



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 127

MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2022

Welcome to edition 127 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.

## **FAMILY VOICE: VIEWING & DISCUSSION**

This hard hitting film, commissioned by Ventnor Town Council and made by local professional film and documentary makers Utility Films highlights the real life drama unfolding in Ventnor.

In a series of very personal interviews with local residents from the town who now find themselves having to use the Ventnor Food Bank, Baby Box and even more recently the Ventnor Food Pantry along with Ventnor Town Council's food and fuel vouchers scheme to survive, it uncovers the level of poverty these residents face in the current climate and the ever more desperate cost of living crisis.

Their own voices can be heard clearly here and will prompt an audience discussion of how best to respond on: [Monday 3 October at St Catherine's Church at 6pm.](#)

## **SMUGGLERS HAVEN: ASH DIE-BACK ISSUE**

The Isle of Wight Council have informed us of the need for significant tree works at Smugglers Haven.



'There are roughly 80 stems to come out and all are at a stage of at least 75% dieback stage, or dead. This is therefore an

unavoidable situation. I have had the clifftop footpath closed for the last 3 months due to the risk to public safety of tree collapse.

'The Bay laurel and Enonymous japonica are being removed at the same time. This is to provide light to the native species regeneration in the understorey, so that the canopy closes over again swiftly, me maintain high levels of diversity, and climate resilience.

## **COASTAL DEFENCE PROJECT UPDATE**

We've heard from the Environment Agency that 'Over the next 6 months we will undertake surveys and inspections of the existing coastal assets and continue to develop a new coastal model which will



help us better understand storm wave overtopping and resulting coastal erosion. The pilot scheme will run for the next 3 years

helping us to understand if significant landslide activity within the Ventnor Undercliff can be reduced through the groundwater level management.'

## **GOLD AWARD FOR VENTNOR PARK**

South and South East in Bloom's Awards process this year has judged that the town's Park not only meets their Gold Standard (up from last year's Silver Gilt) but also rated it as both Best in Category and Best Overall Park 2022.



Also the Cascade retained its Silver Gilt award. Congratulations and thanks are due to John O'Conner's Stan Hayden and his team for their amazing year-round work that has earned this well-deserved recognition.

## **MARLBOROUGH ROAD TOILETS CLOSURE**

Following the successful building of a new



accessible public toilet in the Central Car Park, the Town Council's lease on those in Marlborough Road

ends with their final cleaning and closure at the end of this coming Friday.

The Town Council took on the management of them in 2015 when the Isle of Wight Council was closing them as part of its Budget savings in order to ensure that there was at least one fully accessible public toilet in the town. However, the Marlborough Road slope meant that was far from suitable for people with disabilities. Thus the decision to build the new one. As, on average, cleaning and maintaining a public toilet costs the town around £10k a year, the Council decided to hand the Marlborough Road facility back

## **ST CATHERINE STREET CLOSURE CONFUSION**

An Island Roads' traffic order and matching signage that announcing a two-month complete closure from this Wednesday until 25th November for retaining wall works caused residents serious concern. However a clarifying message from Island Roads provided assurance of access and only temporary closure of only some parking areas.

## **VIA MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK**

- A new [Children's Society](#) Report finds '85% of parents and carers are concerned about the impact of the cost of living crisis on their household/family over the next 12 months, which will only get worse as this crisis unfolds.'
- An [IPPR Report](#) today finds 'Typical net childcare costs in the UK now rank as the second highest in the developed world, and fees have risen by an estimated £2,000 per year and have almost doubled for parents with a child under two since 2010.'