



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 53

MONDAY 12 APRIL 2021

Welcome to edition 53 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.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS 6 MAY: WHO IS JOINING US?

Nominations for the Town Council at the elections of 6 May closed at 4pm on Thursday and the list of those up for election was published on Saturday. There will only be an election for one of Ventnor's four



Wards as candidates in the other three will be elected unopposed

*St Lawrence Ward* [1 Councillor 557 electors] There is only one nomination for this position: Stephen Cockett.  
*Bonchurch & Ventnor East Ward* [2 Councillors 757 electors] There is only one nomination for these two places: Brian Lucas.

*Lowtherville Ward* [2 Councillors 910 electors] There is only one nomination for these two places: Colm Watling.

*Ventnor West Ward* [6 Councillors 2,505 electors] There are 12 nominations for these six places: Ian Bond, Steve Cooper, Matthew Dodge, Julie Hutchinson, Mark Jefferies, Jamie Macaulay, Steve Milford, Lester Slade, James Toogood, Steph Toogood, Phil Warren and John Watkins.

Brian Lucas, Colm Watling and Stephen Cockett will be re-elected unopposed on 6 May. Ventnor West will be settled by an election on 6 May when the other six places will be filled.

## VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Our virtual meetings of the Town Council were covered by Covid Regulations provided by the government from 4 April 2020. They expire on 7 May and the government has so far refused – for reasons most Clerks don't understand – not to extend them.

That decision is being challenged in the High Court by Hertfordshire County Council supported by both the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks. Belatedly, the Ministry of Housing & Local Government has just decided to support the case. Decision expected on 21 April.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS: WHO IS REPRESENTING US?

For the County Council Elections Ventnor still has two Wards although with changed boundaries and with completely new names for Ventnor East and Ventnor West:

*Wroxall, Lowtherville and Bonchurch Ward*

has attracted three nominations: Rodney

Downer [Independent], Judith Tracey [Labour] and Colm Watling [Conservative].

*Ventnor and St Lawrence Ward* has six contenders for its representative: Steve Cooper [Labour], Martin Godden [Freedom Alliance], Mark Jefferies [Island Independent Network], Gary Peace [Conservative], Graham Perks [Vectis Party] and Phil Warren [Our Island].



## 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).

## BELGRAVE ROAD



Residents of Belgrave Road have been encouraged by a meeting last week with an Island Roads' Project Engineer. Residents were assured that both Island Roads and the IOW Council were very aware of the issues and that Belgrave Road is the link between the Park and the Town and as such has high footfall. There also is an understanding that the road was used as a "Rat Run" prior to the subsidence.

## SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES FORUM

Our Health & Wellbeing Forum met again on Thursday with guest speakers this time being Fiona Gwinnett, Chief Executive of WOW/ Isle of Wight Women's Centre and Amy O'Regan, Peer Support Worker Veteran's Mental Health Project

## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- Research published by the [New Economics](#) Foundation finds 'We estimate that by the end of September as many as 850,000 jobs could still be at risk of unemployment, loss of hours, or loss of pay.'
- A [CPAG](#) Report on the two-child limit on child benefit says it 'will affect three million children in 800,000 families, and up to half a million children will have been pushed into poverty as a result.'

**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