



Welcome to edition 113 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

Salisbury Gardens was only a short opening item for the Group's meeting on Tuesday, just noting the current full occupancy of the building's 18 rooms before welcoming the development of Baby Box's new Community Pantry in Ventnor Central. Next up was a discussion of the likely delay in completing the new Public Toilet due to the postponement by the Water and Electricity Authorities of their service link ups.

The Isle of Wight Council's proposed siting of an Electric Vehicle Charging point in Trinity Road was noted and agreement finalised on the installation of a picnic bench on the site of the old Aviary in Ventnor Park and a decision to install a new drop post at the entrance to the Park to prevent unauthorised parking. The last item was a discussion of the Wild Flower border on the West Cliffs.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Thursday evening's meeting opened as usual with Tony McCarthy's report, including that: the Community Pantry already had over 30 members and its Co-ordinator in post; the Foodbank provided food for 54 adults and 28 children during April with their supplies seriously under pressure; the RNID are now using our Green Room, the Living Well project had held two Board meetings to date, both of which he attended; he is in discussions with an International Poetry Group about the use of the Green Room; and Ventnor Coastguard had made an excellent presentation to the latest meeting of the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum.

## THIS WEEK'S ROAD CLOSURES

We've been informed of three closures to traffic: *Zig Zag Road* from Monday to Wednesday between its junctions with Zig Zag Steps Upper and Castle Road from 8am to 4pm.

*Grove Road* from Wednesday to 25 July between its junction with Southgrove Road and 75 metres south.

*Castle Road* from Monday to Wednesday between its junctions with Castle Close and Gills Cliff Road.

## JUNE'S TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday's meeting was completed in 35 minutes as three of its Agenda items were formal approval of reports on the 2021/22 financial year – our Internal Auditor's Report and the Governance and Accounts sections of the Annual Return to our External Auditor – all of which were unanimously agreed.

The other decision item was about the use of Glyphosate in Ventnor. Having established that this weedkiller is currently used by our Grounds Maintenance Contractor in nine of the 19 areas for which the Town Council is responsible – Eastern Gardens, Flowers Brook, Havens Bush, North Street playground, Salisbury Gardens, Steephill Down, Victoria Corner, Cascade and Westcliffs – it was agreed to fund the anticipated additional cost of £1,171 of changing to a safe alternative.

## RADIO SOLENT COMING TO TOWN

The Solent Radio's mobile radio car will be joining Ventnor Day on 2 July with its Jenny Day visiting Ventnor Park and the Paddling Pool to link them mysteriously for her *Clued Up* programme she broadcasts and describes as a 'sort of Treasure Hunt'.



## PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Two of the seven planning applications on the Committee's Agenda at its Tuesday meeting were strongly opposed. The proposed changes to 44 Mitchell Street were strongly opposed as the Committee concluded that *the alterations will be out-of-character with the existing design of the house*. The Committee also strongly opposed a revised application for a balcony structure at the rear of the Esplanade's Sea Gem *Overlooking is a real issue and the revised proposal gives an unbalanced appearance to the remaining properties within the vicinity*. Four of the other applications were supported and one strongly supported.

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## VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [Children's Commissioner](#) has published a new report focused on the fact that '1.7 million children were persistently absent in autumn 2021 compared to 916,000 children in autumn 2020. That's 1 in 4 children persistently absent last term.'
  - A [Nursing Notes](#) article today says: 'international nurses made up around half of those joining the profession last year – with just 2% of new nurses being from the European Union.'
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