From: [redacted]
To: David Bartlett - Ventnor Residents Forum
Subject: Re: ventnor residents" forum - town centre consultation
Date: 13 May 2018 10:12:39

Hi David

Thank you for the information regarding the future of the town centre.

I have lived in Ventnor since 2010 and love my life here. I came not knowing anyone and found the townsfolk to be friendly and welcoming and non-judgemental. Although I work full-time in Newport [redacted] I have also worked part time for a couple of Ventnor businesses over the few years. The first was [redacted]. I like to support local businesses, restaurants, greengrocers, fish from the haven etc. Being able to do this is important to me adding a special if simple dimension to life. Therefore I appreciate the hard work the retailers and business people in town undertake in order to provide us with these pleasures, especially when political, economic and social changes beyond the island are exerting pressures on us too.

As fond as I am of Ventnor town centre, the pavements are often dirty (not just because of the pigeons), some shop fronts look uncared for and shabby and there are some unsightly empty shop units too, not to mention the old bus station. There are exceptions of course… the butchers, greengrocers, The Tea House notably stand out as being quite the opposite. The through traffic makes walking through the town quite unpleasant and at times dangerous. When walking along the narrow pavements, one often has to step into the road if there is someone else pushing a pram, walking their dog, using a wheelchair etc.

I attended the meeting on Friday evening at St Catherines Church and was rather dismayed by the lack of forward vision revealed by many of the speakers. Calls of “leave it like it is” were often heard. I have signed up to the concept of pedestrianisation but accept that the routing of traffic, buses and delivery vehicles would present difficulties and some opposition. I believe Ventnor would be greatly enhanced without the heavy traffic going through the town and would hope that it would encourage a variety of new businesses to take root and help make Ventnor a destination for shopping as well as for its stunning location and beautiful beach. It would be great to see perhaps a small franchise of say Joules (there is not a lot of choice for ladies clothing in town) underpinning independent retailers…lifestyle shops (as Sarah’s was), a book shop, a good delicatessen. There needs to be a variety in the offer to shoppers along with a pleasant environment to encourage them to browse and make purchases. We do have a great hospitality offer in town with a variety of good coffee/tea shops, bars, restaurants and cafes. The trick is to provide the best mix of shops to meet local demand for residents and visitors alike.

So it’s not just about pedestrianisation but more about how to improve the experience of living in and around the town, and of visiting the town. And it isn’t about the now, but importantly about the future. Transport will change…the introduction of electric vehicles will require charging hubs for instance. Smaller but more frequent buses perhaps. Re-route the No 3 so that it doesn’t go through the town centre. Deliveries to businesses made before 0830 each morning. Reduction in parking fees to encourage people from outside town to park in car parks. No easy answers, but at least the conversation has begun and I hope there will be lots of practical and innovative ideas forthcoming as a result of the consultations.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

On 6 May 2018, at 13:00, David Bartlett - Ventnor Residents Forum <david@ventnorresidentsforum.org.uk> wrote:

<image003.png>

This week we are holding a series of consultation meetings about the future for the town centre. Although the focus is on the potential for the pedestrianisation of the section of the High Street between it junctions with Church Street and Spring Hill, we're interested in hearing all the ideas residents will have on ways of improving the town centre.

This is consultation for *real* as the Town Council has not made any decisions about it before the consultation is completed.

You should have had delivery of *Destination Ventnor* setting out the case for pedestrianisation, an approach that has worked to the benefit of hundreds of other seaside towns: we hope the consultation will tell us whether it would work for Ventnor and whether the town would welcome it.

Additional information in the form of links to some of the research on which that publication is based is available on our web site by clicking this link.

Details of this week's meetings – based on the town's main areas – are:

Meeting For	**Date**	**Time**	**Venue**
St Lawrence residents	8 May	6pm	St Lawrence Village Hall
Lowtherville residents	9 May	6pm	St Margret's Hall
Bonchurch residents	10 May	6pm	Trinity Church Hall
Ventnor East & West residents	11 May	6pm	St Catherine's Church

You can also respond to the consultation by replying to this email. Neither your email address nor your personal details will be published or shared with anyone else.

Regards

David

<image002.png>*The distribution list for this Residents' Forum is the 350 email addresses from local residents we've collected over recent years.*

❖ *Any other Ventnor resident is welcome to join the residents' forum simply by sending their email address to this one or by contacting us at the Ventnor Town Council offices. Anyone not wanting to remain part of this Forum can simply reply to this and ask to be removed from it.*

- Anyone within the Forum is free to respond to it at any time simply by replying to this email.
- We guarantee confidentiality for responses and our Data Protection Policy is available by clicking this link.
- The residents' forum is an extension of the Town Council's commitment to consult regularly, and as widely as possible, with residents on all of our town's major opportunities and challenges.