



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 60

MONDAY 31 MAY 2021

Welcome to edition 60 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.

CO-OPTION TO TOWN COUNCIL: DEADLINE

Next Monday (7 June) at 12 noon is the deadline by which anyone interested in taking up one of the two vacancies on the Town Council needs to enter an Expression of Interest by email to townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk. Interviews for everyone who submits an EoI will be at a suitable time from 10.30am on Thursday 10 June.

FROM THIS....



Thanks to the excellent work of our Maintenance Manager Brian Roberts.

TO THIS.....



MONDAY'S ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This year's Town Meeting was the first to be held virtually, but what it showed the 35 residents that joined it was just as remarkable as usual with its wide range of organisations reporting on their contribution to the town's life during the challenging times of Covid-19.

We heard of the over 1,100 collections of shopping and medications for vulnerable residents (Ventnor Community Volunteers), the range of repairs, improvements and decorations provided by volunteers (Ventnor Enhancement Fund), flowers flourishing in unexpected places (the Flower Fairy), new facilities (Ventnor Community Shed), support services (the Anxiety Café, Ventnor Community Foodbank and BabyBox) and activities for young people (our Youth Club). Inspiring and full of hope for the town's future, and with many other organisations alongside, it's one of the strongest voluntary sectors on the Island.

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

The Volunteers are still ready and willing to assist with any resident that needs help with shopping or collecting medications. Contact us by phoning our help lines: 853775 (Alison Killick) or 857848 (Tony McCarthy).

TOWN'S COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The local elections have given the town a new County Councillor to work alongside Ventnor and St Lawrence's Gary Peace who retained his seat. The new man is Wroxall, Lowtherville and Bonchurch's Rodney Downer who won this seat with a majority of 603 over the next candidate.

Rodney Downer has already introduced himself to us and is very happy to continue the practice of regular meetings with Mayor and Clerk that Gary Peace restarted and we very much look forward to working with both for the town's future.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

Tuesday was the Group's first meeting since the local elections with new Members Mark Jefferies, Phil Warren and Julie Hutchison in attendance.

The Agenda included nine areas of the Town Council's current responsibilities: the Lease for Ventnor Park (also some of its trees and the Aviary), the outcomes of Southern Water's inspection of our seven sites with water supplies, the Lease for Boniface Fields and the new steps needed for its Portacabins, Salisbury Gardens, Car Parks costs and receipts for 2020/21, the 31 Bus, a hoarding for the Gaiety, Camper Van off-street parking and potential inclusion in the Time & Tide project.

BELGRAVE ROAD

Island Roads provided an update last week. Their initial works, lightweight vertical and horizontal coring to enable establishment of the ground conditions and the materials beneath the carriageway and the thickness of the walls, has enabled them to progress the second stage of the ground investigation works where specialist equipment took core samples of the ground up to a depth of 15 metres deep. They hope to begin work on a chosen approach by mid-summer, with completion by the end of November.

T VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The Institute of [Public Policy Research](#) has published its study of the working poor, finding eg 'Couple households with one full-time earner now have a poverty rate of 31 per cent.'
- A [Healthcare Workers](#) Foundation tweet today states: 'According to a recent survey, 43% of nurses are considering quitting the NHS.' It's graphic illustrates the range of issues.

MORE INFORMATION: is available from the Town Council's website and @ventnor clerk