5.3. The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday March 3 at 9:30am

Easter 2026 Shop Window

5.4. The High Street Easter Shop Window Competition historical been be well supported, with many businesses taking part and decorating their windows for the spring holiday. Last year's winner, Make it Wight, currently holds the 2025 award – the Heather Humby Glass Drop. Deputy Clerk Raine Elliss will collect the award in March to be issued to this years winner.

5.5. Members requested that copies of the Competition Entry Form be prepared and ready for distribution during the week commencing **2 March 2026**.

5.6. It was agreed that public judging would take place during the week commencing **23 March 2026**, with Members meeting on **Wednesday, 25 March at 12:00 noon outside the Library** to complete the judging.

Football – PlayZone 2G opening event

5.7. Members were updated on the opening of the new PlayZone pitch and its accompanying online booking system. February has been used as a soft-launch period, during which Sandown and Lake Football Club and the Bay Youth Group have trialled the facility to identify any issues. The system has now been opened to the general public for bookings.

5.8. The Deputy Clerk is working with Richard Priest (Deputy Lord Lieutenant) on an opening event to invite and a minor celebrity football personality. The date is to be confirmed with Events Working Party

National Reading Project 2026

5.9. Deputy Lord Lieutenant gave members an update on the National reading Award project Reading is a fundamental life skill that underpins educational attainment, confidence, wellbeing, and lifelong learning.

5.10. In recognition of its importance, this project outlines how town and parish councils can contribute meaningfully to this national focus by funding and supplying book bags to local primary schools.

5.11. The initiative is practical, visible, affordable, and delivers lasting benefits to children, families, schools, and the wider community.

Anzac Day

5.12. Members expressed their wish to lay a wreath for ANZAC Day. A wreath has been ordered and is available in the STC office. The service will take place on Saturday, 25th April at 10:50 a.m. at the Sandown Cenotaph, with Rev Williams, Cllr Ward and Cllr Baldry in attendance.

5.13. The Deputy Clerk will also attend. This will be announced to all council members and published on the STC website.

5.14. Cllr Joan Soloman gave a update on "Town of Culture" application, she was working on with Cllr Tracy Mikich. The Expression of Interest requires 400 words. Cllr J Soloman will keep members updated.

Meeting closed at 10:30