



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 135

MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2022

Welcome to edition 135 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.

SEA WALL DAMAGE: PUBLIC MEETING

The Isle of Wight Council's public meeting at St Catherine's Church on Thursday was attended by around 30 residents to hear the Isle of Wight Council's Strategic Manager for the Environment



Natasha Dix, with a detailed presentation, explain why it had been essential to close part of the sea front following the initial and now ongoing damage to the sea wall. Although funding for repair has been secured from the government and the Environment Agency staff and a contractor are in action the repair is predicted to take many months.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's meeting on Tuesday noted progress with the CCTV installation at the new public toilet as its first Agenda item. Discussion of the location signage for the toilets we've installed on the Esplanade and the potential for having goal posts in the Park's upper area followed. Although a draft lease for the Town Council to take on the management of the North Street Playground has now been received, it was agreed to wait until the fallen wall that has caused its current closure and the warped tiles are replaced. Other items were the feasibility of installing a shower in the Green Room, the central reservations' plants and the damage to the sea wall

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday's Town Council meeting included the monthly Finance Report, the Family Voice viewings, the new Community Support Fund and the Remit for our Sustainability & Biodiversity Working Group.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONSULTATION MEETINGS

The first in a series of four consultation meetings arranged by our Sustainability and Biodiversity Group took place on Thursday evening at St Lawrence's Village Hall. With two tables of 8, the top three priorities from table 1 were leaky homes/insulation, wilding gardens and food growing and waste; from table 2, insulating homes, food growing and waste and transport. The next meeting is at 2pm this coming Saturday at the Baptist Church.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND LAUNCH

Monday's Town Council meeting approved the



frame from family voice

new way, suggested at the viewing of our Family Voice film, of supporting our organisations and

residents at the sharp end of the cost of living crisis. The fund will be launched on Friday, inviting donations from residents and businesses for distribution to organisations including Ventnor Food Bank, Ventnor Community Panty, Baby Box, our Wellbeing Café and a Christmas issue of our Food and Energy top-up vouchers.

MP INSPECTS BELGRAVE ROAD CONCERNS

The Mayor met this weekend with the Island's MP Bob Seely to discuss pedestrian safety as the road will be reopening to traffic shortly. A list of suggested additions is to be sent from the Town Council to the Isle of Wight Council for consideration. Bob Seely understood the issues and thought that small changes and additions could improve the situation considerably.

FOOD WASTE & FOOD POVERTY CONFERENCE

An all-day conference at the Riverside on Friday organised by the Island's Public Health service and partners including Aspire, Pan Together, Ventnor Town Council, the Real Junk Food Project and Newport Congregational Church attracted over 80 representatives of organisations working in the areas around food poverty. Our Family Voice documentary was shown during it.

MAYOR'S AUCTION FOR WARM SPACES

The Met was the venue on Saturday when 80 generous people attended the Mayor's Grand Auction. Our county Councillor Gary Peace and several VTC councillors and staff also enjoyed the evening which raised about £2,400 to provide more venues for the coldest months. Thanks must go to local businesses for their generous donations, The Met for hosting the event and The Hillmans for playing fabulous music all night.

FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- o The [Independent Food Aid Network](#)'s latest survey of its members: 94% reported increased need for their services following the cut to Universal Credit in October 2021 while 92% of this group saw yet further increases since August 2022.
- o Chances for Children is the latest survey by [Buttle UK](#) of its over 1,000 support staff working with over 60,000 children and finds 'Support workers say 45% of children in their care live in destitution: a 9% +year on year increase.'