



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 117

MONDAY 18 JULY 2022

Welcome to edition 117 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.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday's meeting of the Town Council accepted the monthly Finance Report, agreed new signage for the two Park Road entrances to the Park and supported a proposal to become a member of the



Island's Chamber of Commerce before moving to a consideration of its Major Projects building on the strong foundations of its predecessors. The Major Projects list agreed for the next three years are: Boniface Fields, Car park management, Ventnor Central, Upper Ventnor Land, Poverty, the Family Centre, Housing, the Bandstand and the Haven.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's latest meeting on Tuesday morning noted that due to the delay in the installation of the Water Meter the completion date for the new Public Toilet would be the end of this month. Tree works and a new drop post at the Park formed the next Agenda item followed by an update on Ventnor Haven with news of a new two-year contract by the Isle of Wight Council with Cheetah Marine for the removal of the seaweed and is to be put on the market again in the hope of finding a new owner. The final item was a discussion of developments at the Botanic Gardens.

NEW ROAD CLOSURES

Southgrove Road from 7am on Monday 25 July until 6.30pm on Friday 29 July.

Castle Road from 7am on Monday 18 July until 5pm on Monday 15 August a one-way restriction will be introduced along Castle Road in an easterly direction between Gills Cliff Road and Zig Zag Road.

BELGRAVE ROAD DECISION

The decision to restore Belgrave Road to its original layout reported in the latest Island Road's newsletter was made by the Isle of Wight Council.

NEW COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEME

We met on Tuesday with the Environment Agency's team responsible for a new scheme to improve the town's coastal defences that may qualify for £41 million of government funding spread over the project period of 2023-2031. The major work will be at the town's western end below Ventnor Park.

The major landslip complex created by sea level rises around 10,000 years ago on which the town sits leaves it subject to continuous small scale creep and less frequent, larger scale events. The project is planned to strengthen the existing coastal protections after 40 years of wear and tear and, in view of the Agency's predictions of the impact of climate change and rising sea levels, its core is the application of recent studies of controlling the impact of ground water on slippage known as 'dewatering'.

It will begin with a phased pilot examining the feasibility of reducing ground movement via a series of deep drainage wells, constructed as close as possible to the shoreline:

January-February 2023: ground investigation

May-June 2023: trial abstraction well

February-April 2024: Pilot scheme construction

April 2024-March 2028: if Pilot successful main construction start.

The Pilot is planned to consist of 20 bore holes in a 200m line with linked underground drainage along the cliffs above the Park.

THE BUSKERS ARE BACK!

Busking on Saturdays from noon until 2pm at



Spring Hill Gardens is adding to the Ventnor town shopping experience.

This week Bethan John entertained shoppers with her eclectic soulful sound. We have Julian Warner and

Marc Lebone coming this week with their guitars to entertain Ventnor.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- The [End Child Poverty](#) charity has issued an interactive map showing levels of child poverty in each area; the Island's shows 33.9% of our children living in poverty, 7,177 of them.
- [TUC](#) calculations based on OECD data predict a 6% slump in UK real pay over the next 2 years, the worst in the G7.

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