



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 46

MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to the seventh 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.

VENTNOR PARK

With the lease of the Park to the Town Council signed, planning for its future began with an informal meeting of Town Councillors and staff last Monday.

There was complete agreement on the central importance of maintaining and developing this special community space for quiet, peaceful and healthy enjoyment by residents, visitors and open air get-togethers. Any movement away from, or significant change to, the Victorian sense of the Park should be slow, careful and sensitive to both its traditions and community expectations. **There was** enthusiasm for restoring some of the traditional events such as the popular Crab Fair, the Tug of War and the new possibility of Weddings, at least during the season, as well as its hire for use by others, particularly community-based organisations. Agreed that large commercial events would not be possible in view of the limited parking available.

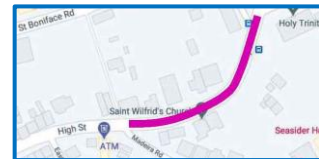


ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group met on Tuesday. We agreed to ask the Isle of Wight Council for some amendments to the new Partnership Agreement under which we do our grounds maintenance. After discussing the previous evening's meeting on the future of the Park we noted that the sink had now arrived for installation at one of the Boniface Fields' Portacabins. The use of part of Dudley Road Car park for three weeks was reported and a proposal for easing the Esplanade traffic flow was welcomed for presentation to the March Town Council meeting. The Group will meet again, as usual, in two weeks.

TRINITY ROAD UPGRADE

We were informed on Tuesday of the dates for the long-awaited reconstruction and resurfacing of Trinity Road: the reconstruction is planned to start on Monday 15 March and will close the road for approximately 10 days. There will then be a break in activity until the resurfacing takes place over two nights from Tuesday 6 April.



BOB SEELY MEETING TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS



On Friday evening I joined the latest of the fortnightly meetings the Island's MP holds virtually with representatives from Town & Parish Councils. There were 25 of us present this time as he told us in his opening summary that the Rail Consultants are already active on the Island, he expects the Island to benefit from the proposed Freeport area and that the government's £50k grant would help to demonstrate the Island's additional costs. Issues raised by representatives included the possible extension of virtual meetings beyond 7 May (don't know yet), how to discourage visitors during Easter (we can't), additional funding for pharmacists (he'll ask), the re-introduction of Beavers to the Island (next meeting) and what happened to the grant to parishes towards their precept (will find out).

CARNIVAL CANCELLATION

At its meeting on Thursday the Carnival Committee decided it needed to cancel the event for this year, as most others on the Island are also doing.

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 them

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

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- A new [Resolution Foundation](#) report today finds: 'over 750,000 families were behind with their housing payments in January 2021, 300,000 of which contained dependent children.'
- A new survey from the [Living Wage Foundation](#) found '27% of those earning less than the living wage had skipped meals regularly for financial reasons in the past year.'

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