

Green Towns Report for Shanklin Town Council September 2021

This report is to update the TC on our activities over the last two months.

Shanklin Station – Esther Knight and Tina Homden have continued to water the hanging baskets on a daily basis. Although the plants have bloomed beautifully, they have struggled to cope with the drying winds across the forecourt. We sadly had to take them down on 9th September as they were looking the worst for wear. We are hoping to repair the automatic watering system in time for next spring and plan more hardy plants for the baskets.

Our 5 forecourt planters are watered daily by the station staff and are looking very colourful and healthy. Esther and Steve Knight purchased some small plastic spikes and attached to the tops of the planters to discourage the public from sitting on the plants. These are excellent and so far, have proved to be a success.

We are still waiting for an update from Island Line regarding permission to work on the station garden. It is looking a little overgrown and in need of some care and attention.

The War Memorial – Over the last two months Terry Carpenter has made 12 visits and spent 43 hours working on the garden. Once a fortnight Christine McDermott, Ann Miselbach and Chris Smithson join him to help with the weeding and keeping the area tidy. They make a very impressive team.

12 new lavender plants have been purchased to add to the garden.

In August Mark Biddlecombe very kindly cut back the hedges and will continue to offer his services when required.

Once again, I need to report that someone had used the outside wall by the gate as a public toilet. Tina Homden cleared up the mess, but we are all appalled and disgusted that we are having to deal with such disrespect.

Tower Cottage, Old Library, New Library and Falcon Cross – Linda Davis continues to look after Tower Cottage, weeding when necessary. Tina Homden and Kevin Allen have cut back the hedges and weeded the Old Library. Esther Knight, Terry Carpenter and Tina Homden have cleared the block paving, cut back the hedges and weeded at the Library. The wooden planter has been looking very colourful over the summer, along with the new plants under the hedges. Steve Knight has sprayed weed killer on the block paving at Falcon Cross as this was looking very unsightly.

Town Cleans – As our beach is cleaned by Brighstone Landscaping over the summer, we have focused on town cleans. On 15th August 12 volunteers met at the station and collected rubbish around the town. On 18th August we supported a local Lake couple to organise a litter pick around Broadlea School. They had been struggling to get any help or equipment, so we were happy to lend a hand. Although this was a very small event with 6 adults and 5 children, we filled 9 large bags with rubbish. On 12th September 17 volunteers met at Vernon Meadow carpark and collected rubbish around the Old Village. Only 4 large bags collected, which was much less than anticipated, but we believe Island Roads had recently been in the area.

We are thrilled to report that we have won joint first place (with Friends of Shanklin Theatre) in this year's Shanklin in Bloom competition. All our hard work is worthwhile when recognised in this way. The £20 garden voucher has been given to Terry Carpenter to purchase plants for The War Memorial and the certificate and trophy are on display at The Community Centre.

We have had no further update from IWC regarding permission to plant in Vernon Meadow Car Park and the land on Hope Road since they contacted TC regarding Public Liability Insurance in June.

Tina Homden



Shanklin TC
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Dear Sirs

July 2021

The purpose of this letter is to set out the basis on which we (are to) act as internal auditors of the Council and the respective areas of responsibility of the Council and of ourselves.

As Councillors of the above Council you are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and preparing financial statements, which give a true and fair view and comply with the Local Government Act Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996, as amended periodically. You are also responsible for making available to us, as and when required, the Council's accounting records and all other necessary records and related information for us to undertake our review in accordance with the requirements of the "Governance and Accountability Manual – The Practitioner's Guide", including minutes of all Council and Committee meetings.

We have a responsibility to report to the members whether, in our view, the financial statements, as summarised at Section 2 of the statutory Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), are in accordance with the Council's accounting records, whether they are supported by appropriate systems of internal financial control in the areas specified in the Internal Audit Report embodied in the AGAR and whether they comply with the relevant legislation. In arriving at our view, we are required to consider the following matters, and to report on any in respect of which we are not satisfied:

- a. whether proper accounting records have been kept by the Council;
- b. whether the Council's Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account or Receipts and Payments Account and supporting statements are in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- c. whether we have obtained all the information and explanations which we think necessary for the purpose of our audit.

In addition, there are certain other matters, which, according to the circumstances, may need to be dealt with in our report.

We have a professional responsibility to report if the financial statements do not comply in any material respect with Statements of Standard Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting Standards, as applicable to local Councils, unless in our opinion the non-compliance is justified in the circumstances.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with Part 2, Regulation 5 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations as set out in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (amended) and the Auditing Standards issued by the accountancy bodies and will have regard to relevant Auditing Guidelines. Furthermore, it will be conducted in such a manner as we consider necessary to fulfil our responsibilities and will include such tests of transactions and of ownership and valuation of assets and liabilities as we consider necessary.

We shall obtain an understanding of the accounting systems in order to assess their adequacy as a basis for the preparation of the financial statements and to establish whether proper accounting records have been maintained.

We shall expect to obtain such relevant and reliable evidence as we consider sufficient to enable us to draw reasonable conclusions therefrom. The nature and extent of our tests will vary according to our assessment of the Council's accounting systems, and where we may wish to place reliance on the systems of internal control and may cover any aspect of the Council's business operations. We shall report to you any significant weaknesses in or observations on, the Council's systems which come to our notice and which we consider should be brought to your attention. We will also examine annually the Council's approach to the assessment and formal adoption of the risks associated with the various financial and related systems in the Council.

All evidence obtained, whether in electronic or hard copy format, will be retained in accordance with the General Data Protection Legislation, Auditing Solution's GDPR, and Document & Data retention policies, and the General Data Protection Regulation Non-Disclosure Agreement issued in concert with this Agreement.

As part of our normal audit procedures, we may request you to provide written confirmation of oral representations, which we have received from you during the course of the audit.

In order to assist us with the examination of your financial statements, as summarised in the AGAR, we shall request sight of all relevant supporting documents, including those relating to the chairman's certification of the AGAR, which are due to be issued with the financial statements. We reserve the right to attend relevant meetings of the Council and to receive notice of all meetings.

We may ask, additionally, for confirmation in writing that all the transactions undertaken by the Council have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records, and our audit report on your Council's financial statements may refer to this confirmation.

The responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities and fraud rests with the Council. Notwithstanding this, we shall endeavour to plan our audit so that we have a reasonable expectation of detecting material misstatements in the financial statements or accounting records resulting from irregularities or fraud, but our examination should not be relied upon to disclose irregularities and frauds that may exist. We also require that, in the event of any suspected irregularity being identified by members or the Council's Clerk, we are advised immediately and, if appropriate, consulted on the appropriate courses of action that should be applied to examine the position further.

We shall not be treated as having notice, for the purposes of our audit responsibilities, of information provided to members of our firm other than those engaged on the audit (e.g. information provided in connection with accounting and other services).

Agreement of terms

Once it has been agreed, this letter and contract will remain effective for future years, until it is either cancelled by the Council or ourselves. We respectively ask that, should the Council wish to cancel the contract, due notice is given by 30th September latest in the financial year under review, as work on the year's review will have either commenced prior to or shortly after that date. We shall be grateful if you could confirm in writing your agreement of the terms of this letter or let us know if they are not in accordance with your understanding of our terms of appointment.

Please indicate your agreement by signing this letter and returning to this office.

On behalf of Auditing Solutions Ltd	Signature	Shanklin Town Council	Signature
Stuart J Pollard Director	<i>Stuart Pollard</i>	Dated:	