



Welcome to edition 73 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

Of the seven applications on the Agenda of Monday's meeting one was strongly opposed and another strongly supported. The proposed retention and completion of new rooflights...and artificial slate finish at 6 St Boniface Terrace was strongly opposed because *a Grade II listed property deservedly requires a natural slate finish.* Strongly supported was the application for demolition of a garage and a proposed outbuilding at Whitwell Road's Down Cottage as *an aesthetically pleasing improvement to the existing structure.*

Opposition was also recorded to the proposed 2m high fence ad Melrose, Seven Sisters Road as the Committee was of the view that *the proposed fence is considered excessively high, compromising the street scene in a Conservation Area.*

DRAFT ISLAND PLANNING STRATEGY

A new Draft Island Planning Strategy (IPS) has been published for consultation until 1 October. It will be on the Agenda of the Town Council meeting of 13 f=of September to consider our response. At 252 pages it's too big to summarise here, but extracts from two sections of the document will be of interest:



Housing: The new draft IPS is planning for 7,290 net additional dwellings over the 15-year plan period of 2023-2038, or an average of 486 new homes each year. This is a significant reduction of 25 per cent from the previous draft IPS. The council will require development proposals for a net gain of 10 or more dwellings to provide at least 35 per cent affordable housing.

Ventnor land: The site at Lowtherville is allocated to deliver employment within the class E, B2 and B8 uses. Other job generating uses may also be appropriate. The site is brownfield and extends to an area of approximately 0.7 hectares, and redevelopment would require demolition of existing buildings, site clearance and re-profiling of levels.

SUSTAINABILITY & BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

The Group held its second virtual meeting on Wednesday evening when Members agreed to submit lists of developments that interested them and they thought to be both doable and practical by the next meeting. They also agreed on the need for permanent signage at the Flowers Brook experiment with the wild flowering of its border. Suggestions included the possibility of the Town Council affiliating with appropriate wildlife and Green action Groups.

THE MURAL IS IN PRODUCTION



Nationally known as Stevie, the Brighton-based artist native to the Island and with strong Ventnor connections has started his work transforming the corrugated shield of the old Gaiety site into a lively beach scene.

SATURDAY BUSKERS

The programme of Buskers performing in Spring Hill Garden each Saturday lunchtime arranged by our Deputy Mayor Steph Toogood starred The Pact this week, again attracting an appreciative audience and providing music that permeated the town.



MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR SURGERY

Our Mayor Stephen Cockett and Deputy Mayor Steph Toogood will be holding their monthly surgery in our Salisbury Gardens' Green Room from 6pm to 7pm on Wednesday this week. They will be happy to meet with residents wanting to comment on local matters or offer suggestions for improvements to the life of the town.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- o A Report today from [Generation Rent](#) finds 'A sharp rise in properties being let out as holiday homes [means] renters around the UK are being priced out of their own local communities, our latest research has found.'
- o The [King's Fund](#) has published a study of health inequalities that finds eg that residents 'in the most deprived areas can expect to live 18 fewer healthy years than those in the least deprived areas.'

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