



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 42

MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2021

Welcome to the third Clerk's Column of 2021 circulated as usual to the 490 residents on our Residents' Forum email list and through the Chronicle's page 4.

MORE ROAD CLOSURES

In addition to the long-term cutting of the link between Ventnor and Whitwell, Island Roads have



issued letters to residents about two more major closures.

St Lawrence Shute:

Repairs to various ironworks within the St Lawrence Shute will

require its complete closure for two weeks starting next Monday 1 February between 7.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday with vehicle access prohibited.

Belgrave Road/Esplanade Road: the next stage of the works on the failure of the retaining walls alongside the carriageway on Belgrave Road is scheduled to start on Monday 8 February and require both Belgrave Road and Esplanade Road to remain shut to both vehicles and pedestrians for up to two weeks.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's Agenda for its meeting on Tuesday was shorter than usual. The main item was, naturally, Ventnor Park as the Town Council prepares to take on its management – signed copies of the lease are expected to be exchanged this week.

There is much to be done including agreeing the charges for its use by others – we've already had two provisional requests for events – paperwork for hirers and risk assessment(s) among other matters. The Group is very clear that it will be looking for maximum engagement in its management of local groups and experienced residents in the Park's management and development.

Other items were a decision to present proposals to the February Town Council meeting for changes to the traffic flow on the Esplanade as discussed with its traders and our Business Plan for taking on the management of all the car parks that still awaits a response from the Isle of Wight Council two years after it was submitted.

SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES FORUM

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 goes from strength to strength.

Its last meeting of 2020 was attended by representatives from eight parishes with another four sending apologies; the first of 2021 had two guests to its virtual session: Claire Collins of Autism Inclusion Matters and Mark Kelly from Socialising Buddies.

NEXT YEAR'S SCHOOL FUNDING

On Friday the Isle of Wight Council will formally agree its Dedicated Schools Grant to be received from government.

Block	2020/21 (Jul-20) £'000	2021/22 (Dec-20) £'000
Early years	6,379	6,467
Schools Block	74,533	79,316
High needs	16,193	17,898
Central	609	613
Total DSG	97,714	104,294

FULL REVIEW OF ISLAND PLAN AGREED

Wednesday's meeting of the Isle of Wight Council agreed a resolution led by Councillor Michael Lilley to hold a full review of the Island Plan, taking into account the likely impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. This will mean the Island Plan consultation proposed for November will not take place



SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Our volunteers are still providing support with shopping and collecting medication for those unable to go out and without others to support.

If you need help, or know someone who does, contact us by phoning our help lines: 853775 or 857848.

- Lots of people will be battling debt this [#BlueMonday](#) If that includes you, or you're worried about getting into debt, our website has lots of advice <http://citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/>
- An Office for National Statistics Report shows that income inequality has increased by an average of 0.2% per year to 36.3% in the 10 years to 2020 – the highest reported measure in this time. <https://t.co/r1m8HEuiba?amp=1>

MORE INFORMATION: including contact details for Town Councillors is available from the Town Council's website and @ventnorclerk