



Briefing Note – Working Parties

Date 23 March 2026
Prepared by Town Clerk

1. DERELICT BUILDINGS TASK FORCE

1.1. Meeting held 5pm on Monday, 2 March 2026.

1.2. Present: Cllrs Alex Lightfoot (Chair), Liam Cregg, Leon Girling, Paddy Lightfoot

Also in attendance: Cllrs Debbie Andre, Gary Young, Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO) and Stephen Partridge (Deputy Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Ian Boyd

Ocean Hotel Seafront Redevelopment Area

1.3. Further told documentation had been provided to the Solicitor on request, but no further update has been received.

1.4. Contractors has been contacted to quote for cutting back the hedges and clearing the site. Contractors had advised until the site could be accessed it would not be possible to quote for the latter.

Consultation

1.5. Members discussed the public consultation event due to be held after the Annual Town Meeting on the 9 March.

1.6. A display clearly showing the site in both plan and satellite view would be set-up in the hall.

1.7. Attendees would be split into four groups and asked to brain-storm four topics: hoarding, activities, community space and blue sky out the box.

1.8. These would then be put on display boards and stickers used for attendees to vote for those they support.

1.9. A community engagement plan would be developed at the next working party to be held on the 2 March 2025.

Neglect

1.10. Members discussed the need for letters of support in relation to Neglect in Sandown from key Island stakeholders to strengthen a submission to the Isle of Wight Council and other relevant bodies.

1.11. The letter requested, preferably on headed paper, would:

- Acknowledges the current disrepair and vacancies
- Highlights the impact on residents, businesses, and visitors
- Supports investment, regeneration, and collaborative action

- 1.12. The draft document included a list of potential stake holders which was extended to include the third sector, the IOW Chamber of Commerce, and Visit Isle of Wight.

Next Meeting

5pm. Monday, 13 April 2026.

2. YOUNG FUTURES

- 2.1. No meeting held before publication.

Next Meeting

5pm. Monday, 23 March 2026.

5pm. Monday, 20 April 2026.

3. THRIVING COMMUNITIES

- 3.1. Meeting due to be held on Tuesday, 10 March 2026 cancelled due to stakeholder attendee cancellation.

Next Meeting

5pm. Tuesday, 14 April 2026.

4. EVENTS WORKING AND ENGAGEMENT PARTY

- 4.1. Meeting held 9:30am on Tuesday, 3 March 2026.

Present: Cllrs Joan Soloman, Frank Baldry,

Also In attendance: Reverend Mark Williams and Deputy Clerk.

Easter 2026 Shop Window

- 4.2. The High Street Easter Shop Window Competition is 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 will collect this award Wednesday 4 March 2026 in readiness for this years winner.
- 4.3. Cllr Joan Soloman has copies of the Competition Entry Form which will be distributed during the week commencing 2 March 2026.
- 4.4. It was agreed that public judging would take place during the week commencing 23 March 2026, with Cllrs Joan Soloman and Frank Baldry, along with rev Mark Williams meeting on Wednesday, 25 March at 12:00 noon outside the library to complete the judging. The winners will be reported to Deputy Clerk who will arrange a press release.

Football – Playzone 2g Formal Opening

- 4.5. Members will be updated on an opening event to invite and a minor celebrity football personality to attend. This is being arranged by Richard Priest and Deputy Clerk will keep members informed of the event date.

National Reading Project 2026

- 4.6. Deputy Clerk updated members that funding has been awarded from the following parishes for their allocated Primary school: Wroxall, Shanklin, Lake and Sandown. Havenstreet and Ashey are committing but a school is yet to be confirmed.
- 4.7. The Deputy Clerk is working with Jean Jones (Winner of the National Reading Volunteer Award) 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. The Deputy Clerk will keep members updated of the projects progress.

Anzac Day

- 4.8. Members have committed to attending and laying 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, the Mayor along with Cllr Ward and Cllr Baldry will be in attendance. The Deputy Clerk will also be in attendance and details will be published on STC website and face book page.

Town of Culture

- 4.9. Cllr Joan Soloman gave a update on “Town of Culture” application, she was working on with Cllr Tracy Mikich. A meeting to establish and generate ideas has taken place. Cllr Soloman is to complete The Expression of Interest requires 400 words. Cllr Soloman will keep members updated.

Next Meeting

5pm. Tuesday, 7 April 2026.