



Welcome to edition 87 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.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP MEETING

Tuesday's meeting of the Group noted that the £150k to fund the new Public Toilet in the Central Car Park was being drawn down from the Public Works Loan Board before Christmas in preparation for the start of the building work on 10 January. Progress with the work to repair the storm damage to the roof of Salisbury Gardens was reported together with the early stages of the project to create safe internal access to the building's roof. The need to replace the current mower used to keep the Putting Green in good order was discussed with agreement to explore some of the options. Ventnor's participation in the national network of Time & Tide Bells was also on the Agenda and the last item was a report by our Business Support Officer on his positive discussions with Wight Fibre on the need to provide residents affected by their work with more information.

SOUTH WIGHT PARISHES HEALTH & WELLBEING FORUM

The Forum, organised by the Town Council, brings together representatives from the 13 Town and Parish Councils of the South Wight to discuss directly with senior staff in the Island's services. It met on Wednesday evening at Godshill Methodist Church with guest speakers this time being Footprint Trust's Lisa Beany and Maggie Bennett of Alzheimers' Cafes and Safe Places.

THE 2021 CHRISTMAS TREE IS NOW READY!

Thanks to weekend work by our Maintenance Manager Brian Roberts, our Business Development Officer Nigel Slater-Bishop and willing volunteers the usual Christmas Tree, decked with its lights, now has its place in the town's central gathering area of Spring Hill Gardens itself spruced for the celebrations with some fresh planting of shrubs.



VENTNOR'S CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DAY

Next Saturday offers a great collection of celebratory events open to all. Music is planned at Spring Hill Gardens from 11am to 4pm with Christmas Fayres at both the Baptist Church and St Catherine's. The Lantern Parade will leave from Dudley Road at 5pm going through the town to the Park for Carol Singing from 5.30 with mulled wine and mince pies available.



NOVEMBER FINANCES

The combined balance of our two Bank accounts at the end of November was £273,479. We spent a total of £49,840 and received £11,671.

The list of payments included £1,500 for the emergency scaffolding of the south elevation of Salisbury Gardens and the year's insurance charge for the building of £2,602. Another cost was the £2,254 recharge by the Isle of Wight Council for the costs of the May elections.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Tony McCarthy opened the Group's meeting on Thursday evening with a verbal report of his work over the previous month highlighting positive developments with rewilding schemes and tree planting, the Foodbank's busiest ever month, the Safe Places project and the success of the monthly basketball sessions our Youth Worker has established at Rew Valley Sports Centre.

Other Agenda items were arrangements for Christmas in Ventnor, developing with partners an application to the Living Well Fund, our Family Voice project and the Beacon.

SHORE ROAD PUBLIC TOILETS

We're pleased to report that a contract has now been issued for the control and redirection of the surface water currently flooding through the retaining wall behind these toilets and requiring their closure.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- Today's [Institute for Financial Studies](#) Annual Report on Education funding records 'School spending per pupil in England fell by 9% in real terms between 2009–10 and 2019–20. This is the largest cut in over 40 years.'
- The [Institute for Financial Studies](#) highlights a levelling up issue: 'The most deprived fifth of secondary schools saw a 14% real-terms fall in spending per pupil between 2009 and 2019, compared with a 9% drop for the least deprived schools.'

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