



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 66

MONDAY 12 JULY 2021

Welcome to edition 66 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.

RECRUITMENT

We're recruiting a Business Development Manager in place of the Economic Development Officer post to reflect the changes in the Town Council's management responsibilities. The advert was in Friday's County Press and On the Wight as well as on the web site of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils; other mainland outlets will be used during the coming week. Details of the post and an application form are available from a link on the home page of our web site.



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BOB SEELY MEETING TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

I attended the latest of the fortnightly virtual meetings the Island's MP holds for representatives of Town & Parish Councils on Wednesday evening. As usual, a summary of his Westminster activity was followed by a 45-minute Q&A. He assured us that the change of the administration at County Hall will make no difference to his commitment to work with the Council. He said that he had recently briefed the Secretary of State on Ventnor's rich cultural activities including the Fringe before referring to the hoped for success of the bid for government funding of £67M for restoring the Island Line connection between Ryde and Newport. He was asked about the Ryde/Ventnor connection (not yet included in bid), stressed his interest in seeing an Art Gallery for Ventnor, commented that filmmakers on the Island spent £100k a day in the local economy and listened to concerns about traffic congestion in Godshill and the training of Island Retained Firefighters being based in Hampshire.



VENTNOR DAY: 14 AUGUST

Our fortnightly planning meetings for this day in the Park are going well: there are now over 100 stalls booked in for the event.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday's meeting had six applications on its Agenda for assessment. It strongly supported three, supported another two and saw no reason to oppose the sixth.

The strong support was for the removal and replacement of a double garage at Ambion House, Woolverton Road (the plot is enhanced by this proposal). Alterations to Ventnor House, Hambrough Road (attractive, providing good use of existing space) and replacement windows at 25-27 Pier Street (enhances the existing building). The application for the retention of the garden chalet, decking and associated landscaping at 23a Spring Hill was supported with the caveat that use should be restricted to the proposal of an artist's studio.

VENTNOR'S JUNE WEATHER

After a very dry start up to the 15th, June became the wettest month since October last year, with 95% of the total rain falling between 16th and 30th – over three times the average. The longest day was also the coldest, with measurements befitting a winter solstice!

Rainfall (mm):		Date
Total amount	133.8	
% of average	326	
No. of dry days	16	
Highest	40.6	28th
Temperatures (deg C):		
Mean	16.0	
Difference from average	+1.1	
Highest	23.7	15th
Lowest	9.1	23rd
Coldest day	12.8	21st

FLOWERS GALORE

Thanks to the ongoing work of the town's Flower Fairy, Lesley Brown, the planter in Spring Hill Gardens will soon be blooming.



VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- An important new Report from the [Health Foundation](#) today 'Unequal pandemic, fairer recovery' finds 'those younger than 65 in the poorest 10% of areas in England were almost four times more likely to die from COVID-19 than those in wealthiest.'
- A new Institute for [Fiscal Studies](#) report today 'Living Standards, Poverty & Inequality in the UK: 2021' finds 'relative child poverty has continued to creep up, and in 2019-20 was 4 percentage points higher than in 2011-12 (a rise of 700,000 children).'

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

Readers of the print edition can access the digital version via the news block on the home page of our web site

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