



— Working Parties May-26 —

Full Council Briefing Note – 18 May 2026

Prepared by Town Clerk/RFO

1. DERELICT BUILDINGS WORKING PARTY

1.1. Meeting held on Monday, 13 April 2026.

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

Also in attendance: Jennifer Armstrong (Clerk/RFO) and Raine Ellis (Deputy Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Alex Lightfoot

Ocean Hotel Seafront Redevelopment Area

1.3. Officers had visited the site and reported a flytipping, rubble and a large amount of undergrowth and vegetation.

1.4. Options for how best to clear the site were being explored with different contractors suggesting different approaches.

1.5. Cllr Boyd was asked to assist with actions required in relation to wildlife on the site as the delays to completion meant works would need to be undertaken in late Spring/Early summer rather than the winter as initially planned.

1.6. It was suggest it was important to keep residents informed on progress and steps as on the surface it did not appear any actions were bring taken. The Clerk would look into how this could best be communicated but noted that it was a controversial site and this may need to wait until after the pre-election period.

Consultation

1.7. The online survey had been set up and would be launched once the pre-election period was over.

Neglect

1.8. Due to other priorities then project had not been progressed by councillors or officers but remained on the workplan for action as soon as capacity became available.

Community Benefit Society

1.9. There was general agreement that based on initial feedback from the Community Development Lead that it was too soon for a CBS scheme to work in Sandown and more work was needed at grassroots level.

1.10. There was a briefing scheduled with the CBL on 27 April 2026 which would help establish the best approach.

Highstreet Rental Auctions

1.11. Since the project had been proposed the majority of the empty units had been let and the window for funding applications had closed.

1.12. At its meeting on the 8 December 2025 the Finance Committee resolved to request delegated authority to approve grants of up to £2,000.

2. EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING PARTY

2.1. Meeting held on Tuesday, 5 May 2026.

2.2. Present: Cllrs Joan Solomon, Frank Baldry.

Also In attendance: Clerk/RFO and Deputy Clerk.

Apologies: Cllr Ian Ward

Easter 2026 Shop Window

2.3. The event was successful and ran well overall, although attendance was lower than the Christmas event. Feedback from the High Street indicated that Easter is too close to Christmas, which may have impacted popularity. As a result, the option of holding a summer event in June was discussed. Action: Deputy Clerk to liaise with the Carnival Association to explore a June theme and work collaboratively to promote both the Carnival and Regatta with the High Street next year.

Football – Playzone 2 G opening event

2.4. The official launch of the Council's new 2G football pitch took place at Sandham Grounds.

Event details:

Date: Friday 22 May Time: 4:00pm Duration: Approximately 30 minutes

Location: Sandham Grounds – 2G Pitch

Attendees

- The Bay Youth Group – Julian Wadsworth
- Sandown and Lake Football Club – Steve Hobday, Youth Chairman
- Special Guest: Ron Groves, retired National Football Referee
- Ron has kindly agreed to referee a short youth game as an icebreaker for the event
- Deputy Lord Lieutenant: Richard Priest
- MP Joe Roberston (to confirm)
- High Sherrif (to Confirm)

National Reading Project 2026

2.5. The Deputy Clerk reported that they are working in partnership with Jeanne Jones, winner of the National Reading Volunteer Award. The project highlights the importance of early reading and demonstrates how town and parish councils can contribute meaningfully to this national focus through the funding and provision of book bags for local primary schools. All artwork has now been sent to the printers, and draft materials are currently being checked by the schools and the Deputy Clerk. Members will be kept updated on the project's progress.

Anzac Day Anzac Day

2.6. Members were advised that the event was delivered successfully and was well received.

Remembrance

- 2.7. The Working Party agreed that relevant contacts should now be approached to begin arrangements for the service, building on last year's event. The Clerk will also review the service timings and liaise with Reverend Mark Williams accordingly.
- 2.8. It was further agreed that new flags will be erected for Remembrance Day on **Sunday 8 November 2026**. Following the service, the new flags will be taken down and replaced with the existing flags to reduce ongoing costs associated with flag replacement due to winter storms.

Highstreet Activities

- 2.9. The Working Party discussed the potential use of Highstreet Safaris as a platform to support a High Street-based competition, encouraging participation from businesses, residents, and visitors. The Clerk will investigate how the platform works, including functionality and associated costs, and how it could be used to involve the High Street in a themed competition.

Christmas Activities

- 2.10. The Working Party discussed this year's Christmas activities with a Nutcracker trail suggested as a possible focus on the high Street and school art competition. It was agreed to explore working in partnership with Christ Church to deliver the Christmas concert and to coordinate arrangements for the Christmas tree at Broadway.

3. THRIVING COMMUNITIES WORKING PARTY 4 APRIL 2026.

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

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

For Community Safety Item: Camaron Baxter (Community Safety - Officer Isle of Wight Council), PCSO Matthew Wheeler.

Community Safety

Additional Community Support Resource

- 3.2. The Community Safety Officer (CSO) had advised Ryde and Newport had declined to fund additional resource. Unfortunately, as a result of this and reduction to capacity at the Isle of Wight Council there was no alternative solution at present. Discussions were now taking place regarding a different way forward and the possibility of more bespoke support.

Issues affecting Sandown

- 3.3. A number of issues affecting the town were discussed:
- Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspots – reports regarding this issue could be shared directly with the community policing team and would be disseminated to local response patrols.
 - CCTV – STC would send details of their CCTV coverage to the local policing team. If approved by Council additional cameras could be considered to protect areas of STC property not currently covered such as the far right of Yaverland Toilets.
 - Vehicle ABS – Issues around Yaverland, Fort Street and Avenue Road were noted along with actions being taken. The overspill carpark at Yaverland was a particular issue.

Police Recruitment

- 3.4. Members were advised STC had been sharing the local recruitment campaign having reached out to H&IWC to see if they can help promote filling the vacancies.
- 3.5. An update was received an update on recruitment in the local area.

Workstreams

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

Eastern Gardens Viewing Platform

- 3.7. Council had approved the costs, Design work was being undertaken and materials. Repairs to the render and electric box, which had been delayed, were on schedule to be completed prior to this.

Phone Box Library

- 3.8. The Phone Box had been installed at the Broadway Centre and would be refurbished in due course.

Beat Surgery

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

Butt Bin

- 3.10. This project would be taken forward when officer's had capacity.

Community Vegetable Planters

- 3.11. The Deputy Clerk had arranged for free planters, soil and vegetables to be provided. These would be sited at the rear of the Broadway Centre and tended by Warm Spaces who would use the vegetables for soup etc to support the provision.

National Reading Project 2026

- 3.12. The Deputy Clerk reported that they are working in partnership with Jean Jones, winner of the National Reading Volunteer Award. The project highlights the importance of early reading and demonstrates how town and parish councils can contribute meaningfully to this national focus through the funding and provision of book bags for local primary schools. All artwork has now been sent to the printers, and draft materials are currently being checked by the schools and the Deputy Clerk. Members will be kept updated on the project's progress.

4. THRIVING COMMUNITIES WORKING PARTY 12 APRIL 2026

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

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

Community Safety

JAG Update

- 4.2. Members noted with disappointment that the initiative to increase of Community Safety Officer could not be taken forward due to lack of buy-in from other areas. However, there was potentially some positive news with possible funding from the Social Network Group's Thriving Communities Fund (up to £8,000). A contact (Toby) was identified, and Cllr Solomon agreed to pass on the details to officers to enable further enquiries.

- 4.3. Cllr Solomon had attended a Home Share webinar, highlighting a scheme where younger individuals live affordably with elderly homeowners in exchange for assistance with household tasks.
- 4.4. This service was being commissioned by the Isle of Wight Council and local councils were being asked to support the initiative. Members agreed that unless Council objected, information regarding the scheme would be added to the Local Information section of the Council's website and promoted where possible.

Police

- 4.5. Issues affecting the town were discussed with members noting officers recent, positive discussions regarding reporting antisocial behaviour and non-urgent crimes.
- 4.6. Concerns remained in relation to anecdotal evidence regarding the handling of 101 calls, including concerns about a lack of follow-up. Noting that the "Let's Talk" system was intended for residents to report anti-social behaviour and minor local issues, the Working Party expressed concern that 101 calls are not being prioritised for residents.
- 4.7. The Working Party agreed that officers should write to their contact to seek clarification of the process. Subject to this, it was further agreed to write to the local MP and the Police and Crime Commissioner, to raise concerns that calls may be being prematurely closed and to request support. A public meeting with the MP and the Police and Crime Commissioner would also be proposed
- 4.8. The local neighbourhood police officer would also invited to attend a future Thriving Towns Working Party to introduce himself and build relationships with members and the community.
- 4.9. The Clerk advised costs for speed cameras had been explored as previously raised as a potential solution. However, initial research had costed this in the region of £90,000.
- 4.10. Different approaches to interrupting vehicle-related anti-social behaviour, including cars undertaking "donuts." were discussed. Interrupting the flow of the overflow carpark was proposed. Officers would speak to the IWC regarding fencing on the grass area."

Issues affecting Sandown

- 4.11. Public perception and communications were discussed, including the potential referral of a volunteer to assist with website updates and improving engagement with residents on Council matters. The Clerk advised this was a positive idea and was supportive in principle; however, implementation would require time to establish appropriate arrangements, including a volunteer policy. The Council agreed to bring forward a proposal for consideration, with a view to implementation in late summer.
- 4.12. Progress on the Ocean Hotel site was discussed with draft designs for the communication boards at the Ocean being presented and well received. Members followed up on when the Ocean Hotel survey would be published now the pre-election period had ended.
- 4.13. Sandown in Bloom was noted as going ahead. It was agreed that officers would contact the main organiser to help with promotion and advertising, and to ascertain whether any further support is required Subject to further discussion, Council could seek to adopt the initiative in the future.
- 4.14. Members discussed correspondence received from Royal Mail to MP Joe Robertson outlining the reasons why Sandown is not currently eligible for a small alternative rural postal service and confirming that opportunities are being advertised for a full Post Office service in the town.

- 4.15. The MP has requested the letter be shared with the public to provide clarity and understanding. The Council agreed that the correspondence should be published alongside its “Working to Make Sandown Better” communications to help inform residents and gather public views.

School Crossing Patrol

- 4.16. The budget had included monies to support The Bay Primary School in providing a safer zebra crossing through part-funding of a School Crossing Patrol. The budget had been set expecting the PTA or similar group to match fund. However, the school did not have a PTA.
- 4.17. A proposal was made to increase support initially but decrease year in year to allow the school to establish its own monies for the provision via crowdfunding and school-led fundraising.
- 4.18. It was agreed a proposal be presented to Full Council by the Working Party on 18 May for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, using funds from the Community Safety budget line, funding be increased to fund 100% in year 1n 50% in year 2 and 25% on year 3.

New Mural Project

- 4.19. Members noted that the Eastern Gardens Viewing platform mural was expected to be in place by the Summer.
- 4.20. Locations for further murals were discussed with including a mural beneath the Iron Bridge was discussed. Officers would investigate potential funding opportunities, determine whether planning permission is required and seek permission from the Railway

Phone Box Library

- 4.21. The Phone Box had been installed at the Broadway Centre. Work had begun on refurbishing the project.

Beat Surgery

- 4.22. Police Beat Surgeries were now scheduled on a regular basis at the Broadway Centre. However, May’s session had been cancelled.

Butt Bin

- 4.23. This project would be taken forward when officer’s had capacity.

Community Vegetable Planters and Broadway

- 4.24. Planters had not been installed. Christchurch Warm Spaces and Aspire Café among other local groups would be taking ownership. Sandown Town Council had supported the project by providing the land and undertaking tree works to ensure the site was suitable.

National Reading Project 2026

- 4.25. The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the *National Reading Project 2026*, reporting that they are working in partnership with Jean Jones, winner of the National Reading Volunteer Award. The project highlights the importance of early reading and demonstrates how town and parish councils can contribute meaningfully to this national focus through the funding and provision of book bags for local primary schools.

4.26. All artwork had been sent to the printers, and draft materials were currently being checked by the schools and the Deputy Clerk. Members would be kept updated on the project's progress.

5. YOUNG FUTURES WORKING PARTY 20 APRIL 2026

5.1. Present: Liam Cregg, Ian Boyd and Debbie Andre

Apologies: Alex Lightfoot and Paddy Lightfoot

Also in attendance: Lorraine Elliss (Deputy Clerk)

Town Hall

5.2. The programme continues to be well received, and the building is developing positive working relationships with the arts lettings space.

PlayZone

5.3. Members were updated on incidents of vandalism to the CCTV and misuse of the facility, resulting in potentially damaging antisocial behaviour. The Deputy Clerk also updated Members on a visit to the school to view CCTV footage and on discussions held with the police regarding the reporting of incidents. It was further agreed that the safeguarding policy within the booking system will be reviewed by clerks and report back to committee.

5.4. The official Launch event is being arranged, with further details to follow. The Playzone Launch is due to take place on Friday 22 May at 4:30pm.

5.5. QR signs and booking signage have been installed on the playzone gating.

5.6. The committee requested the regeneration manager Ross Edmonds (Isle of Wight Council) be invited to speak on the promotion of sports in Sandown and outline the Council's future sports planning, to support Sandown Town Council's future plans for Sandham Gardens.

Outreach Space

5.7. Following Council approval the budget envelope, a meeting was held with the Bay Youth Project and requirements for the base established. Works on a design to inform procurement is still to be received at STC. Clerks will follow up on the design with the bay youth officer.

School Crossing Patrol

5.8. Members discussed the budget allocation for a school crossing patrol on the Broadway. It was noted that the school has not yet provided a decision from PTS via the Clerk. The Clerk will contact the school and the PTA regarding their intentions to utilise the funding. An alternative option was also discussed, whereby Clerks will explore crossing patrol training for school staff.

Skate Park

5.9. A zoom meeting was held with John Cattle Skate Club and the appointed designer, who will be developing the initial designs to inform the budget and consultation. Members noted that no further update has been received following this discussion, and the Clerks will follow this up.