



Welcome to edition 76 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.

SEPTEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

We're grateful to the Island Free School for making their Hall available for this meeting to ensure we could accommodate residents who wanted to attend, particularly in connection with the PTEC planning application. In the event only five did and following a lengthy discussion the Town Council resolved 'this Council does not support this Planning Application on the grounds of the loss of visual and recreational amenity, access to the site, proximity to houses, disturbance of wildlife, the noise level of the transformer, the height of the fence and the possible breach of the Castle Cove sea defences.'

Other Agenda items were approval of an upgrade of the Town Council's IT infrastructure, a report of the recent meeting with three other Town and Parish Council's that share our interest in the local management of car parks, the 31 Bus and the Isle of Wight Council's Draft Planning Strategy.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's latest meeting was on Tuesday and started with planning for the start of the building of the *new public toilet* in the central car park. Our *Grounds Maintenance* responsibilities were next on the list before moving on to consider the setting up of a *Speed Watch* group in response to increasing concern about local traffic. A request from a resident to consider the possibility of disabled access into the *Paddling Pool* prompted a commitment to research the feasibility. *Memorial plaques* in the Park and the *Central Car Park planters* were the final two Agenda items.

PARK & CASCADE AWARDS

Congratulations to John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance and its staff for gaining the South & South East in Bloom Silver-Gilt Level Awards for both Ventnor Park and the Cascades. The Assessors gave the Park a total of 157 points out of the maximum 200 and the Cascades 153, both well within the 139-169 Silver-Gilt range. The full assessments for both are available by clicking this [link](#).

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

At August's Town Council meeting the decision was made to initiate the cancellation of the number 31 bus that serves the town from St Lawrence and Bonchurch to seek an improved service for the town.

A working group is exploring alternative ways to provide transport; there are different options available. One of them is to help kickstart a volunteer run community bus service.

There are thousands of local charities and community groups across the UK that provide transport services for community benefit. Several already exist on the island like the well-known and award-winning West Wight FYT bus.

A community run bus could make a huge contribution to the town and surrounding villages and for those residents that currently find getting out and about difficult for one reason or another.

If you'd be interested in helping to run a community bus operation in some capacity – driver, fundraiser, admin, assistant, trustee etc* - then please get in contact with the Mayor stephen.cockett@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk.

AN ESPLANADE MURAL NEARS COMPLETION



Nationally known as Stevie, the Brighton-based artist native to the Island and with strong Ventnor connections has transforming the corrugated shield of the old Gaiety site into a lively beach scene. He's been a beach scene fixture himself for the last three weeks making lots of friends in the process. Many thanks Stevie!

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- Research by the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) shows that 46% of the Island's 6,374 families with children receive either Universal Credit or Working Tax Credit.
- A [Citizens Advice](#) report today titled The Coming Storm says: 'Around 75% of the people we advise about benefits and debt won't have enough income to cover essential outgoings if the £20-a-week increase is taken away and the energy price cap goes up.'

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