



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 78

MONDAY 4 OCTOBER 2021

Welcome to edition 78 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.

## OCTOBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

This month's Town Council meeting is next Monday, 11 October at 7pm and is returning to our Green Room. The Agenda isn't yet complete but will include the September Finance Report, the Heads of Terms for a lease of the four parking bays in the Central Car Park to include our new toilet, the new Web Site, the Aviary in Ventnor Park, Second Homes and Holiday lets and the Bell project.

## DRAFT ISLAND PLANNING STRATEGY RESPONSE

We submitted our formal response to the consultation on the document in advance of the 1 October deadline. It was developed by our 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. We welcomed the inclusion of the development of the land in Upper Ventnor around the Free School for job opportunities but were very concerned about its acknowledgement that in the five years 2015/16 to 2019/20 just 93 affordable homes have been delivered, only 6 of which were built in the last two of those years. We urged a strong commitment to actually deliver its new targets of 35% affordable homes with 25% of those being available as First Homes with a minimum discount of 30%. Our full response is available by clicking this [link](#).



## LOCAL LITTER PICKING

A reminder that our Deputy Mayor has organised a town centre litter picking for next Sunday 10 October for an hour or so from 9am setting off from outside our Green Room. Gloves, gel, bags, rings and litter pickers will be provided. Please email [steph.toogood@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:steph.toogood@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk) if you're willing to join her and other Councillors for the clean-up.

## INVESTIGATING SEAWEED

On Wednesday our Business Development Officer Nigel Slater-Bishop and I joined the second virtual meeting of those involved in the £34,000 European-funded project to investigate the possible commercial uses of the Island's seaweed led by the excellent French consultant Jean-Baptist Wallaert.



The meeting was based on his latest Report which notes that the Isle of Wight Council has spent over £500,000 on clearing an estimated 27 tonnes of seaweed a year from the Haven rising at £87,420 a year. The study has identified eight species of seaweed in the Haven but because of difficulties in separating them from sand, collecting, cleaning and delivery the study concludes: *It is extremely unlikely that anything positive may come out this endeavour*,

## WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Our New Web Site Group met on Tuesday morning and agreed a recommendation to the Town Council meeting. Wednesday evening was the virtual meeting of the Sustainability & Biodiversity Group with the 31 Bus Group also meeting virtually on Thursday evening.

## TOWN COUNCIL SURGERY

Our Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be available and ready to meet residents for discussion of, or to hear concerns about, local issues at 6pm this Wednesday in our Green Room at Salisbury



Gardens. Attendance at these sessions over recent months has been productive.



## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [Office for National Statistics](#) rates the Island as 20th in the 345 list of local authorities by rate of second homes 'Rising house prices and private rents mean that some workers are at risk of being priced out of living in rural and coastal areas.'
- Housing Charity [Crisis](#): 'over 100,000 low-income renters on Universal Credit will be at least two or more months behind on their rent when the planned £20 cut comes next week, raising fears that thousands will be at risk of being pushed into homelessness.'

**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