

Councillor Ian Ward – Sandown South Ward

Annual Report 2012

This year has been very difficult year, mainly because of the reduction in the governments funding to local councils, which affected the Isle of Wight severely. Many difficult decisions were made that were especially sensitive for Sandown. However, during the year I have done my best to mitigate the effects of those budget reductions on Sandown. My specific actions were:

Library - despite the original plan to close Sandown Library, the Council agreed that the 'Bay' should have a library. The next step was to extend the opening days from one day to three days and lastly, getting money from the New Homes Bonus to fund a fourth day. These steps meant that Sandown only lost one opening day.

Toilets - Of the two toilets nominated for closure in Sandown, I managed to get an alternative provision at the Heights to replace one of them. The Battery Gardens toilet will be reopened for events when we refurbish Battery Gardens.

TCl - I worked with the MD of Southern Vectis to get a commercial alternative to Sandown's TIC. Although we did not get a shop as we hoped for we did get a 'bus', which is available, all year round and not just seasonal as before.

Life Guards. - I got the Sandown Shanklin Inshore Rescue to take on that role.

Another important success for me was the closure of a large house of multiple occupancy in Sandown that had been a catalyst for antisocial and other criminal behaviour in the town. Its presence had blighted the lives of local residents for several years.

Lastly, I set up and actually drive, once weekly, Sandown's very successful community bus service, which serves the town centre, and two large residential estates that would have no public transport without the community bus.

Ian Ward
May 2012