From: [redacted]
To: David Bartlett; Alison Killick
Subject: My Response to leaflet "Destination Ventnor"
Date: 11 May 2018 21:56:55

Dear VTC,

Whilst I can understand the need for the Town Council to improve the High Street, unfortunately there has and continues to be a slow demise of the High Street the length and breadth of the country, so I don't think this is peculiar to Ventnor. We all know that the Internet plays a large part in this with more and more people shopping online. The supermarkets also play a big role.

The 'Destination Ventnor' leaflet, which I have read, is an interesting thought. I don't know that the residents would like Ventnor High Street to be like Gibraltar High Street, besides, the two are completely different, how can you possibly compare them, the same can be said for Cowes.

I do not feel that pedestrianizing the High Street would increase the footfall to Ventnor, although it may make the High Street look better. As with pollution from car exhausts, in my opinion you would need to take the pedestrianization further than just the High Street to have any real effect on pollution levels. The plans for the direction of the traffic needs more consideration.

Ventnor, in my opinion, has an attraction all of it's own, without the shopping! If you want shopping you can go to Newport for that. Ventnor has a landscape and scenery that attracts thousands of visitors each year. People come here for the tranquility and beauty Ventnor offers.

Unfortunately for Ventnor, there were four destinations I can think of which would have attracted people here today in their droves had they still been here. The railway, The Pier, The National Hospital for diseases of the Chest, (now Ventnor Botanic Gardens) & Steephill Castle, sadly they have all gone.

Maybe the Town Council could ask the residents of Ventnor how they think the town could be improved. I for one have a number of ideas, and pedestrianization of the High Street is not on my list.

There are other areas in Ventnor which need urgent attention rather than focusing on the pedestrianization of Ventnor High Street. A number of derelict sites can be found around Ventnor town, which need addressing, not to mention the main road into the town and the appauling state of Trinity Road. These sites really do make a bad first impression of Ventnor.

A few sites come immediately to mind in the vicinity of the Town Centre;

The Ventnor Brewery site

The plot of land opposite Madeira Road

The land adjacent to St Boniface Road, same plot as above, people have been fly tipping here

The building on the corner of Madeira Road, dangerously unstable and about to fall down by the looks of it.

The Old Bus Station

The plot of land behind what was 'Philleas Foggs' restaurant, just abandoned

It maybe that in the distant future Ventnor will be ready for a pedestrianized area, although I wouldn't choose the High Street for this, it is cold and the sun does not shine there for very long during the day, if at all. This may have been a deliberate building plan by the Victorians as there wasn't refrigeration back then, who knows!

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

St Boniface Road

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