



Welcome to edition 86 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

The latest meeting of the Committee took place last Monday with four applications on its Agenda. The first, the replacement of the windows at the Grade II listed Bank End Farm on Undercliff Road, was strongly supported *'feeling that the windows are being replaced sympathetically, like-for-like'*

For the other three, the Committee applied its *No reason to oppose* category, adding a specific comment only to the proposed change of use to residential of Victoria Street's Brunswick House that *'given the nature of the change of use, would expect Building Control and the Fire Safety Officer to be involved'*.

BOB SEELY MEETING

The Island's MP held his latest virtual meeting with representatives of Town & Parish Councils on Wednesday evening that I joined along with 18 others for the usual hour of opportunities for reps to raise issues it was hoped he could assist with.



This time these included, [responses in brackets]:

Fireworks: shouldn't they be limited to official events only? [not necessary].

Devolution: is there a White Paper due on devolution proposals? [there will be a County Deal offered for Hampshire & Isle of Wight that I support but I'm opposed to an Elected Mayor].

Boy Racers: can the Island have its own Road Policing Unit? [I've been asking for one and will continue to].

Ferries: why no longer possible to buy tickets with cash? [they're moving to on-line only; not under my control].

Fishbourne Terminal: the lighting is far too bright and affects residents [together with the ticketing issue, to be included in my next meeting with the Ferries].

Affordable Housing: too many second/holiday homes [change of use should require planning permission].

SHORE ROAD TOILETS STILL CLOSED

Sadly we're having to keep these toilets closed due to water flooding through the retaining wall behind them. It's a Southern Water issue we've asked them to resolve.



SUSTAINABILITY & BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

The Group met by Zoom on Wednesday evening for the latest in its monthly discussions. Its Agenda each time now consists of considering the climate and biodiversity issues for the Town Council and the town in the areas of Buildings, Food, Waste management, Transport and Biodiversity. The Group's proposal for an Audit approach to identify improvements from a current baseline was adopted by this month's Town Council meeting and will be regularly reviewed.

FREE PARKING: SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Parking will be free in all four of the town's car parks managed by the town council from 8am to 6pm next Saturday, as will those managed by the Isle of Wight Council.



VTC/IOWC LIAISON MEETING

At the suggestion of the Isle of Wight Council's Recreation and Open Spaces Officers, we have monthly liaison meetings which are an excellent way of sharing information and progressing issues. Alison Killick and I joined this month's on Monday morning. Matters discussed included Ventnor Park, Grounds maintenance, the Library's cleaning arrangements, the Coastal Path, North Street Playground and Shore Road Toilets.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Another of the week's virtual meetings followed an invitation to join the discussion of how this new government funding should be used. The fund makes £7,124,127 available to Hampshire County Council and £1,131,127 to the Isle of Wight Council to support families at risk during the winter. Most of the Isle of Wight Council's allocation will be distributed through the Council and Island-wide Agencies but two elements will be by a grant application process similar to those we've already accessed with the money having to be spent by 31/3/22: a Community Grant (£200k) and Holiday Activities for children and young people in February's half term (£30k)

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [County Councils Network](#) warns today that 'The number of vulnerable children being placed in council care could reach almost 100,000 by the middle of the decade – up from 69,000 in 2015.'
- In a 30-second video the [Trussell Trust](#) highlights an 11% increase in the use of its Foodbanks compared with 2019:

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