



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 123

MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2022

Welcome to edition 123 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

For its latest meeting last Tuesday the Group's Agenda started with two matters affecting the new *Public Toilet* (damage to the one of the toilet seats and the coming installation of CCTV coverage of the area around the toilets, possibly including Spring Hill Garden). Dealing with the staining of the urinals in the *Esplanade Toilets* came next followed by the damage to the *Spring Hill Garden Fountain* (acceptance of a very welcome repair offer from a resident experienced in stone works). The *draft Lease* supplied to us by the Isle of Wight Council for the four spaces in the Central Car Park that the new toilet occupies needed scrutiny (five clauses to question) as did new arrangements for volunteer care of some planting areas (request to Ventnor Enhancement Fund for assistance).

## COMMUNITY SHED OPEN DAY

Today's Open Day (12-4pm) will show off the workshop, the woodland and the spaces for relaxing and for working. Members will be selling wooden bird-boxes and bug hotels, playing family games both easy and fiendishly difficult, enjoying tea and biscuits on the Astroturf and encouraging everyone to join Ventnor Community Shed. We are saving up for an external work space so that when we make the town benches, other small projects don't get crowded out, so any money we raise at the Open Day will go towards that shed annexe.



## NEW ROAD CLOSURES

*Boniface Shute:* from Friday 2 September to Friday 14 October will be closed for both day and night for two weeks within this period. No vehicle or person may use or cause any animal to use the Shute and no vehicle is permitted to wait on it or within 50 metres on any adjoining side road.

*South Street:* from 7am on Monday 29 August until 5pm Friday 2 September, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed along South Street between its junctions with Longdown Steps and West Street.

## VIA MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- Research by the [High Pay Centre](#) shows 'median FTSE 100 CEO pay increased from £2.46m in 2020 to £3.41m in 2021' an increase of 39%.'
- New research by [Crisis](#) reveals 'only 12% of rental properties listed in the last year were affordable to those in receipt of housing benefit.'

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

## A CATASTROPHE IS COMING...

A new Report published by the Resolution Foundation on Thursday under the title *A Chilling Crisis* summarised the impact of the coming energy price increases in its opening two sentences: *A catastrophe is coming. A large increase in energy bills this winter was always going to be difficult to bear, but the explosion that we are now on course for will be totally unmanageable for millions of households.*

The Town Council's work has revealed around 150 Ventnor households without enough income to feed and heat their homes. With what's coming, many more residents will be joining them: Ventnor Food Bank, Baby Box and the Community Pantry will face greatly increased demand, please support them if you can.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday's meeting of our Planning Committee had just one application on its Agenda: installation of a pair of bespoke glass doors at the main entrance to Old Park Hotel Old Park Road St Lawrence. The Committee unanimously decided that it *strongly supports this application as a continuing enhancement of the building.*

## SUMMER BUSKING EVERY SATURDAY

Hot Bank holiday Saturday busking with local Lucan and his beat box and the fun Duo PISCO Sour from Peru - no Paddington bear and no marmalade sandwiches! Brian's bubbles with lively music and lots of families dancing enhanced the paddling pool experience this week



## SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

The Island Branch held its first meeting since the pandemic in our Green Room on Tuesday evening chaired by Bembridge's Clerk Mark Pink. We plan to meet quarterly again now with most on Zoom.