



Town Hall,
Parliament Square,
Ramsey,
Isle of Man.

www.ramsey.gov.im

9th December, 2021.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The monthly **Public Meeting** of the Ramsey Town Commissioners will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday evening next, **15th December, 2021**, in the Boardroom of the Town Hall, Ramsey.

BUSINESS:

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Mr. L. I. Singer
2. **To receive the Returning Officer's Certificates:**
of Three Members Elected - Contested Election, 25th November, 2021,
North Ward.
3. **Minutes for Adoption:** page(s): 1 – 9
 - Minutes of Board Meeting held on 17th November, 2021.
4. **Matters arising not included within the Agenda.**
5. **Matters for Information:** page(s):
 - Action Tracker – December 2021 (to be tabled)
6. **Finance and General Purposes:** page(s): 10 - 28
 - Town Clerk's Report(s):
 - Bye-Election North Ward
 - Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme
 - Municipal Association Meetings
 - Publication Scheme
 - Finance Officer's General Report(s):
 - Accounts
 - Summary of Revenue Income and Expenditure
 - Rates

7. Works and Development:

page(s): 29 - 40

- Town Clerk's Report(s):
 - Climate Change Duties
 - National Broadband Strategy
 - Riverside Development Proposals
 - Section 13 Agreement – PA 20/00433/B
 - Town Centre 20 MPH Proposals
- Technical Services Manager's Report(s):
 - Planning Application
 - Appendix

8. Housing and Property:

page(s): 41

- Town Clerk's Report(s):
 - Public Sector Housing Rent and Allowances

9. Parks and Leisure:

page(s): 42

- Deputy Town Clerk's Report(s):
 - Lhergy Frissell Hill Climb

10. Notice(s) of Motion:

page(s): 43

- Notices of Motion standing in the name of Mr. R. D. Cowell –
“Amalgamation of South Ward and North Ward”.

11. Any other Business:

page(s): 44

(by permission of Chairman - any will be advised)

- Matters Raised by the Public
 - ❖ None Received
- Representative Report(s):
 - ❖ Northern Local Authorities Swimming Pool Board



T. R. K. Cowin,
Town Clerk & Chief Executive

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
[PUBLIC]

The Monthly Board Meeting of the Ramsey Town Commissioners was held in the Boardroom of the Town Hall, Ramsey, on Wednesday, 17th November, 2021, at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Messrs. A. J. Oldham, G. S. Court, S. R. Kelly, J. McGuinness, F. B. R. Williams and W. G. Young.

Mr. R. D. Cowell attended remotely.

Apologies: Revd Canon N. D. Greenwood and L. I. Singer.

The Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Finance Officer, Technical Services Manager, Housing and Property Manager, and Minute Clerk were in attendance.

(2021/22:207) Minutes:

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 20th October, 2021, and those of the Special Meetings held on 25th October and 8th November, 2021, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

(2021/22:208) Matters Arising:

No matters were raised.

Matters for Information:

(2021/22:209) Action Tracker November 2021:

Mr. McGuinness presented a drafted Action Tracker giving more details and prioritising items therein, by way of "RAG Status" which he considered would be of more benefit to the Board. Mr. McGuinness was thanked and it was agreed to adopt this template.

Resolved: To note the "Action Tracker" to 17th November, 2021, subject to the following and accepting that some matters may be referred to within other Clauses of these minutes:-

Ramsey Quayside - Mr. Williams referred to changes to the plans for West Quay and was informed that the plans themselves had not changed but the "STEPS" report prepared by a student in 2019 and the Department's proposed responses on the traffic audit were now available on-line, having been included with the Planning Application details. Mr. McGuinness queried if the Commission wished to make further comment, which he felt was necessary, and whether or not a further meeting should be held. It was noted that the "STEPS" report provided only a "snap-shot" of parking at certain times of the day. Members agreed to email their views within a week to the Town Clerk to enable composite further comments to be submitted.

(2021/22:209) Action Tracker November 2021 Continued:

Planning Enforcement –the final sentence of the “action” of this section was deleted as it had been included in error (and referred to another item within the Action Tracker.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2021/22:210) Town Clerk’s Report – Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s report dated 1st November, 2021, advising that discussions have begun between the Administrators of the Superannuation Scheme and the Department of Infrastructure; in respect of which the Department has appointed a Policy Review Group.

Mr. Williams asked if the Administrators would consider investing in “Climate Change Friendly” schemes rather than fossil fuel carbon emissions. The Town Clerk undertook to ask for the investment Policy in place and advised that the opportunity to comment on the scheme and suggest moving away from carbon-based investments would occur during the review stage.

(2021/22:211) Town Clerk’s Report – Local Authority Vacancies:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk’s report dated 1st November, 2021, advising of candidates seeking election in the Bye-Election for three members for North Ward, the Poll for which will take place on 25th November, 2021.

(2021/22:212) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – SS Ellan Vannin Memorial Service:

Resolved: To note the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 10th November, 2021, advising that the 112th Commemoration of the loss on SS Ellan Vannin will take place by the Memorial Plaque on East Quay on Friday, 3rd December, 2021, at 6.30 p.m.

In the case of severely inclement weather the memorial will be observed in Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Maughold’s Church.

(2021/22:213) Finance Officer’s General Report:

Resolved: To note and approved the Finance Officer’s general report dated 10th November, 2021, subject to the following:-

The Finance Officer answered a query from Mr. McGuinness with regard to a split in expenditure for maintenance/heat and lighting at the Courthouse.

(2021/22:214) Technical Assistant's Report – Fixed Penalty Notice - Litter:

Members considered the Technical Assistant's report dated 8th November, 2021, concerning non-payment of a retrospective Fixed Penalty Notice issued in respect of littering.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed unanimously that the matter be referred for prosecution.

Works and Development:

(2021/22:215) Town Clerk's Report – Unsightly Property:

Resolved: To note the Town Clerk's report dated 1st November, 2021, advising that contact has been made with numerous commercial property owners in attempts to have weeds removed from masonry to building elevations and chimney stacks and in gutters and valleys within the town centre.

Mr. McGuinness welcomed the action to improve the appearance of properties in vicinity of Parliament Street.

(2021/22:216) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications:

Members agreed that the Technical Services Manager's Report dated 10th November, 2021, detailing planning applications received from the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, under the planning consultation procedures, be noted and no objections be made to such applications, subject to the following:-

REF NO: 3931
P.A. NO.: 21/01169/B
PROPOSED: Construction of a flood wall, reconstruction of highway and
 drainage system
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **West Quay, Ramsey.**

It was noted that the Commission has submitted an objection to the application.

REF NO: 3932
P.A. NO.: 21/01188/B
PROPOSED: Variation of condition 1 of approval for creation of three new
 dwellings with associated golf club car park and access
 alterations/improvements (PA 16/01173/B) to extend permission
 for a further 4 years
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **Ramsey Golf Links, Brookfield Avenue, Ramsey**

(2021/22:216) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications Continued:

It was suggested, by the Lead Member, that the Commission make observation that whilst not objecting to the application an observation be made that the Commission would not look to support a further extension.

Mr McGuinness queried the appropriateness of making this comment at the present time and proposed that an observation be made that the Commission would prefer if development could be actioned within the time-limits of this application, should it be approved. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Young and carried unanimously.

REF NO: 3934
P.A. NO.: 21/01223/REM
PROPOSED: Reserved matters application in association with PA 20/01401/A for the erection of a 3 storey dwelling and associated access
NOTES: Reserved Matters
SITE: **Land to the rear of 6, Summerland, Ramsey.**

It was proposed by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Young and agreed unanimously that the Commission object to the application on the grounds that it goes against General Policies 2(b) and (c) of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016.

REF NO: 3936
P.A. NO.: 21/01236/B
PROPOSED: Conversion of existing offices into residential accommodation
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **Suite 2, 29, Parliament Street, Ramsey.**

Mr. Williams informed members that the Commission has previously been in favour of such conversions and proposed that no objection be made. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed unanimously. Mr. Williams commented that the Planning Committee were not always in agreement with the Commission's opinion.

REF NO: 3941
P.A. NO.: 21/01305/B
PROPOSED: Erection of proposed detached dwelling with integral garage on vacant plot
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **Vacant Plot Adjacent To Alberta Grove Mount Ramsey**

It was proposed by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Oldham that the Commission object to the application on the grounds that it goes against General Policies 2(b) of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016. The proposal was defeated with only the proposer and seconder being in support thereof.

(2021/22:216) Technical Services Manager's Report - Planning Applications Continued:

Attention was drawn to a Planning Application 21/00433/B (**RTC Reference 3891**) for alteration and the erection of replacement extension Byculla. Walpole Road, Ramsey, which should have been considered in May, 2021, but for some reason was not. Members noted that notification has been received about an Appeal against refusal of the application by the Planning Committee on the grounds that it goes against General Policies 2(b, c and g) of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016.

It was proposed by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed unanimously that no objection to the proposals be made.

Appendix:

Mr. Williams queried the Enforcement Action sought in respect of application 3916 (Chang of use Unit 24, Gladstone Park) and was advised that this would be dependent upon whether or not an appeal is made to the refusal of the application and the result of any such appeal.

Parks and Leisure:

(2021/22:217) Town Clerk's Report – RNLI New Year Chilly Dip 2022:

Members considered the Town Clerk's report dated 9th November, 2021, concerning the request made by Ramsey Branch RNLI to stage the New Year's Day "Chilly Dip" on the foreshore of the South Beach in aid of RNLI and Bunscoill Rhumsaa.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Court, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed unanimously to confirm that the event can proceed.

(2021/22:218) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – Seasonal Events Update:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 9th November, 2021, in which an update of Seasonal Events was given, the following comments / resolutions being made thereon:

Christmas Lights Switch-On 20th November: - members queried the decorative lighting already being illuminated and were informed that this was because of testing due to a suspected fault which would, hopefully resolve the issue.

Tractor Run – it was proposed by Mr. Court seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed unanimously to offer logistical support for the Tractor Run.

Food Bank Dash – proposed by Mr. Court, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed unanimously to permit the Northern Athletics Club to stage a "Santa Dash" within the Mooragh Park on 18th December, 2021, funds being raised for the Isle of Man Food Bank.

(2021/22:219) Notice of Motion – Amalgamation of South Ward and North Ward:

Mr. Williams proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow consideration of the Notice of Motion submitted in the name of Mr. R. D. Cowell with regard to amalgamation of the Town's South and North Ward.

The Town Clerk informed members that Standing Order 36(2) required two-thirds of the whole number of the members of the Board (i.e. 9 of 12), to progress and that the matter would require to be deferred until the next meeting of the Commission.

Any other business:

(2021/22:220) Bat Boxes Poyll Dooey:

Mr. Court conveyed a request made by the Manx Wildlife Trust to site 3 bat boxes at the Poyll Dooey nature reservation.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Court, seconded by Mr. McGuinness and agreed unanimously that permission be granted, subject to confirmation that the boxes are sited on land in the Commission's ownership.

The Chairman thanked the public and media for attending and closed the public session at 7.42 p.m.

The following items were considered in private the detail of which, having regard to data protection, matters affecting persons who cannot be named, etc., is not as extensive as that contained in minutes of matters discussed in public.

(2021/22:221) Minutes:

Resolved: To note and approve the minute recorded in private from the meeting held on 20th October, 2021.

Matters for Information:

(2021/22:222) Housing Committee:

Members were advised that the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 2nd November, 2021, was inquorate and that the Minutes of such meeting would require a formal resolution of approval by the Board.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Court seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed the Minutes be approved. The Chairman conveyed his congratulations to the Housing and Property Manager and those involved with the new Mayfield Scheme.

(2021/22:223) On-Going Matters “Action Tracker”:

Resolved: To note the “Action Tracker” to 17th November, 2021, subject to the following and accepting that some matters may be referred to within other Clauses of these minutes:-

- **Ramey Courthouse** - the Deputy Town Clerk informed members that he has a further meeting with the interested party on 23rd November.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he will adapt the “Action Tracker” to reflect the same layout as that approved within Clause 209.

Members also considered the tabled schedule of Ruinous Buildings as presented by the Technical Services Manager, to 17th November, 2021, subject to the following:-

- **10/11 West Quay** – it was noted that an application for demolition has been submitted and the owner is now in correspondence with DEFA and the Fire Service.
- **The Holy Grove Mount** – it was noted that the Town Clerk and Technical Services Manager have now met with the owner as a result of which the previous orders have been rescinded and a new Order served.
- **5, College Street** – the Town Clerk advised that a report is still awaited from Environmental Health, who, it is understood, are having to focus on “Covid-19” related duties as a matter of priority.
- **Seymour House** – the Town Clerk advised members that in the absence of progress we will endeavour to re-engage with the owner.

Finance and General Purposes:

(2021/22:224) Town Clerk’s Report – Accident and Near Miss Policy:

Resolved: To note and approve the Town Clerk’s report dated 1st November, 2021, to which was appended the Commission’s Accident and Near-Miss Reporting Policy.

It was further resolved, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Court and agreed unanimously, to adopt such policy.

(2021/22:225) Deputy Town Clerk’s Report – “Aqua Mann”:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk’s report dated 10th November, 2021, advising of the request to establish a leisure attraction on the lake within the Mooragh Park. A draft business plan was appended to the report.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed, the Commission inform the applicant of their agreement in principle to the proposals and they be invited to make a presentation thereon to the Board at some time in the future.

(2021/22:226) Finance Officer's Report:

Resolved: To note and approved the Finance Officer's Report dated 10th November, 2021, subject to the following:-

2022/23 Income Budget Proposals –

Meetings - it was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that the schedule of proposed meetings be approved.

Appendix 4 – “routine” income – it was proposed by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Court and agreed that the recommendations contained within the appendix be approved.

The Finance Officer informed members that if any of them wished to discuss any aspect of the figures or the budget process itself they are welcome to come in and see him.

2022/23 Expenditure Budget Proposals –

Inflation Rate – discussion ensure following which it was proposed by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed that an inflation rate of 4% be provided for within the budgetary calculations, subject to regard being paid to the fluctuations in the rate at the present time.

The Finance Officer's Appendix 5 detailing progress on 2021/22 approved budget schemes was welcomed by Mr. McGuinness.

Parks and Leisure:

(2021/22:227) Deputy Town Clerk's Report – “The Big Splash” Hospice Isle of Man:

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report dated 10th November, 2021, concerning the Big Splash art event and seeking permission to site a second installation on land in the Commission's ownership forming the paved area in front of the Bowling Alley.

Resolved: That, following a proposal by Mr. Court seconded by Mr. Williams and agreed unanimously, permission be granted. It was noted that the matter has not yet been raised with the tenants of the premises.

Any Other Business:

(2021/22:228) Technical Services Manager's Report – Vehicle Replacement:

Members considered the Technical Services Manager's tabled report dated 16th November, 2021, conveying difficulties in obtaining prices and delivery dates for replacement vehicles for budget consideration. Having regard to difficulties and to need to comply with new emissions legislation, the Technical Services Manager drew attention to the cost of an ex-demonstrator electric vehicle details of which have been provided to the Commission and by coincidence is the vehicle which the Commission's staff have been using on a demonstration/hire basis.

Mr. McGuinness queried the funding for the vehicle and was advised by the Town Clerk that monies were available from the Housing Maintenance Reserves.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. Kelly and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow consideration of a single tender and the Commission purchase the vehicle at this time.

(2021/22:229) Footfall Trackers:

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members of a request made by the Department of Enterprises seeking consent for the installation, at no cost of the Commission, of footfall trackers at locations within the town, which it is contended will ultimately provide useful data to the Commission, Chamber of Commerce, et al. The details of how the Department intend to undertake this project are not yet known.

Resolved: That following a proposal by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Oldham and agreed, permission be granted.

(2021/22:230) RBL Planter:

Mr. Oldham made reference to a suggestion made with regard to the RBL planter in the Mooragh Park and a wish to see an adjacent shelter decorated as a greater memorial to those whose names are included on the War Memorial at the Courthouse.

Resolved: To note Mr. Oldham's comments and consider the matter further should a formal approach be made by Ramsey Branch Royal British Legion.

Matters of Establishment:

Resolved: To note and approve the Minutes of Meeting of the Establishment Committee held on 10th November, 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. giving a time of 1 ½ hours for the payment of attendance allowances.

Chairman.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
BYE-ELECTION NORTH WARD
DECEMBER 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The Bye-Election for North Ward was held on Thursday 25th November 2021, and was conducted in accordance with the Local Elections Act 1986, the Representation of the People Act 1995 (as amended), the Local Election Rules 2002 (as amended) and the Local Election (Absent Voters) Regulations 2008 (as amended)

Seven applications for absent votes were received within the time permitted, and six absent votes were submitted.

Polling cards were issued to all those on the electoral roll who had not applied for an absent vote. 53 polling cards were returned to the Returning Officer as undelivered, i.e., “not known at this address”, “gone away” etc.

841 voters took part in the ballot, from a total of 3621 on the voters list, a turnout of 23.23%. Electors were permitted to vote for up to 3 candidates.

The result of the ballot was as follows: -

Total Ballot Papers Issued		841
Number of Ballot Papers Rejected:		
For Want of Official Mark		1
Voting for more Candidates than Vacancies		
Writing or mark by which voter can be identified		
Unmarked or Void for Uncertainty		1
Number of Votes Cast for Candidates:		
Adam Robert BEIGHTON	Votes	194
Lamara Louise CRAINE	Votes	406
Janette FERGUSON	Votes	154
Grant Richard HILL	Votes	109
Pauline JOHNS-GARRETT	Votes	175
Tracy Suzanne KINRADE	Votes	176
Stella Margaret MOSS	Votes	157
Luke PARKER	Votes	457
Daniel John RICHARDSON	Votes	148
Edward WILSON	Votes	53

Town Clerk's Report - Bye-Election North Ward
December 2021 – Public continued

As a result of the ballot the Returning officer has declared the following to have been elected as Ramsey Town Commissioners to serve the unexpired part of the term 1st August 2021 until 1st May 2025: -

- Luke PARKER
- Lamara Louise CRAINE
- Adam Robert BEIGHTON

Members will be aware that with effect from 1st January 2022 the provisions of the Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) Act 2020 [the Act] will extend to local authority elections in accordance with the Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) (Appointed Day) Order 2021.

The Appointed Day Order that was due to come into effect on 1st January 2022 is planned to be amended so that it will come into effect from 1st July 2022. This has yet to go to the Council of Ministers and then be laid before Tynwald. It is hoped that it will be laid before Tynwald in January 2022.

The Crown and Elections Team have written to the Local Authorities, and they plan to carry out engagement and training for Local Authority Clerks. As and when this engagement and training takes place it will be reported back to the board.

Subject to the approval by Tynwald of new Local Election Rules, future elections will provide for both postal voting and proxy voting in similar fashion to national elections. The Act also permits local authority elections to be undertaken by electronic means however there has been no indication that it is Cabinet Office's intention to provide rules allowing such.

The Act also establishes the Returning Officer for local authority elections to be the Government Chief Secretary who will be required to appoint a Deputy Returning Officer and any other officials for any future local authority election. All local election fees and expenses will continue to be defrayed out of the district fund of the local authority.

Recommendation: to be noted.

T. R. K. Cowin,
Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

8th December, 2021.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
ISLE OF MAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUATION SCHEME
DECEMBER 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

At the November meeting a question was raised as to whether the Pension Scheme Administrators would consider investing in “Climate Change Friendly” schemes rather than fossil fuel carbon emissions. The matter has been raised with the Borough Treasurer who has kindly provided the following comments:-

“The Pensions Committee’s role is to manage risk and investment return, with the principle objective of the Scheme’s Fund being to generate the best return for Scheme members within acceptable risk levels, rather than making investment decisions based upon political or ethical reasons. To utilise only “climate change friendly” investment principles could contradict that primary objective, and fundamentally run against the fiduciary duty of Scheme towards the scheme members and employers.

“The fiduciary responsibilities of the Pensions Committee are towards the Scheme’s local authority employers (whose employer contributions into the Scheme are directly impacted by the performance and investment returns of the Fund) and also the scheme members who are also key stakeholders. It is in the interest of both parties that the Pension Fund assets are performing in such a way so as to ensure that the future pension benefit liabilities of the Scheme are adequately funded. It is not the role of pension funds to play the role of environmental activists and it should be remembered that the funds that they are responsible for are not their own.

“Having said that, the Pensions Committee fully recognises that environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues can impact upon the Scheme’s investment returns. This is why back in November 2017 the Pensions Committee took the bold step of adopting a Responsible Investment (RI) Policy as a key addition to its Investment Beliefs document. The policy recognises that the generation of long-term sustainable returns is dependent upon the stable, well-functioning and well governed social, environmental and economic systems. In this way, a series of policies has been developed which have been shared with the Fund’s investment managers for taking into account within their portfolios, where this is possible. The fund managers are regularly reminded of the Committee’s ESG policies and their compliance is formally reviewed and monitored each year. The Committee is also committed to ensuring that its ESG policy fully complies with the regulatory framework and reflects industry developments in this area. The Committee regularly receives training updates from Hymans Robertson on RI and ESG issues, so is well briefed on this subject.

**Town Clerk's Report – Isle of Man Local Government
Superannuation Scheme – December, 2021, Public Continued:**

“The Pensions Committee recognises the need to base any future decisions on clear data evidence and standardised ESG performance data measures; an area that is rapidly evolving. The Committee is responsible for the good stewardship of the Pension Fund assets for the benefit of Scheme employers and their employees. Whilst it may be in the Fund’s interest to consider new strategies aimed at reducing the carbon footprint over time, Committee will not wish to lose the benefits of maintaining a strongly diversified collection of assets or risk negative returns as a result.

“There is no one clear and obvious solution. Most commentators in the pensions investment industry tend to argue that it is better and more effective for pension schemes to use their position to encourage and engage with the fossil fuel industry to behave differently rather than to go down the divestment route. Clear evidence exists that this has been a successful strategy in driving change. Ultimately Committee will listen to the advice of the Investment Consultants who are paid to advise the Committee on the best approach in the interests of the Fund and to achieve compliance with the regulatory framework.”

Recommendation: to be noted.

T. P. Whiteway

Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

1st December 2021.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
DECEMBER 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The Isle of Man Municipal Association has notified its 2022 meeting dates.

All meetings are held at Braddan Commissioners' offices with the exception of the AGM/ Dinner. There are no scheduled meetings in August or December.

Date	Speaker
27 January	Tim Crookall MHK
24 February	David Ashford MHK
31 March	Chris Thomas MHK
28 April	TBA
26 May	AGM/Dinner
30 June	TBA
28 July	TBA
29 September	TBA
27 October	TBA
24 November	TBA

The Commission's representatives on the Association are Commissioners G. S. Court and L. I. Singer.

Recommendation: to be noted.

T. P. Whiteway
Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

30th November, 2021.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
PUBLICATION SCHEME
DECEMBER 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The Commission has been requested to respond to a survey by Cabinet Office on the principle of introducing a publication scheme for local authorities..

On 19 May 2021, Tynwald approved the following motion:

“That Tynwald is of the opinion that there is public benefit in the regular and routine publishing of certain government information; and that the Council of Ministers should, in consultation with the Information Commissioner, return to Tynwald ... with proposals for a publication scheme for public authorities in accordance with Part 7 of the Freedom of Information Act 2015, which should include an assessment of the potential costs and benefits of such a scheme”

As such, the Cabinet Office is producing a report and seeking feedback on how this would affect Local Authorities.

What is a publication scheme?

A publication scheme sets out what “classes” information should be routinely published by public authorities, including local authorities. In the UK, this includes:

- “Who we are and what we do” – Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.
- “What we spend and how we spend it” – Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement and contracts.
- “What our priorities are and how we are doing” – Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews.
- “How we make decisions” – Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.
- “Our policies and procedures” – Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.
- “Lists and registers” – Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the authority.
- “The services we offer” – Advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases. A description of the services offered.

Town Clerk's Report – Publication Scheme
December, 2021 – Public Continued:

In practice, a publication scheme could function in various ways. At its simplest, it is a list of information published by the authority and where this can be found. However, there is the option to go further, for example using hyperlinks to lead to all information an authority publishes that falls under Freedom of Information. It can be a page on an authority's website, or a separate downloadable document (e.g. PDF). It applies a consistent set of principles regarding transparency and the publication of information across all public authorities. It is important to note that such a scheme would apply only to information which could be acquired through an FOI request; information that is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2015 would also be exempt from being published under a publication scheme.

Options: what is being considered?

There is no single way a publication scheme has to work in the Isle of Man. In the UK, there is a Model Publication Scheme which all public authorities are expected to adopt – if they do not, then they must get their own bespoke scheme approved by the Information Commissioner. The Model Publication Scheme is accompanied by a set of "definition documents" which explain how the scheme applies to different types of public authorities. It is therefore important that we get the views of all public authorities in the Isle of Man that fall under FOI legislation, so that we can understand what it is realistic to expect and try to accommodate this when considering how we could incorporate guidance notes.

Publication schemes used in other jurisdictions can also have a very wide scope. It may be simpler to adopt a phased approach when introducing one, focusing on fewer classes of information to begin with before introducing more if appropriate. Understanding which kinds of information are commonly requested, as well as which are most practical to publish, will also be helpful in deciding the classes of information to prioritise.

Finally, the modes of publication open to local authorities are important to understand. For maximum transparency, it is ideal to make information available both online and as physical copies. However, this will not be possible from the outset, as not all local authorities have a website. Most that don't have one do have a Facebook page, but this is not fully accessible to those who do not have a Facebook account. Therefore, it will also be helpful to understand the obstacles that different local authorities face in publishing information online, so that we can tailor our recommendations to this. A publication scheme could still be useful to those authorities with a limited presence online, as it could be used to signpost where else information can be found, such as at a local authority's offices or by email upon request.

**Town Clerk's Report – Publication Scheme
December, 2021 – Public Continued:**

Aims / Purpose

Publication schemes aim to promote greater transparency through the routine publishing of information. The information concerned can, in theory, become publicly available at any time through an FOI request, so making it readily available simply improves access to and visibility of government information to the public. In the case of local authorities, this would be with the aim of improving rate payers' engagement and trust in their local authority.

In theory, this could also help to make it easier to respond to FOI requests; firstly, if more information is published, this could lead to fewer requests for said information and, secondly, if information that is requested is already published, then the person responding can always direct the person requesting to the Publication Scheme, thus simplifying this process.

General Comment

Engagement and how people interact with the Commissioners is probably more pertinent than publishing additional information. There is a policy "Elections and Engagement Policy" available on the web site at the address below.

<https://www.ramsey.gov.im/media/1656/elections-and-engagement-policy.pdf>

This Policy will be reviewed, a report on this will be provided at the January 2022 meeting.

The questionnaire and some suggested response is appended for discussion and amendment as considered appropriate.

Recommendation: for discussion.

T.R.K. Cowin
Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

8th December, 2021.

In regard to the questions raised the following may assist:-

4 How transparent do you believe your local authority is?(Required)

Please select only one item

- ☐ Very
- ☐ Moderately
- ☐ Not Very
- ☐ Not At All

Which of the following do you already publish? (Please select all that apply)
If you have ticked "Other", please provide some details

- ☐ Meeting minutes
- ☐ Agendas
- ☐ Accounts/finances
- ☐ Organisational Structure
- ☐ Key Contact Details

The Commission publishes all these items on its website, in addition public notices, job vacancies and media releases are published both on its website and on social media.

Agendas are also promoted via Facebook with a link to our website. Minutes and agendas can also be obtained at the Town Hall, or by email.

Generally, a person using Email would have the ability to access items on a website.

6 What is preventing you from publishing more? (please select all that apply)(Required)

please select all that apply

- ☐ Lack of resource
- ☐ Lack of time
- ☐ Concerns over releasing too much information (please specify)
- ☐ Concerns over releasing confidential information (please specify)
- ☐ Lack of demand/public interest
- ☐ Other (please specify)

If you have ticked "Other" or have any comments on this question, please specify

The Commission hasn't received comment that the extent of information available is lacking, additional data could be provided if requested or felt to be of interest.

7 Do you currently have any strategies/policies/schemes aimed at promoting greater transparency?(Required)

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes

☐ No
If "yes", please state

The Commission has a published policy of Elections and Engagement which incorporates elements of transparency in terms of publications etc. This can be found at <https://www.ramsey.gov.im/media/1656/elections-and-engagement-policy.pdf>

8 Considering the previous questions, do you think a publication scheme would be effective in promoting greater transparency/consistency in the information published by local authorities? *(Required)*

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure

Freedom of Information

We would now like to ask you some questions on processing Freedom of Information requests

9 How many FOI requests do you receive per year?

No. of FOI requests *(Required)*

Since introduction of the FoI the Commission has received a total of 27 on average 6-7 requests per calendar year.

10 What is the most commonly requested information? *(Required)*

lease select only one item

- ☐ Meeting minutes
- ☐ Agendas
- ☐ Accounts/finances
- ☐ **Other (please specify)**
- ☐ None (we don't get any)

If you have ticked "Other", please provide some details

FoI requests tend to relate to business activity, correspondence, contacts with third parties, services costs, CCTV, fines and enforcement etc

11 How do you manage FOI currently (time/resources)?

Please state *(Required)*

The Commission has an Officer responsible for FoI responses who co-ordinates this function seeking data from managers as required.

12 Considering the previous questions, do you believe a publication scheme could help reduce the number of FOI requests seen by local authorities, for

example, by encouraging the routine publication of commonly requested information? *(Required)*

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure
- ☐ Any other comments...

Online Presence

We are now going to ask you some questions regarding your online presence.

13 Does your local authority have its own website? (excluding Facebook pages/social media) *(Required)*

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14 If you answered "yes" to Question 13, who is responsible for maintaining this and what other resources does this require?

Please state – Existing staff manage current website content. Any amendment to functionality of the website may, subject to the detail, require engagement of the website developer to update.

15 If you answered "yes" to Question 13, what are the potential costs/resources involved in publishing more online? Can you accommodate these? Please state

Staff time only related to preparation of content and ongoing update where needed.

16 If you answered "no" to Question 13, what are the barriers to running your own website? Please state

Implementation of a Publication Scheme

We would like to ask for your views on a potential Publication Scheme.

17 If such a scheme is introduced would you prefer a phased introduction?

If so, which would be the easiest to start with? (please tick all that apply) *(Required)*

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Minutes & Agendas
- ☐ Finances / Accounts
- ☐ Structure / Organogram
- ☐ Other (please specify)
- ☐ Would not prefer a phased approach

If you have ticked "Other", please provide some details.

The items listed are already available on this authorities website and should be capable of delivery by the majority of local authorities.

18 Were legislation introduced to make this enforceable, would an annual review of the publication scheme be manageable? *(Required)*

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you have any additional comments on this question?

19 Would you be willing to publish the scheme on the Government website? (e.g. on the "Local Authority Contacts" page) *(Required)*

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you have any comments on Question 19? –

If the information is provided on the authorities' website a link could be provided on the Local Authorities' Contacts page to avoid duplication of effort and to maintain ownership of the data and publication.

Feedback

20 Do you have any further feedback you wish to give regarding the potential costs/benefits of introducing a publication scheme? Please state

The information published and available on the Ramsey Town Commissioners web site exceeds the minimum requirement as identified in question 5 of the survey. More information can always be published and made available, however there needs to be a balance struck to ensure that information overload does not occur, and important information is hidden in a morass of information and data available.

The relatively modest number of FOI requests would also suggest that people are finding the information that they presently require.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
FINANCE OFFICER'S GENERAL REPORT
DECEMBER 2021 - PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The following documents are appended for review and / or information:

1. A summary of accounts paid and suppliers used in November 2021 – Appendix 1.
2. Tabulated and graphical summaries of the Income and Expenditure for the period to 30th November 2021 – Appendix 2.

Accounts

Accounts of £272,820.14 were paid via the General Revenue Account and accounts of £35,381.55 were paid via the Northern Civic Amenity Site Account in November 2021. Details of the accounts paid and the suppliers utilised are attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendation : To be noted.

Summary of Revenue Income and Expenditure

A summary of the 2021-22 Income and Expenditure from 1st April to 30th November 2021 together with associated graphical depiction is attached at Appendix 2. The graphical disclosures are both month-by-month and cumulative figures.

Certain elements of capital expenditure incurred have been paid through the Revenue account and are to be financed by way of capital loans. They are not disclosed as part of Appendix 2 - the 2021-22 Income and Expenditure figures and graphs and they are:

Cronk Elfin – refurbishment scheme professional fees	£6,146.
Upper QPR – final refurbishment costs	£10,344.
Close Woirrey – design professional fees	£3,060.

Recommendation: To be noted.

Rates

On 1st December 2021 Treasury has supplied a 3rd Supplemental Rating List for 2021 which indicates some changes in the gross and rateable values for the Town as follows:

	Gross £	Rateable £
Existing list	841,140	729,079
Valuations to be added	10,485	8,388
Valuations to be cancelled	<u>(1,715)</u>	<u>(1,372)</u>
Revised list	<u>849,910</u>	<u>736,095</u>

This 3rd Supplemental Rating List includes agricultural hereditaments (i.e. farmland) which are only subject to water rates so do not increase the rateable value for the Town.

Treasury have also confirmed that the total rateable value for the Town at 1st December 2021 is £733,671 (2020 - £722,688). This increase of £10,983 equates to a 1.52% rise (2020 – £11,670 or 1.64% increase).

Recommendation: To be noted.

8th December 2021.

N.Q. Cannell, FCCA
Finance Officer

Ramsey Town Commissioners

Accounts paid to the 30 November 2021

Appendix 1

Payee	Description	Amount (incl. VAT)
General Account		£
Staff	Wages, salaries, ITIP, NI & superannuation	168,901.67
Various	Housing property repairs, maint. & safety checks	25,830.92
Various	Vehicle maintenance, repairs & licences	14,869.19
Various	Town events	13,056.18
Manx Utilities	Street lighting	8,637.01
Various	Commission property repairs, maint. & safety checks	6,756.69
Account transfers	Rent refunds and R & N DHC rents collected by card	6,575.88
Various	Office expenses - election costs	5,523.58
Ellan Vannin Fuels Ltd.	Fuel & heating oil	4,818.76
Various	Refuse materials & equipment	3,150.36
Various	Park materials	2,715.30
Various	IT costs	2,410.50
Various	Contract cleaning	2,376.74
Manx Telecom	Phones	2,177.58
Various	Library books & materials	1,644.67
Various	Office expenses - post, printing, stationery etc.	736.09
Various	Media & advertising	720.96
Banks	Bank & debit card charges	705.61
RTC	Petty cash	584.25
Various	Legal & prof. : housing	402.00
Various	Security & safety costs	151.20
Various	Gift vouchers	75.00
		<u>272,820.14</u>
Northern Civic Amenity Site		
Island Drainage & Groundworks	Skip haulage	10,596.00
IOM Govt.	Waste disposal costs	10,291.73
Various	Recycling charges	9,168.86
Various	Plant & equipment repair & maintenance	2,696.73
Various	Site maintenance	2,247.04
Various	Office & general expenses	144.72
Manx Telecom	Phones	76.42
Various	PPE	71.50
Worldpay (UK) Ltd.	Debit card reader charge	65.24
Bank	Charges	23.31
		<u>35,381.55</u>

Ramsey Town Commissioners

Suppliers utilised during November 2021

Appendix 1

AB Photography Ltd.	IOM	Jacksons Engineering Merchants Ltd.	IOM
ACE Hire & Sales Ltd.	IOM	J P Corry (formerly Jewsons)	IOM
Adam Berry	IOM	J Parker Dutch Bulbs (W'sale) Ltd.	UK
Allan C Swales Ltd.	IOM	K & R Parts Ltd.	IOM
Argon Business Systems Ltd.	IOM	Mac's Builders Merchants Ltd.	IOM
Argon Office Systems Ltd.	IOM	Magnet IOM Ltd.	IOM
Askews & Holts Library Services Ltd.	UK	Mannin Music	IOM
Ayre Mowers Ltd.	IOM	Mannin Retail Ltd.	IOM
Ballaneven Compost & Horticulture	IOM	Manx Telecom Ltd.	IOM
Beth Louella Fine Art	IOM	Manx Utilities	IOM
BHW Print Group Ltd.	IOM	Middle Park Recycling Ltd.	IOM
Brew & Corkill Ltd.	IOM	North Point Plastics Ltd.	IOM
Bridge Bookshop Ltd.	IOM	North Ramsey Bowling Club	IOM
Brunel Engraving Co. Ltd.	UK	Outdoor Power & Plant Ltd.	IOM
CE Richmond Ltd.	IOM	Paul Wheeler Ltd.	IOM
City Electrical Factors IOM Ltd.	IOM	Phoenix Windows Ltd.	IOM
Cleervu Aerial Specialists Ltd.	IOM	P & M Window Cleaners Ltd.	IOM
Colas IOM Ltd.	IOM	Promenade Shirts & Embroidery Ltd.	IOM
Countryside Maintenance Ltd.	IOM	Ramsey Automotive Centre Ltd.	IOM
David Perry Electrical Contractors Ltd.	IOM	Ramsey Skips	IOM
DQ Advocates Ltd.	IOM	Screwfix Direct Ltd.	UK
Ellan Vannin Fuels Ltd.	IOM	Signrite IOM Ltd.	IOM
Energy Communications Ltd.	IOM	Splinters D.I.Y. Store	IOM
Farmers Combine Ltd.	IOM	Steven Morley Ltd.	IOM
Feltons Ironmongers	IOM	Switched-on Entertainment & Events Ltd.	IOM
Ferncroft Environmental IOM Ltd.	IOM	2 Clean	IOM
Galaxy Fireworks IOM	IOM	Top-2-Toe Ltd.	IOM
G4S Secure Solutions (IOM) Ltd.	IOM	Ulverscroft Ltd.	UK
Go Marketing Ltd.	IOM	Vannin Office Point	IOM
Haldane Fisher (IOM) Ltd.	IOM	Viking Direct Ltd.	UK
Investec Asset Finance Ltd.	IOM	W.D.S. Ltd.	IOM
IOM Government	IOM	Weighmann Ltd.	IOM
IOM Newspapers Ltd.	IOM	W.F. Howes Ltd.	UK
Island Drainage & Groundworks Ltd.	IOM	Worldpay (UK) Ltd.	UK

RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE TO 30 NOVEMBER 2021 - Appendix 2

	2021-22 to date			Estimate for 2021-22		
Social Housing	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)
Housing Schemes	2,362,933	3,044,090	(681,157)	4,311,316	4,356,149	(44,833)
Cl. Woirrey/ Cl. y C Glass	4,904	1,449	3,455	5,500	2,130	3,370
Brookfield Court	6,774	7,548	(774)	15,050	13,420	1,630
Close ny Mooragh	15,600	15,251	349	28,800	31,300	(2,500)
New vans	0	0	0	83,100	83,100	0
Sub Total	£2,390,211	£3,068,338	(£678,127)	£ 4,443,766	£ 4,486,099	£ (42,333)

Property and Assets	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)
Town Hall	121,712	19,893	101,819	219,800	23,250	196,550
Workshops	59,653	0	59,653	95,110	0	95,110
Public Conveniences	28,236	0	28,236	58,850	0	58,850
Courthouse - loan repayment	14,800	0	14,800	14,800	0	14,800
Courthouse - maint., H & L etc.	7,775	2,705	5,070	12,200	2,650	9,550
Mansail Lease	2,346	6,937	(4,591)	6,020	10,275	(4,255)
Lakeside Centre	2,757	5,273	(2,516)	5,130	11,550	(6,420)
Parklands Day Nursery	1,939	11,387	(9,448)	2,620	17,900	(15,280)
Bowling Alley	504	6,875	(6,371)	2,000	15,000	(13,000)
Non-Lease Properties	1,507	0	1,507	6,150	0	6,150
Prom Shelters, etc	19,292	0	19,292	11,100	0	11,100
Private Property Repairs	4,462	813	3,649	10,500	0	10,500
CCTV town centre	761	0	761	4,350	0	4,350
Apprentices	1,732	0	1,732	0	0	0
R.N.D.H.C.	26,605	31,590	(4,985)	38,900	42,790	(3,890)
Park assets	41,050	0	41,050	63,825	0	63,825
Sub Total	£335,131	£85,473	£249,658	£551,355	£123,415	£427,940

Works & Development	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)
Foreshores & Flags	1,862	0	1,862	2,100	0	2,100
Car Parks	10,890	21,951	(11,061)	14,450	16,480	(2,030)
Refuse Removal	477,370	93,835	383,535	777,473	104,000	673,473
Civic Amenity contribution	169,260	0	169,260	225,685	0	225,685
Sewers & Pumps	52,275	52,275	0	104,500	104,500	0
Street lighting & maint.	69,237	0	69,237	79,000	0	79,000
Decorative lighting & maint.	325	0	325	11,150	0	11,150
Local Services	95,250	0	95,250	92,700	0	92,700
Govt Department Agencies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	£876,469	£168,061	£708,408	£1,307,058	£224,980	£1,082,078

Parks & Leisure	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)
Advertising & Entertaining	50,142	15,571	34,571	55,950	4,000	51,950
Parks & Gardens	133,243	3	133,240	253,391	600	252,791
Games Concessions	1,730	1,000	730	12,000	0	12,000
Public Library	86,694	5,722	80,972	140,395	8,000	132,395
Sub Total	£271,809	£22,296	£249,513	£461,736	£12,600	£449,136

Finance & General Purposes	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expend. / (Income)
Administration	26,384	0	26,384	67,050	0	67,050
Office Expenses	639,171	86,296	552,875	977,386	88,250	889,136
Sundry Expenses	8,158	0	8,158	12,100	0	12,100
Miscellaneous	9,711	39,065	(29,354)	31,850	24,500	7,350
Swimming Pool	16,795	0	16,795	17,000	0	17,000
Town Band	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000
Town Centre Management	(30)	0	(30)	4,000	0	4,000
Sub Total	£702,189	£125,361	£576,828	£1,111,386	£112,750	£998,636

TOTAL	£4,575,809	£3,469,529	£1,191,753	£ 7,875,301	£ 4,959,844	£ 2,915,457
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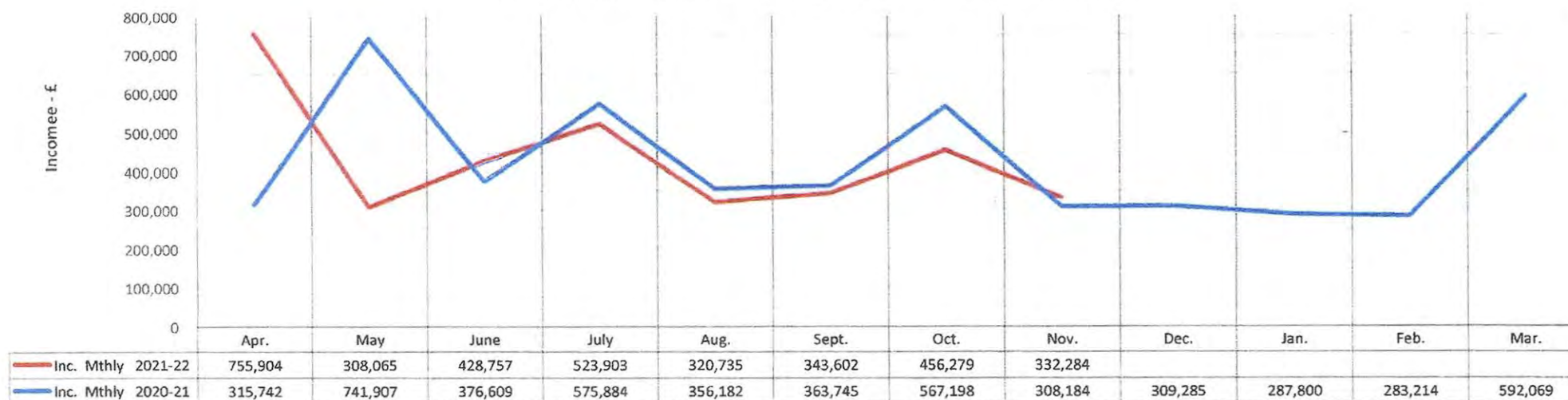
Town rates	£ -	£ 2,399,934	(£2,399,934)	£ -	£ 2,776,672	(£2,776,672)
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RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

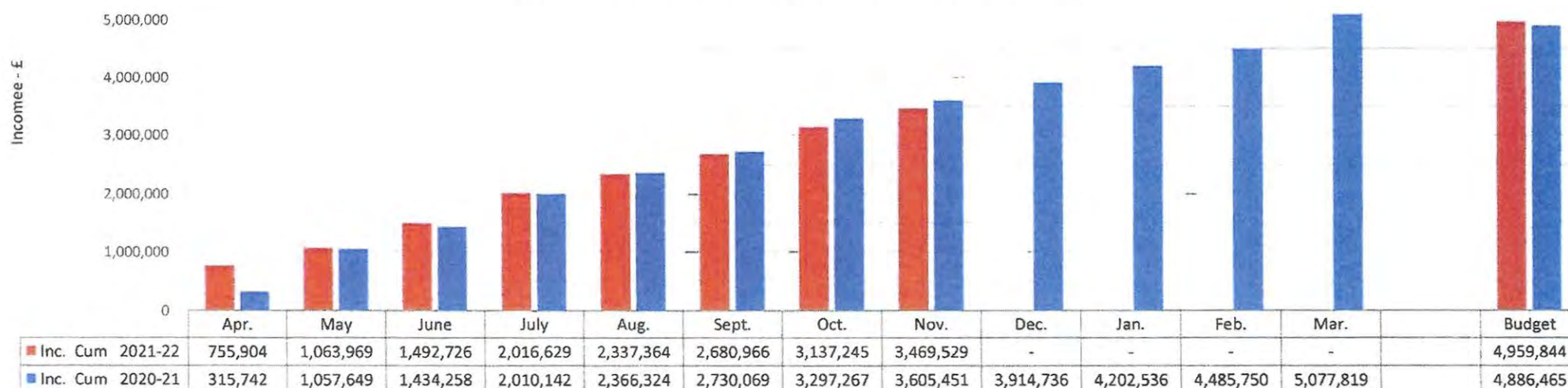
SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE TO 30 NOVEMBER 2021

Appendix 2

Ramsey Town Commissioners Month-on-month income summary 2021-22 & 2020-21 comparative



Ramsey Town Commissioners Comparing income to budget 2021-22 (with 2020-21 comparative)

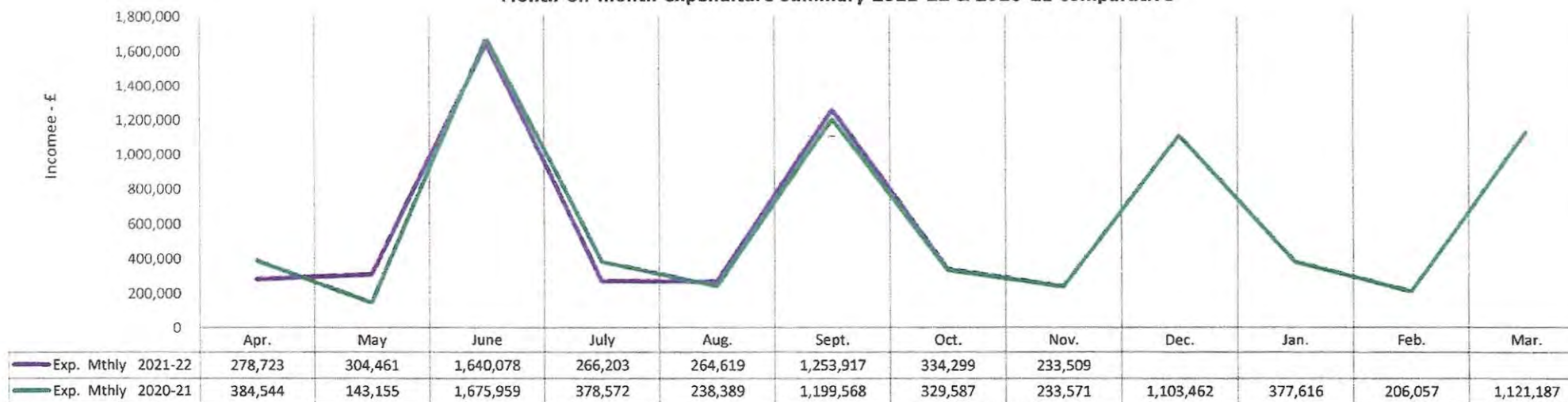


RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

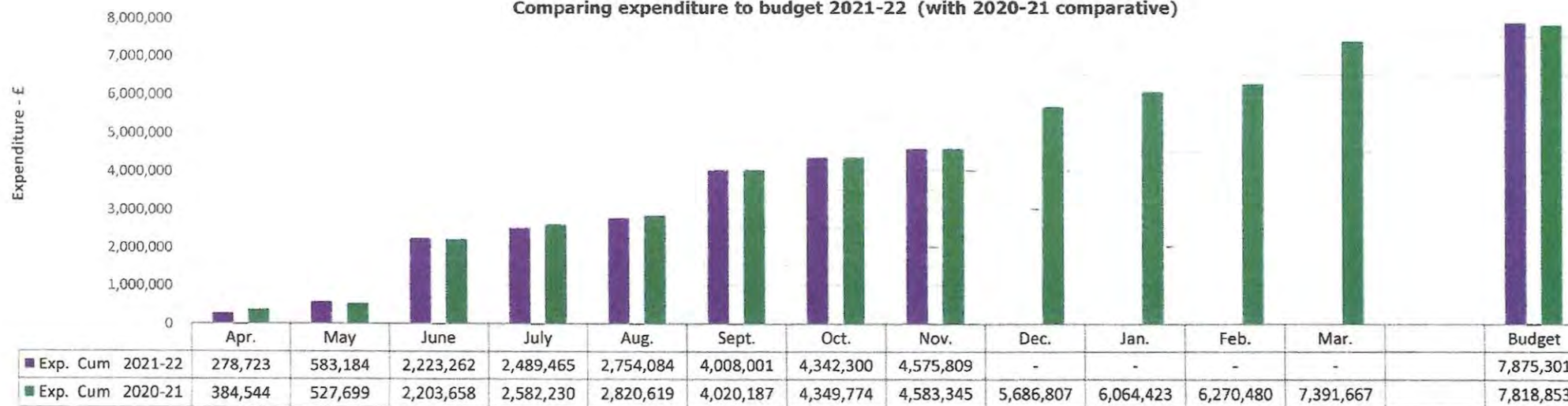
SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE TO 30 NOVEMBER 2021

Appendix 2

Ramsey Town Commissioners
Month-on-month expenditure summary 2021-22 & 2020-21 comparative



Ramsey Town Commissioners
Comparing expenditure to budget 2021-22 (with 2020-21 comparative)

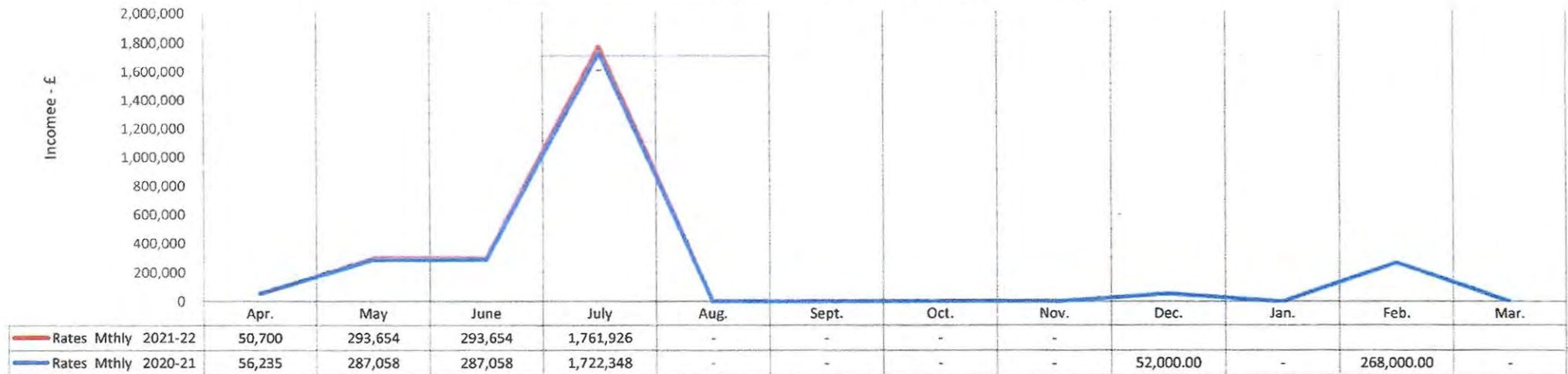


RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS

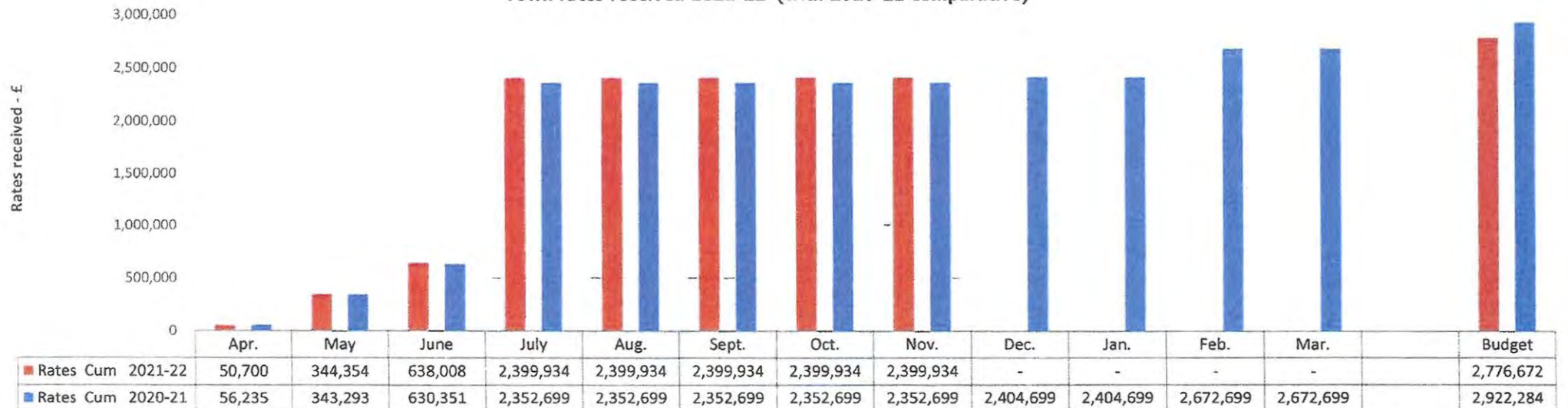
SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE TO 30 NOVEMBER 2021

Appendix 2

Ramsey Town Commissioners
Month-on-month rate receipts summary 2021-22 & 2020-21 comparative



Ramsey Town Commissioners
Town rates received 2021-22 (with 2020-21 comparative)



**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES
DECEMBER 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

On 15th November officers from the Cabinet Office, Climate Change Transformation Team, provided a presentation and answered questions from local authority members representing the northern local authorities. Ramsey Town Commissioners Messrs Kelly, McGuinness and Young attended.

Naomi Atkins, Climate Change Policy Manager, has provided electronic copies of the presentation, the Climate Change Bill 2020 and a FAQ Public Bodies document, all of which have been circulated electronically to Members. Ms Atkins has also provided the following summary and responses to issues raised at the meeting: -

FUNDING

The meeting indicated to me that the largest area of concern is how change to reduce emissions will be funded.

Within this there were several key themes:

- Local authorities not being given access to funds and schemes (e.g. green living grant).
- Applications for funding that have been refused or require additional information which is difficult to compile.
- Concerns around needing to raise rates to pay for change and the effect this would have on those with low income.
- Concerns around increasing or causing fuel poverty for all low-income residents (i.e. not just those in social house but also private renters and home owners)
- Concern that increased costs for people will mean more difficulty in buying homes.

These are concerns which have been raised by all of the Local Authorities I have spoken to so far. Access to funds and the processes which feed into that sit outside the guidance we are developing. However, funding is clearly an important part of enabling action to reduce emissions and so I will try to find out what can be done. In addition your comments highlighted that it would be useful for the guidance to include advice on how to calculate the emissions reductions a particular action could provide.

Town Clerk's Report – Climate Change Duties – December, 2021, Public Continued:

PER CAPITA EMISSIONS

I stated that the Isle of Man has high per capita emissions, here are the figures:

On average, each person in the Isle of Man is responsible for 8,300kg of carbon equivalent emissions per year, compared to the UK's average of 6,800kg and the global average of 4,700kg.

This data is from our Greenhouse Gas Inventory which is prepared by Aether for onward reporting required by the UK and for IOMG to monitor IOM emissions. The data is available on our inventory dashboard at <https://netzero.im/resources/data/>

WHY EMISSIONS REDUCTION IS IMPORTANT

For more information on why reducing emissions is critical to limiting the catastrophic effects of global warming, here is a link to the 'Summary for policy makers' of the most recent IPCC report, published earlier this year.

ENERGY GENERATION – INTERCONNECTORS, BIOFUELS, WIND, SOLAR Etc.

Please follow this link to the Future Energy Scenarios research – the individual documents are linked on the right hand side of the page. This piece of research sets out possible pathways to decarbonisation of the Island's electricity supply. Each scenario uses a combination of energy sources and seeks to balance the 'energy trilemma' of security, affordability and low emissions.

I was also asked for more information in relation to biofuel – here are some useful links:

- <https://www.netzero.im/latest/what-are-biofuels/>
- <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/biofuels/biodiesel-and-the-environment.php> (on the right hand side you'll see links to other pages giving more information)
- <https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/Chapter-2-Bioenergy-1.pdf> (this document is more detailed and technical)

Ideally we would have local biofuel production to minimise the emissions that would be caused by transporting fuels to the Island. This could provide economic benefits and jobs. Biofuel crops can be grown on land (eg. corn, sunflowers) or in the sea (eg. algae, seaweed).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – BEING LESS WASTEFUL AND MORE LOCAL

Comments were raised in relation to being less wasteful, shifting toward and supporting local suppliers. Sustainable development supports this approach and forms a part of the duties. Here is a link to the UN Sustainable Development Goals for more information.

<p style="text-align: center;">Town Clerk's Report – Climate Change Duties – December, 2021, Public Continued:</p>

JUST TRANSITION AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Discussion around the 'just transition' and 'climate justice' principles highlighted the need for the guidance to explain these terms and provide practical examples of how they can be implemented. If you would like to learn more about those principles in the meantime here are some useful resources:

- The Just Transition Declaration made at COP26 this month
- The International Labour Organisation's Guidelines for a just transition
- Carbonbrief article which explains the meaning of 'climate justice'

MONTREAL PROTOCOL – EXPORT OF WASTE APPLIANCES

Here is a link explaining how we achieved ratification of the Montreal Protocol to the Island in March this year:

- <https://www.gov.im/news/2021/mar/09/montreal-protocol-island-steps-up-position-on-ozone-depleting-substances/> (press release)
- <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/environmental-protection-unit/odsf-gas-regulations/> (gov info page)

Ms Atkins advises that comments and those from other public bodies will inform the ongoing development of the guidance to help local authorities you fulfil their climate change duties and the reporting requirements. Once a draft is ready there will be a formal consultation and local authorities will be asked for comments on the draft – this is planned for mid-January [2022].

Recommendation: to be noted.

T. P. Whiteway

Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

1st December 2021.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
NATIONAL BROADBAND STRATEGY
AUGUST 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The Commission has received correspondence from Manx Telecom offering to meet to update on work towards the National Broadband Plan. The company states:-

Manx Telecom is currently midway through the rollout of fibre broadband to areas across the Isle of Man. The new infrastructure will enable us to quickly deliver ultrafast fibre broadband in line with the Government's National Broadband Plan which has a target of fibre broadband access to 99% of Island premises by the end of 2024. It will also allow us to meet the growing demand for fast, reliable connectivity and ensure the Isle of Man remains a competitive jurisdiction that can meet the needs of residents and businesses alike.

The rollout is being carried out in stages with different areas receiving fibre at different times to ensure optimum efficiency in the programme.

*We would like to offer Ramsey Town Commissioners the opportunity to meet with representatives of Manx Telecom and the Department for Enterprise to:
Explain in detail the aims and intended impact of the National Broadband Plan
Discuss the logistics of delivery in your area
Answer any questions you may have*

If you would like to take up this opportunity, please would you contact us at NBP@gov.im who will be happy to liaise with you on a suitable date and time.

The installation of fibre broadband is the most important telecoms infrastructure project of our time and will be key to how the Island develops in the medium to long term. We look forward to sharing our vision for the future and explaining more about the opportunities that widespread fibre connectivity will bring.

Recommendation: to set a date for a special meeting.

T. P. Whiteway
Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

30th November, 2021.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS
DECEMBER 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Development proposals for land at Ballachrink Farm, Ramsey, titled Ramsey Riverside, have been released on a new website. www.sulbyriverside.im

The proposals include 207 new homes in a mix of townhouses, apartments and larger semi- and detached houses, alongside new sport and leisure facilities, commercial spaces and a riverside pub with accommodation.



The development proposals were discussed with Commissioners in a special meeting held in June 2021 details of which can be found on our website.

<https://www.ramsey.gov.im/your-commissioners/meetings/9-june-2021/>

A media release issued by the developer has also been shared on the Commission's website.

The developers held a "Zoom" question and answer presentation on the evening of the 6th December which was circulated to Members, it is understood that this will be made available to view on the developers website.

The development will be the subject of a future planning application and will be presented for consideration at that time.

Recommendation: to be noted.

T. P. Whiteway
Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

1st December, 2021.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
SECTION 13 AGREEMENT – PA 20/00433/B
DECEMBER 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The Planning Committee resolved on the 15th March 2021 to grant Planning Approval PA 20/00433B, subject to the completion of a Section 13 Agreement, for the development of 10 dwellings at the former Caines Yard, off Shipyard Road, Ramsey, to pay a commuted sum in lieu of 2.5 units of affordable housing and to pay a commuted sum in lieu of Public Open Space to the standard required within the IOM Strategic Plan within the development.

The Section 13 Agreement has now been executed by all parties.

The decision notice for the application was issued on 5th October 2021, there was no subsequent appeal request within the 21 day appeal period, and therefore progress in this matter awaits the commencement of work by the developer.

The Agreement provides that the developer shall, in lieu of the provision of public open space, pay to the Ramsey Town Commissioners the sum of twelve thousand and thirty six pounds (£12,036.00) to be paid no later than habitation of the first dwelling sold.

Recommendation: to be noted.

T. P. Whiteway
Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

1st December, 2021.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
TOWN CENTRE 20 MPH PROPOSALS
DECEMBER 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The Commission has previously discussed proposals to introduce a 20mph zone in the town centre. Initially was instigated by a request from the Commission to make Parliament Street a 20mph road.

After discussion with the DoI it was agreed that it made sense to introduce a 20mph zone within which the limit would be introduced. The zone would incorporate Parliament Street and roads adjacent thereto where in practice it would be difficult to travel at speeds in excess of 20mph (Tower Street, Water Street, East Street etc.). This establishment of a zone would allow entry signage to be introduced which in turn would reduce the extent of signage required to delineate the move from a 30mph to a 20mph zone. The proposal also included investigating the introduction of additional raised crossing points at two locations in Parliament Street.

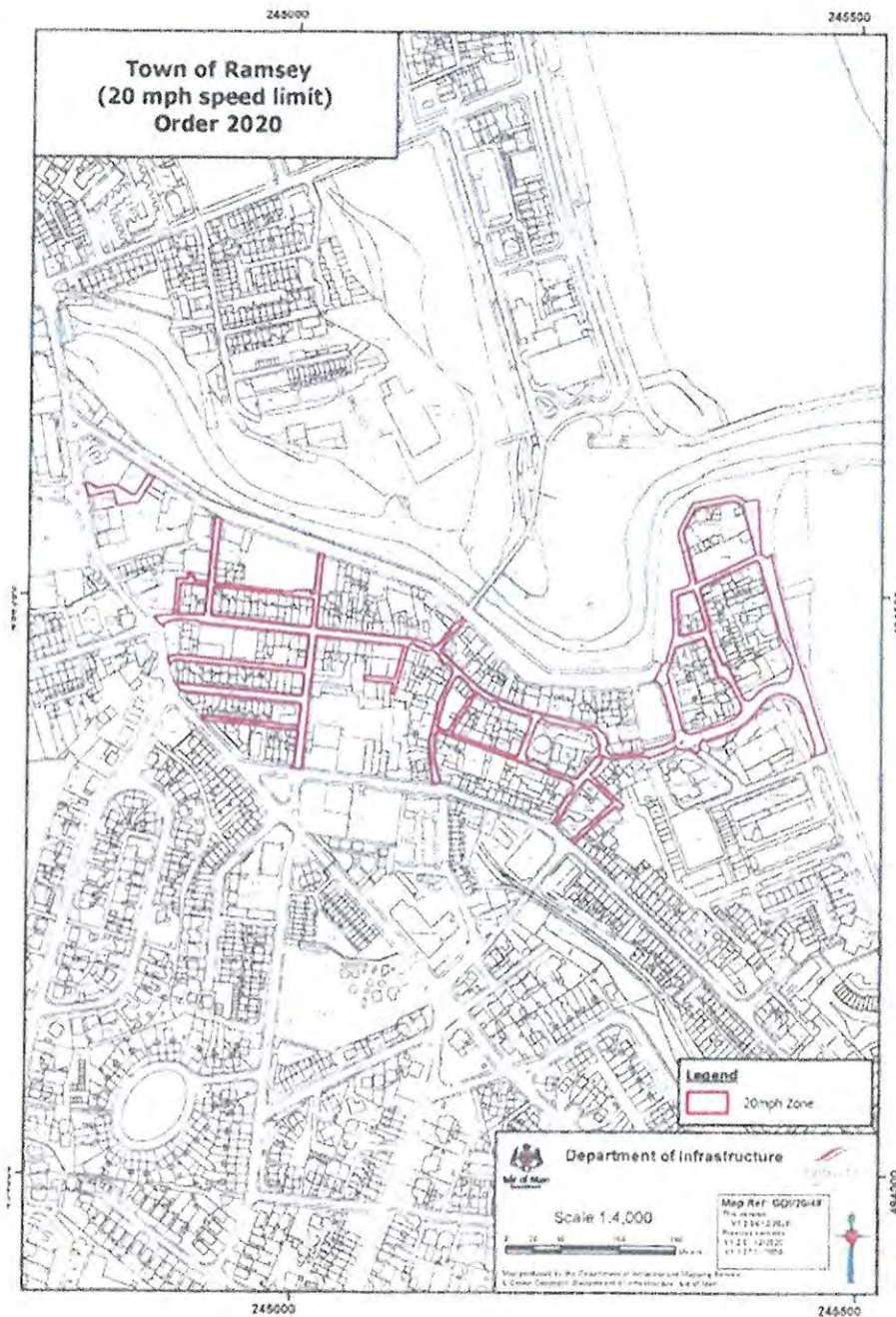
The Department has recently updated officers on the proposals. In terms of the 20mph zone the Department has requested that the zone incorporate the area of West Quay which had initially not been envisaged - when first discussed it was agreed to defer consideration of West Quay as it was envisaged that the proposed flood protection and highway scheme for that road would consider the question of traffic speeds and calming etc.

A plan of the initial proposals is shown below from which it can be seen that there are a large number of zone entry points each of which would require ingress and egress signage.

Having undertaken draft designs for the 20mph zone the Department advises that the omission of West Quay from the new zone requires introducing transition signage between the 30mph and 20mph zone at each road junction along the Quay and an additional nine traffic/speed signs in the area of Market Place. Including the West Quay would result in a much less visually intrusive levels of street signage. Although the zoning would not at this stage include any physical traffic calming in that area this could still be incorporated in any improvement scheme for that area which might ultimately be taken forward.

The Department has undertaken preliminary design work and appraisals of proposals to introduce a tabled pedestrian crossing point at Parliament Square, to replace the existing crossing, and at the junction of Christian Street and Parliament Street. The Department advises that the new crossing at Parliament Square, which would be located between the existing crossing and West Street is able to proceed however the proposed crossing at the junction with Christian Street is unable to be introduced without the loss of two car park spaces regardless of its location, and seeks the Commissions views in relation thereto.

**Town Clerk's Report - Town Centre 20mph Proposals
December 2021 – Public continued**



Recommendation:

1. The support the inclusion of West Quay within the proposed 20mph town centre zone.
2. To support the introduction of a raised crossing point to the west of the junction of Parliament Street and West Street.
3. To consider whether the Commission would wish to proceed with the introduction of a raised pedestrian crossing point at Christian Street junction with the associated loss of two parking spaces.

T. P. Whiteway
Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

30th November, 2021.

<p style="text-align: center;">RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT PLANNING APPLICATIONS – DECEMBER, 2021</p>

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Copies of the following applications have been received from the Department of the Environment, Food and Agriculture, Planning and Building Control Division under the planning consultation procedures. The applications are listed for consideration subject to comments where appended. Hyperlinks are provided on the P.A. No. to link to the plans which are available on the IOM Government website.

REF NO:	3930	<u>AMENDED PLANS</u>
P.A. NO.:	<u>21/01217/A</u>	
PROPOSED:	Approval in principle for Residential Development	
NOTES:	P.A. – In Principle	
SITE:	Manninagh / Dalveen Bircham Avenue Ramsey	

REF NO:	3931	<u>AMENDED PLANS</u>
P.A. NO.:	<u>21/01169/B</u>	
PROPOSED:	Construction of a flood wall, reconstruction of highway and drainage system	
NOTES:	P.A. in Detail	
SITE:	West Quay, Ramsey	

REF NO:	3941	
P.A. NO.:	<u>21/01305/B</u>	
PROPOSED:	Erection of proposed detached dwelling with integral garage on vacant plot	
NOTES:	P.A. in Detail	
SITE:	Vacant Plot adjacent to Alberta, Grove Mount, Ramsey	

REF NO:	3942	
P.A. NO.:	<u>21/01326/B</u>	
PROPOSED:	Erection of 10 dwellings (change of dwelling designs from approved PA 20/01367/B)	
NOTES:	P.A. in Detail	
SITE:	Plots 2 - 6, 14 - 17 & 19, Land adjoining Auldyn Way, Auldyn Walk & Gardeners Lane, Ramsey	

REF NO: 3943
P.A. NO.: 21/01427/B
PROPOSED: Creation of two apartments from existing apartment
NOTES: P.A. in Detail
SITE: **Flat 1a, The Antrim, Mooragh Promenade, Ramsey**

B. Wallace
Technical Services Manager

8th December, 2021.

R.T.C. – TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER’S REPORT
APPENDIX I - SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS – DECEMBER, 2021

<i>P.A. No.</i>	<i>Proposed Work(s)</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>R.T.C. Recommendation</i>	<i>D.o.I. Correspondence</i>
21/00463/B R.T.C. 3889	Removal of the front chimney stack	Norwood, May Hill	Meeting held: 19/05/21 No Objection	01/07/21 Application REFUSED 30/06/21 Review requested 03/12/21 Application REFUSED
21/00744/B R.T.C. 3911	Siting and cladding of a storage container to be used as motorcycle storage/workshop in rear garden and widening of existing driveway access (part retrospective)	1, Lezayre Park	Meeting held: 18/08/21 Objection	25/11/21 Application REFUSED

R.T.C. - TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER - APPENDIX II - SUMMARY OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS -DECEMBER, 2021

<i>P A No.</i>	<i>Site & Proposed Work(s)</i>	<i>Details</i>
21/00463/B R.T.C. 3889	Norwood, May Hill Removal of the front chimney stack	<p>The Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, the Hon C Barber MHK, has considered the report, concurs with the appointed person's conclusions, and accepts the recommendation that the appeal should be dismissed. Accordingly, she has directed that the Department's refusal of the application should be upheld, and that the application should be Refused.</p> <p>The refusal is for the following reason(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The removal of the front chimney stack would, if approved, have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of Norwood, the terrace which Norwood forms part of and the wider streetscene of May Hill contrary to General Policy 2(b), 2(c) and 2(g) of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016.
21/00744/B R.T.C. 3911	1, Lezayre Park Siting and cladding of a storage container to be used as motorcycle storage/workshop in rear garden and widening of existing driveway access (part retrospective)	<p>The refusal is for the following reason(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The principle of a shipping container within a residential area is considered wholly unacceptable being out of keeping and an inappropriate form of development which should be kept to more suitable site i.e. industrial estates/ports/ships therefore contrary to General Policy 2 of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016 and the Residential Design Guide 2021.2. The shipping container given its form, design, bulky appearance and siting would introduce an incongruous feature into the street scene and fail to respect the site and surroundings, adversely affecting the character of the surrounding street scene contrary to General Policy 2 of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016 and the Residential Design Guide 2021.3. The shipping container, given it is metal in construction, and which is proposed to be used as a workshop, would likely result in any noise generated by workshop activities being amplified and which, given the very close proximity of the neighbouring dwelling and rear garden (Nr 3), would result in a significant adverse noise impact contrary to General Policy 2 and Environment Policy 22 of the Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016.

07

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING RENT AND ALLOWANCES
DECEMBER 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Public Sector Housing on the Island is provided under the Housing Act 1955. In simple terms the Act requires local authorities who provide public sector housing to operate an approved form of Housing Revenue Account; have any borrowing approved by Treasury; and to operate a waiting list and select tenants in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. In addition rent levels and allowances for maintenance and administration are approved by the Department of Infrastructure. Subject to adherence with these provisions Government makes annual contributions to local authorities, the housing deficit, which meets the shortfall of housing income to approved expenditure.

In July this year the Department of Infrastructure circulated local housing authorities seeking their views of public sector rents and allowances for the forthcoming financial year. The Department now advises that it has considered the economic and affordability factors in addition to feedback from local authorities, whilst reviewing the rent increase for the next financial year. The economic pressures being felt from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the rising cost of building and maintenance materials have resulted in approval of the following:

- 1) The annual increase in public sector rents with effect from 1st April 2022 will be 2% . The rent point value therefore increases from 1.4865 to 1.5162
- 2) The administration allowance will increase by 0.5% to 6.0% of the total rental income. (Formerly 5.5%)
- 3) The maintenance allowance will increase by 1% to 26.1% of total rental income. (Formerly 25.1%)
- 4) The community reserve (for Older Person's Housing) will remain at 8.4% of the total rental income.
- 5) Maximum income limits for access to public sector housing will remain fixed at the current levels.

The Department will write to each authority individually for the avoidance of doubt with the anticipated rental income and allowance monies in 2022.

The impact of the above on the Commissioners' annual housing deficit will be reported at a later date.

Recommendation: to be noted.

T. P. Whiteway
Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

29th November 2021.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
LHERGY FRISSELL HILL CLIMB
DECEMBER 20210 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Manx Motor Racing Club Limited has submitted a request to close some roads to allow the staging of the Manx Classic 2022. This event has run for a number of years in a similar format.

This annual event is organised by the Manx Motor Racing Club and covers three different closures on three consecutive days at the end of April and into early May each year.

For 2022 those events will be:-

Date	Venue	Time
Thursday 28 th April	The Sloc, Near Port Erin	09.00 a.m. to 17.30 p.m.
Friday 29 th April	Creg Willey's Hill, Glen Helen	09.00 a.m. to 17.00 p.m.
Saturday 30 th April	Lhergy Frissell, Ramsey	09.00 a.m. to 18.00 p.m.

An associated suspension of parking for Lheany Road would also be requested to support the running of the event and traffic movement in the area.

Members are asked to consider if they would be supportive of this event associated road closure and suspension of parking on Saturday 30th April 2022.

Recommendation: support event and associated road closure.

H S Bevan
Deputy Town Clerk

8th December 2021

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
NOTICE OF MOTION
DECEMBER 2021 - PUBLIC.**

Mr. Chairman and Members:

The following Notice of Motion was submitted in the name of Mr. R. D. Cowell, Town Commissioner to the November meeting:-

Amalgamation of South Ward and North Ward:

“That, in accordance with Part 9 of the Local Government Act, 1985, a scheme is prepared and submitted to the Department of Infrastructure to reduce the number of wards within the Ramsey Town District to a single ward with twelve elected Members.”

In accordance with Standing Order 14 the matter was held over for debate from the November meeting.

The subject matter was discussed at the August 2021 meeting when it was agreed to defer discussion on a motion submitted by Mr Williams, seeking the reduction of number of members and the abolition of wards, until a special meeting. Although the matter was not disposed of at that time Members are advised that in order to take this matter forward there are two options:-

1. Suspend Standing Orders to permit discussion of the matter at this time; or
2. Set a date for a Special Meeting to consider the matter.

Recommendation: to suspend standing Orders to enable the matter to be debated, and set a future date to discuss the question of overall membership..

8th December 2021.

**RAMSEY TOWN COMMISSIONERS
REPRESENTATIVE REPORT(S)
DECEMBER 2021 – PUBLIC**

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The following Report has been submitted by Mr. McGuinness:-

“Meeting took place on 29th November 2020, unfortunately only 3 members were in attendance due to a number of apologies and as such the meeting was not quorate, however we agreed to continue with the meeting and ask the next meeting to ratify decisions to avoid unnecessary delays to some time sensitive matters.

We had the opportunity to view the almost completed front entrance which is looking excellent and already looks like it was part of the original design.

The budget for the coming year was discussed at length, the facility is run to a very tight budget and is reliant upon subvention from DESC. With the cost of Gas increasing it is an even tougher challenge, however the board agreed with me that whilst bringing the pool hire fees in line with other pools on the Island was a reasonable increase to help offset the rising costs, as the pool is first and foremost there to provide health and leisure benefits to the residents of the north attendance fees should remain relatively unchanged.

Festive period opening hours were also agreed to balance allowing our staff a break but also ensuring the pool was open between Christmas and New Year so some Turkey could be swam off.”

8th December, 2021.