



Shanklin Town Council

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Town Mayor's address

Councillor Chris Quirk, Shanklin Town Mayor

Our thanks to Shanklin Men in Sheds, who operate out of Winchester House, for refurbishing two park

benches owned by the Town Council. One has been installed in the small garden at the front of the Old Library building on Victoria Avenue; if you have thoughts on where the other might be sited, please pass suggestions on to the Town Clerk or myself. If you are a man and would like to be involved with this friendly and supportive group why not pop along and join them.

The Old Library is in advanced stages of being converted into a bespoke Performing Arts Centre, and Shanklin Theatre and Community Trust who already have a long lease on the site are in the advanced stages of purchasing the building from the Isle of Wight Council.

Most residents will have seen over the

summer that the safety buoys in the Bay that mark out the 5-mph speed limit zone were reinstated with brand new buoys. These buoys do not mark an exclusion zone for powered craft such as jet skis, but do mark a zone where they must reduce speed to waling pace, and in that regard, they have dramatically improved the situation, although there are still a few craft that are still going too fast entering the zone; this year's swimming season is largely over, but we ask all users of motor craft to observe the 5-mph limit in the area between the buoys and the beach. The buoys will be removed over winter and put out again in the spring. The Isle of Wight Council funded replacement buoys but the Bay Town and Parish Councils are funding the ongoing costs of repair, replacement of lost or damaged buoys and over-winter storage.

The Town Council continues to seek a long-term solution to the pond by St. Blasius Church on Big Mead. We are in discussion with Isle of

Wight Council Officers who will be attending our next Council Meeting, considering the need for dredging and restoring the integrity of the pond, dealing with the ongoing rat infestation, and ensuring that the feeder stream is flowing and not re-directed.

A number of residents have raised concerns over the felling of a few trees along the boundaries of Big Mead; one of these was removed because it had become dangerous, the others were ash trees suffering from ash die-back disease which is having a similar impact on ash trees that Dutch elm disease had on elms a number of years ago. The trees that have been removed are being replaced with saplings.

Other issues of concern to residents are the historic pathways and steps that link Shanklin and Luccombe to the beach, and we continue to press the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads for the restoration and reopening of Luccombe and Appley Steps, and securing the retaining walls to ensure the ongoing viability of Osbourne Steps.

**Best Regards Chris.
Shanklin Town Mayor (2021)**