



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 51

MONDAY 29 MARCH 2021

Welcome to edition 51 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 started formally last Monday with a closing date for candidates to register of 8 April. If you are interested in joining the Town Council in its extensive work for the town, you will need to complete three one-page forms, available by clicking [this link](#) or the link on the home page of our web site, and have them hand-delivered to 30 High Street, Newport PO30 1SS by 4pm on that day. If you need assistance with the forms or would like to discuss the possibility of joining us please give me a call on 07720 771114 anytime.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The Group's latest meeting was on Thursday evening and started as usual with an update from Tony McCarthy on developments in his work including the successful registration of Baby Box as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, gifts of tools for work on the Youth Club's Allotment and the Club's lively web site, the Chale Show organiser sharing our Green Room's Community Office and the next meeting of the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum on 8 April. Other Agenda items covered funding for residents in need, the Annual Parish Meeting, Ventnor Park, Ventnor Day 2021 (14 August) and the local elections.

VENTNOR PARK

We're making good progress with taking on the management of the Park. A Strategy document for its use and development is in preparation and our versions of the Isle of Wight Council's Application Form and Terms and Conditions of Use are agreed. We've already received half a dozen expressions of interest in organised events this year. Application Forms are available on request via 853775 or alison@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk.

OPENING UP

We're delighted to be able to open two facilities today. The *Outdoor Gym* in Ventnor Park will still have to carry the Covid-safety notice asking users to maintain social distancing and regular cleaning will be restored at three times a day.



Ventnor Park Public Toilet will also open today, again with regular cleaning by our staff and here too compliance with Covid-safety guidance by its users is very important.



NEW KITCHEN

Our Community-use Portacabin on Boniface Fields now has a new kitchen area. 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 and the work was completed this week.



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).

TURN LEFT ON LEAVING

The Turn Left sign at the exit from Boniface Fields had been cut off without permission from us. It's now been replaced and vehicles leaving the site are asked to observe it as turning right into the Leeson Road junction is dangerous.



VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- New research by poverty charity [Turn2Us](#) finds: 'People who have lost income and incurred debts since March 2020 will need an average of 17 months to get their finances back to pre-pandemic levels.'
- A [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) Press Release highlights that serious poverty was embedded before Covid: '14.5 million people were trapped in poverty in 2019/20, including 4.3 million children, 8.1 million working-age adults and 2.1 million pensioners.'

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