



TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 36/21

12 APRIL 2021

The purpose of this Report is to record developments since the last meeting not requiring an Agenda item at this meeting.

No. DETAILS

1) SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

- a) The level of requests for support is now considerably lower although calls are still being received through our help lines.
 - b) Our application for £5,000 from the connect4communities fund was successful and the income is already being used to assist residents in food and energy insecurity.
-

2) OPENING UP

- a) We were able to open both the Outdoor Gym and the Ventnor Park Public Toilet from Monday 29 March.
 - b) We hope to be able to open the Paddling Pool at Step 4 of the government's Road Map from 21 June; although the guidance already allows open air pools to be open we do not believe that can currently be done safely.
-

3) OFFICE MANAGEMENT

- a) The office is still closed to the public under the current regulations.
 - b) Staff visit the office from time to time to deal with mail and deliveries and business otherwise continues as usual:
 - o Office-based staff phones are diverted to personal mobiles
 - o Email addresses are widely publicly available
 - o Parking permits and payments of other kinds including shopping are dealt with on line
 - o Virtual meeting sessions continue to be standard for both meetings including Members and between staff.
-

4) NEW KITCHEN

- a) Following delivery of the delayed supplies, the new kitchen for our Community-use Portacabin on Boniface Fields has now been installed.
 - b) From an original idea from Ventnor Community Shed, the Town Council took on the project to improve the available facilities on this valuable community resource.
-

5) MEETING WITH THE ISLAND'S MP

- a) On Wednesday evening 31 March I joined 20 other representatives of the Island's Town & Parish Councils for this fortnightly session.
 - b) The Q&A included the government's (much regretted) decision not to formally extend the power to hold virtual meetings beyond 7 May, dredging of the Bay, the Ferries, the impact of Portsmouth's coming Clean Air Zone on the Island and the impact of that town's pollution on us with a northerly wind and the proposals for more motorbike racing on the Military Road.
-

6) SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES HEALTH AND WELLBEING FORUM

- a) The Forum, organised by the Town Council's Community Development Officer, for representatives of the 13 Town & Parish Councils in the South Wight to discuss the Island's Health & Wellbeing Services met again on 8 April.
 - b) Its guest speakers were Fiona Gwinnet, Chief Executive of Wight DASH/ Isle of Wight
-

Women's Centre and Amy O'Regan, Peer Support Worker, Veteran's Mental Health Project.

7) WORKING GROUPS

- a) The Assets & Services Working Group met on 16 and 30 March with its next meeting planned for 13 April.
 - b) The Community Development Working Group met on 25 March and plans to meet again on 22 April.
-