



Welcome to edition 63 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.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday's Planning Committee had an unusually long 11-item Agenda. Three only required it to note changes to conditions but of the remaining eight it strongly opposed two. One was the St Rhadagunds Hotel's application for a change of use of the hotel to 2 residential units, demolition of rear wing of the building and 6 additional tourism units within the grounds that the Committee judged as *over-development of the site. The design is inappropriate in nature and will change the surrounding community – overlooking neighbouring properties and impacting on wildlife.* The other was the High Street's Premier Store's application for Change of use of rear ground floor and first floor to form manager's accommodation because *it provided no means of escape in case of fire and this proposal appears not to comply with Island Core Strategy Policy DM2,*

WEATHER STATION'S SOLAR PANEL

The Met Office has installed a Solar Panel at our



Weather Station and reports confirm that it's working well. The Town Council has no responsibility for the Centre but arranges for daily readings to be taken by Chris Watts for his monthly reports.

A MURAL IS NEEDED

The Town Council is keen to change the view of this part of the Esplanade in advance of the high season and until development happens which is likely to be a couple of years yet. We have the owner's consent to install 14 panels of plain boarding each measuring 2.1 metres in length and 1.8 metres in height covering the whole of the current frontage. So we're looking for a local artist willing to design and implement a suitable mural – materials including paint supplied. Any artists interested are asked to ring our Deputy Mayor, Steph Toogood on 07525 662 555.



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD FUND GRANT

Quality work by our Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy and Youth Officer Jordan Royl has secured a grant of £9,000 to provide holiday activities and food for local children during the school holidays.

This Government funding, administered by the Isle of Wight Council, is available for children eligible for free school meals. Its aims include enabling children to eat more healthily, be more active and take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience character and wellbeing during the school holidays.

The grant enables us to provide 20 days activity for 15 local children with indoor activities based at St Catherine's School and food provided by the High Street's Carnaby Tea Rooms. A range of outdoor activities will also be on offer.

NORTH STREET PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Town Councillors completed the second of their two work sessions at North Street Playground on Wednesday evening when even the rain didn't prevent them completing their work.



CENTRAL CAR PARK FLOWERS

The town's Flower Fairy, Leslie Brown, has brought the two flower beds in Central Car Park back to life. Lesley tells us *they are now free of weeds and planted up with perennials. The plants are very young, but will fill these 2 beds within a year.*



VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- Research by the [Early Years Antirestedlliance](#) shows that 'the funding rates paid to local authorities for the so-called 'free childcare' offer are just two-thirds of what the government itself estimated would be needed to fully fund the scheme.'
- The [Food & Drink Federation](#) has published its Q1 trade report today: 'Exports to the EU in Q1 2021 were less than half the amount exported pre- COVID in 2019, a loss of more than £2bn of sales.'