



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 65

MONDAY 5 JULY 2021

Welcome to edition 65 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.

## 6-WEEKS' ROAD WORKS OVER 24 VENTNOR ROADS

The Mayor and I were updated at a virtual meeting on Tuesday by Strategic Manager Natasha Dix on a six-week programme by Island Roads to inspect 84 retaining walls.

As the works will affect 24 of the Town's Roads, the presentation noted that the works *will cause some congestion in Ventnor* but it goes on to note that it represents *significant investment in the town and will maintain a safe road network*.



It also notes that some of the walls are high profile, such as the Spyglass wall at 4 metres high. The works will include 28 private walls. Any necessary work to repair, rebuild or replace revealed by the inspections is planned to be carried out between April 2022 and March 2023.

Both the town's County Councillors, Rodney Downer and Gary Peace also attended the meeting.

## INFORMAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

All 11 Members of the new Town Council and its Clerks met together for the first time for an informal meeting at St Margaret' Hall on Wednesday evening. The session opened with a summary of the Town Council's development, its current responsibilities and projects in progress, followed by an open discussion, led by the Mayor, of the potential achievements over the four-year term of the new Council.

## CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

In response to growing concern and complaints from residents and visitors alike about the problems caused



by those dog owners that don't clear up after their dogs, the Deputy Mayor is leading a campaign to remind dog owners of their responsibility not to cause problems for others by failing to

pick up after their pets.

## JUNE FINANCES

After spending a total of £51,615 during June and receiving £9,006 in the same period the Town Council's Bank accounts were reconciled to a total of £423,563 at 30 June.

The major element of the expenditure in the month was the four payments for car park rents in 2020/21 totalling £12,657. Salisbury Gardens' rents contributed £3,989 to the month's income. Our Budget Monitor showed that during the first quarter of this financial year we have spent £4,551 less than budgeted for while receipts have been £1,802 less than budget.

## ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's latest meeting was on Tuesday. It began with the need to treat three of Ventnor Park's trees in September and a report from the monthly meeting the Clerks have with the Isle of Wight Council's Recreation and Open Spaces Officers at which it had been agreed that the Town Council would meet the Park's Grounds Maintenance costs from Thursday now that the Lease has been signed. Other items included the completion of the required adjustments to our various water supplies, the Boniface Fields Lease, Car Park tariffs (no increase in ours at this time), works at Salisbury Gardens, the Gaiety hoarding and busking at Spring Hill Gardens.

## TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES

Our Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be available ready to meet residents for discussion of, or to



hear concerns about, local issues at 6pm on the first Wednesday of



each month at 6pm in our Green Room at Salisbury Gardens. The first is this coming Wednesday

## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- A new [Resolution Foundation](#) report 'Snakes & Ladders' looks at changes in the cost of buying a first home ' 55 per cent of those born between 1956-1960 were homeowners by the age of 30, for example, compared to just 27 per cent for those born 1981-1985.'
- The [All Party Parliamentary Group](#) for Left Behind Neighbourhoods report finds eg: 'Left behind' areas receive less than half the charitable grants of other deprived places.'

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