



Welcome to edition 77 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.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The Group's meeting on Thursday evening started as usual with a report from our Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy. This month that covered the work of the South Wight's Community Prescribing team, concerns about the impact on local families of the coming £20 a week cut to Universal Credit, the success of our Anxiety Café, the latest meeting of the Community Shed's Committee and the South Wight Health & Wellbeing Forum that he organises. We also received an update on our Youth Work with the re-starting of the sessions at Upper Ventnor's St Margaret's Hall, the new Tuesday evening session in the Green Room and the plans for cookery sessions on Thursday evenings.

Other items included early planning for the Christmas in Ventnor event on 11 December, our Advice drop-in sessions on Thursday mornings at the Library and the completion of our Connect4Communities funding of food vouchers.

DRAFT ISLAND PLANNING STRATEGY CONSULTATION

A new draft of the Island Planning Strategy is currently out for consultation with responses invited up to 1 October. The



September Town Council meeting appointed a working group of the Mayor and Councillors Mark Jefferies, Brian Lucas and James Toogood together with the Clerk to develop and submit a response to the 252-page document with a focus on the need for

affordable housing to be available for Islanders and the issues arising from second homes and holiday homes.

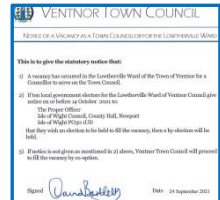
CLEANING UP

Our Deputy Mayor is organising a town centre litter picking for Sunday 10 October for an hour or so from 9am. Gloves, gel, bags, rings and litter pickers will be provided. Please email steph.toogood@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk if you're willing to join her and other Councillors for the clean up.



LOWTHERVILLE TOWN COUNCILLOR VACANCY

There is now a vacancy for a Town Councillor to represent the Lowtherville Ward. The formal notice has been published and is available from the news block on our web site's home page or by clicking [here](#). An election will be organised if 10 Lowtherville residents ask for one. If that doesn't happen, the Town Council will be free to fill the vacancy by co-option.



NEW STEPS AT BONIFACE FIELDS



Thanks to the skilled work of Ventnor Community Shed members, the Community Portacabin in Boniface Fields now has quality new steps in place of their insecure predecessors.

Shed members have been committed to contributing to the development of the whole site since they moved in to the oldest portacabin

STAFF CHANGE

We said farewell to Morgan Williams on Friday with staff colleagues joined in the office by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Morgan started with us on a one-year apprenticeship in June 2016 and has contributed significantly to our five years of growth since. We're confident he will do well in his new career path.

We're delighted that our recruitment process for a new Administrator to join our staff team concluded successfully on Thursday with the appointment of Newport resident Rachel Redfearn to the post. Rachel will start work with us on 1 November.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- A Press Release from the [Royal College of Psychiatrists](#) says '190,271 0–18-year-olds were referred to children and young people's mental health services between April and June this year, up 134% on the same period last year (81,170).
- [Disability News](#) reports: 'The UK government has made no progress in improving the way its social security system protects the rights of disabled people and other groups, according to a new assessment by the equality and human rights watchdog.'

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