SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

EVENTS WORKING PARTY MEETING
6 OCTOBER 2026 (09:30 AM)

Present: Cllrs Joan Solomon, Frank Baldry, Gary Young.

Also In attendance: Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

Apologies: Cllr Ian Ward

1. Volunteer Social Event

1.1. Members noted the significant success of the Volunteer Networking Event, which brought together a wide range of local voluntary and community organisations from Sandown and Lake. The event provided valuable opportunities for volunteers, councillors, and community groups to meet, share experiences, and explore opportunities for partnership working.

1.2. Thanks were expressed to all organisations and individuals who attended, as well as to Community Action Isle of Wight for their support in coordinating the event. Councillors were pleased with the positive feedback received and recognised the important contribution volunteers make to local communities.

1.3. Following the success of the event, it was agreed that a similar event should be organised next year. Members discussed expanding the initiative to include volunteer organisations from Shanklin and the wider Bay area, helping to strengthen connections, encourage collaboration, and bring volunteers together to share knowledge and support community projects across the Bay.

2. End of Season Lifeguard recognition

2.1. Members noted that the planned presentation of thank-you letters to lifeguards was not able to take place this season, as many of the lifeguards had returned to education before a suitable date could be arranged.

2.2. It was agreed that the contribution of lifeguards on Sandown Beach throughout the season remains greatly valued and appreciated. Members discussed arranging a similar recognition event at the beginning of the 2027 season, potentially alongside Swim Safe training sessions, to help highlight the important role lifeguards play in keeping beach users safe.

2.3. It was further agreed that the Council would seek to promote the service through a dedicated press release next season, recognising the work of lifeguards and raising awareness of water safety amongst residents and visitors. The Mayor and councillors will be invited to participate in any future recognition event.

2.4. Arrangements would be confirmed in January 2027 to ensure timings worked this year.

3. Remembrance

3.1. The Working Party noted that all relevant organisations and stakeholders had now been contacted and arrangements for the Remembrance Service had been confirmed, including road closures and attendance by official representatives and the military band. It was agreed that Clerk will speak with Arch Deacon Barry Dugmore who has agreed to take this service and will be added to the order of service. Clerk will also speak with Cllr Clegg regarding the offer of a school choir from CE The Bay.

3.2. The proposed Order of Service was reviewed and agreed by Members. Councillor I. Ward will arrange the purchase of seven wreaths for the service.

3.3. The Clerks have liaised with Bay CE Primary School to arrange for pupils' poppy artwork to be distributed during the October half-term period. The school has also confirmed that completed artwork displays will be installed at Sandown Library, enabling the community to view and enjoy the children's contributions as part of the Council's Remembrance commemorations.

3.4. Members agreed to meet on Thursday 5th November at 2pm in the meeting room at the Broadway to put together the 800 copies of the order of service.

4. High street Safaris

4.1. The Clerk confirmed that this project will be taken forward in partnership with Cllr Joan Solomon as part of the "Spooktastic" Halloween Trail, which will run during the October half-term period.

4.2. The proposed scheme will involve the placement of themed stickers at 10 participating venues, supported by a trail map to encourage visitors to explore the High Street and they win an digital activity pack.

4.3. Cllr Solomon will contact participating businesses during the week to make the necessary arrangements and confirm their involvement in the project.

5. Christmas Activities

5.1. The organiser of then Xmas Funday would be contacted so the STC program could be shared and the opportunity to help promote the event could be explored.

5.2. The Nutcrackers would be ordered and arrangements made with a local shop to hold forms and give out prizes.

5.3. The Working Party reviewed the previous proposal to provide a Christmas tree at the Broadway Centre and, following consideration of health and safety implications, agreed that a large external Christmas tree would not be pursued. Members noted that the Broadway Centre already features several indoor Christmas trees, which are decorated and enjoyed by users of the Centre and community groups throughout the festive period.

5.4. As an alternative, the Working Party agreed to explore festive lighting displays and the installation of a themed decorative feature on the roof of the Broadway Centre, creating a visible seasonal focal point for residents and visitors. The Deputy Clerk will investigate suitable options and associated costs, with Cllr Joan Solomon assisting in developing proposals for consideration by the Council.

5.5. There had been no recent discussion with Christ Church regarding a Christmas Singalong – the PCC would be contacted to see if arrangements had been made and the Broadway was mooted as an alternative. The working part felt strongly the music should be Christmas themed. Clerks would take this forward.

Meeting closed at 10:45

Next Meeting 3 November at 09:30am