



# VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 128

MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2022

Welcome to edition 128 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: VENTNOR'S RESPONSE



This Monday evening Ventnor residents demonstrated that the reliance of those among them at the sharp end of the cost of living crisis on the support of their communities was well founded as over 80 came to St Catherine's Church to see and discuss our Family Voice documentary.

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.

The viewing of the 15-minute film fed into 30-minute discussions by 12 groups gathered round tables with the task of identifying three priorities for the town's response to the accounts of poverty by those residents actually now living with it and in the certainty that it is going to get worse and draw many more into it.

Post-it notes and A4 response sheets were on all the tables for individuals to record their own responses. We will of course study all this valuable feedback very carefully as a basis for future planning – and we'll be arranging other viewings of the documentary, please tell us if you have ideas about where they could be held.



## THANKS TO OUR BEACH SAFETY TEAM

Our new Beach Safety team members Beth Whitehead and Lloyd Wheatley joined us on 1 June and have done an excellent job along with our Maintenance Manager Brian Roberts in



protecting and advising this year's beach users. Their time with us ended on Friday and they go with our sincere thanks and hope we might work with them again in 2023.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee's Agenda on Monday consisted of three applications, two of which it saw no reason to oppose and the other – the conversion of the existing swimming pool building at Riviera Park Shore Road, Bonchurch to three residential units - it supported. The application for a two-storey and a single extension at St Lawrence's Salem Cottage was acknowledged as *an overall improvement, providing additional living accommodation* and the amendments and single in-fill extension to Spring Hill Cottage in Bonchurch Village Road was assessed as *an improvement of the external appearance*.

## RECREATION & OPEN SPACES MEETING

Alison and I had our virtual monthly meeting on Monday with the Isle of Wight's Lee Matthews and Elaine Davidson. Useful discussions included:

*Ventnor Park:* IoWC to conduct tree survey and agree treatment for the Tulip Tree.

*Esplanade:* IoWC responding to resident request to move Revetment sign; also painting white the steps up to Fitness Area.

*Bonchurch Pond:* pest control ongoing

*Coastal Path:* Report with Secretary of State for approval. Works probably starting in 2023/24

*North Street Playground:* £2,500 grant for equipment confirmed.

## VIA MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- Saturday saw Enough is Enough demonstrations in 50 towns across the country: Video of Enough is Enough demonstration in Portsmouth is here: <https://twitter.com/EiEPortsmouth/status>.
- [Reuters](#) reports an IMF spokesman saying: 'Fiscal measures adopted by Britain will likely increase inequality... urging UK authorities to consider providing more targeted support to affected families and businesses.'

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