



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

THE CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 68

MONDAY 26 JULY 2021

Welcome to edition 68 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.

A NEW BEACH SCENE

Starting today, a well-known Brighton-based artist



native to the Island and with strong Ventnor connections will start work transforming the corrugated shield of the old Gaiety site into a lively beach scene. A project led by Deputy Mayor Steph

Toogood has resulted in artist Stevie Unknown (actually Croad) agreeing to take on the task at very short notice so as to brighten the Esplanade and Beach for the increased numbers of residents and visitors coming to it during the rest of the summer. We're grateful to both the site's owner and developer for their permission for the project to go ahead.

MAJOR PROJECTS PROGRESS

The Mayor and I welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Isle of Wight Council Officers Alex Minns, Sean Newton and Ashley Curzon along with Portfolio Holder Phil Jordan on Tuesday for a positive review of progress with, and discussion of next steps for, our proposals for the management of the town's car parks, our planned new public toilets and the Haven.

BOB SEELY MEETING TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

The latest of the Island MP's virtual sessions for representatives was on Wednesday when I joined 17



others for an update on his parliamentary work and a Q&A. We heard that he has had several meetings with a range of Ministers on Island matters including crime and the impact of the test & trace app on employers – Red Funnel had told him that at one time 58 staff were self-isolating, only 2 of which turned out to have Covid. The Q&A was shorter than usual with just Southern Water and Ferry prices being raised. Bob sees the best solution being another provider in the market and referred to discussions taking place about one.

NEW WORKING GROUPS

Progress has been made with our two new Working Groups. Dates have been agreed for meetings of the Sustainability and Bio Diversity Working Group starting on Wednesday this week and continuing on the last Wednesday of each month. The first meeting of the Website Working Group took place on Thursday with an assessment of potential providers of a new site to replace the current version that is now over 10 years old.

POO POSTER COMPETITION

The entrants in the competition to find new



posters to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets gathered at Spring Hill Gardens on Saturday for

assessment of the four winners who each received a Crave Ice Cream voucher. All the entries are now displayed in the window of Pier Street's Drunken Lobster,

STREET THEATRE COMES TO TOWN

Our successful application to the Isle of Wight Council's Welcome Back Fund gives the town another new summer feature with the Fringe's provision of an excellent Street Theatre programme that over the weeks will include Jugglers, Acrobats, Aerial, Walkabouts, Puppets, Games, Instillations and Buskers.



BELGRAVE ROAD MEETINGS

Island Roads and the Isle of Wight Council used our Green Room for a meeting with residents of Belgrave Road followed by a session with Town Councillors to discuss progress and plans for its repair.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [Chief Medical Officer's](#) Annual Report focuses on Health in Coastal Communities, finding they 'have some of the worst health outcomes in England, with low life expectancy and high rates of many major diseases.'
- The government's [Social Mobility Commission](#) has published a major report today finding '30% of children in England live in poverty.'