



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

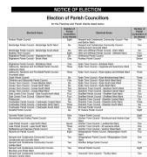
EDITION 50

MONDAY 22 MARCH 2021

Welcome to the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of our Clerk's Column circulated as usual to the 490 residents on our Residents' Forum email list and through the Chronicle's page 4; it comes with a repeat Local Elections Supplement.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS 6 MAY: JOIN US?

The election process starts formally tomorrow and anyone wanting to stand as a candidate has until 4pm on 8 April to hand deliver three short forms to 30 High



Street, Newport PO30 1SS. We're very keen to find new Town Councillors to join us through these elections and all the information needed for standing is in the attached Local Elections

Supplement. If you'd like to discuss the possibility of joining us give me a call on 07720 771114 or Assistant Clerk Alison Killick on 07375 028833.

## ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP MEETING

The Group met on Tuesday beginning with some of the details for managing events in Ventnor Park, including an Application Form, a set of Terms and Conditions for its use and related charges. Next was a discussion of the consequences for Ventnor Haven of the Isle of Wight Council's decision to sell Ryde Harbour to the Town Council. Other items were the Benches in Ventnor Park, the replacement of the turn left sign at Boniface Fields and a report from the Mayor on the recent meeting he, Councillor Stephen Cockett and I had with County Councillor Ian Ward..

## MEETING WITH THE ISLAND'S MP

I joined 23 other representatives of the Island's Town & Parish Councils for the fortnightly meeting Bob Seely



holds for us. He opened with reporting back on progress with issues raised at the last meeting, so we heard that he had as yet no response from government about virtual meetings after 7 May nor from the Isle of Wight Council on why there was no Precept related grant to Town & Parish Councils this year. Subjects raised by the representatives included the possibility of the next America's Cup coming to the Island, the future development of Cowes Harbour, the proposal for a development in the Bembridge Woods, Business Rates and access to GPs.

## FOOTPATH RE-OPENS

An email from the Isle of Wight Council informed us that the footpath from Salisbury Gardens to the Eastern Esplanade Car Park is now safe to use and all barriers have been removed.



## NEW FUNDING

The week brought good news for our work to support the town's residents trapped in poverty. First came funding of £2,5000 from the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Support grant the Isle of Wight Council has received from government 'to help those vulnerable individuals who are struggling with day to day needs and wellbeing due to COVID-19.' Then came the welcome news that our application to the Isle of Wight Council's funding from the government's COVID Winter Grant Scheme had been successful, providing a further £5,000 for local residents' support.

## SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

If you need help with shopping or collecting medications contact us by phoning our help lines: 853775 (Alison) or 857848 (Tony).

## ESPLANADE TRAFFIC

Last summer saw even more than usually dangerous traffic flows on the Esplanade. We've been able to follow up on the discussion about potential adjustments at the March Town Council meeting thanks to a meeting with the Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport with our Mayor, Councillor Stephen Cockett and me and County Councillor Gary Peace. We look forward to the feedback from the Isle of Wight Council, hopefully in time for this year's season.



## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- A Living Wage Foundation [Update](#) states: 'Over a quarter of low paid workers (amounting to over 1 million people) have had to regularly skip meals since the beginning of the pandemic.'
- A [Shelter](#) Press Release based on its latest survey finds the 'Pandemic leaves six million people more afraid of becoming homeless.'

**MORE INFORMATION:** including contact details for Town Councillors is available from the Town Council's website and @ventnorclerk. Readers of the print edition can access the digital version via the news block on the home page of our web site