



Welcome to edition 105 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.

ANNUAL MEETINGS: 9 MAY

We have two Annual Meetings on Monday 9 May: the *Annual Meeting of the Town Council* that appoints the town's Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months and the *Annual Town Meeting* to celebrate the town's community life. The first starts at 6pm and, as it has never lasted more than 15 minutes, is immediately followed by the Annual Town Meeting.

This year both will be held at Trinity Church Hall. We've asked Baby Box, Ventnor Food Bank, the Carnival Committee, the Heritage Museum, our Youth Club, our Wellbeing Café, the Community Shed, Leslie Brown, St Catherine's School, the Artists Collective and Ventnor Enhancement Fund to share their activity with residents in brief slots.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Tony Metcalfe's wide ranging report opened the Group's meeting on Thursday evening, updating us on the Town Council's lead role in Ukraine collections (8 transit vans despatched to date), the expanding use of the Green Room, this year's Carnival preparations, Babybox's role providing one of the Island's five Community Pantries, the new Ventnor Day Poster and the development of the new Youth Club at Boniface Fields.

We then agreed the arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting before moving on the Housing Support Funding distribution and the new application process for future Holiday Activities for children and young people over the next three years. It was good to hear that the new Living Well and Early Help Team are visiting Ventnor this week, that the children's pavement games are expected to arrive next week and that the position for the Platinum Jubilee Tree in Ventnor Park has been agreed.

GLYPHOSATE USE IN VENTNOR

Discussions on implementing the Town Council's decision about its use in the town continued with a meeting Alison Killick and I had with our Contractor's Grounds Maintenance Manager Stan Hayden on Tuesday. More next week.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [Resolution Foundation](#) shows 'If the energy price cap rises again on 1 October to £2,500 then 30% of households across England will fall into fuel stress, including 80% of the poorest families.'
- The [Institute of Directors](#) has today published survey data showing that 42% of businesses that trade internationally are now exporting less to the EU compared to the last five years, with 28% importing less from the EU.

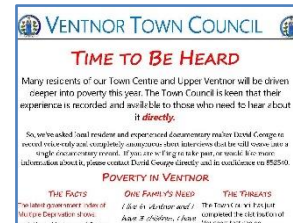
WHAT NEXT FOR HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT

The Town Council secured grant funding of £27,000 from the Isle of Wight Council over recent months to support local residents in 150 households known to be in serious need. The support has been our direct distribution of Vouchers exchangeable at the town's Coop for food and pre-payment metres top up. We've been able to do that four times at intervals.

But, as far as we know, this week's distribution

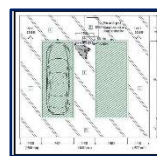
was the last. So what next for our local residents without enough food, heat or light or unable to meet housing costs? Perhaps there will be more

funding and we're confident the town will continue to keep its Foodbank and Babybox supplied. But we're also keen for those deprived of a normal life to be heard directly, as described in this leaflet available here [link](#). [may load slowly]



ELECTRIC VEHICLES CHARGING POINTS

The removal of the Charging Point from Victoria Street prompted social media comment and speculation. What we know is that the removal was indeed a response to safety concerns; the Isle of Wight Council has committed to installing two in the Central Car Park; and they have asked our



view of putting one in Pound Lane Car park. We're reluctant about the last of these because the space required – shown here – is too much for a small, busy and crowded car park.

DOG FEST: ON THE BEACH, SATURDAY 2.30

The event arranged by our Deputy Mayor to mark the last day of dogs on the beach until the season ends includes fun competitions, a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses and voluntary donations to Ventnor Carnival.