



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 136

MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2022

Welcome to edition 136 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 IN TWO PARTS FOR THREE DAYS

Island Roads have published complete closure details for the section of Newport Road above the Graben for three days starting Wednesday 7 December. The notice says that pedestrian access will remain open via at least one of the footways depending on the stage of the works but access by vehicles is prohibited. Buses will be diverted and people will only be able to drive between Upper and Lower Ventnor via a long diversion around Shanklin to Wroxall, or Whitwell to Godshill. The full details from Island Roads are available [here](#).



MP VISITS BELGRAVE ROAD

The Island's MP accepted the Mayor's invitation to see the issues the Town Council has raised about Belgrave Road. In his newsletter this week Bob Seely commented: *It was good to chat with Ventnor Mayor Steph Toogood last weekend to discuss safety concerns along Belgrave Road. With the road due to re-open soon, it's important any issues are addressed asap.*



SUSTAINABILITY & BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

The Group's monthly meeting on Tuesday evening received the results of their audit of Salisbury Gardens' energy use including the encouragement of its tenants to turn light switches off when not needed. Progress with the draught-proofing project was discussed followed by information about a meeting with the Isle of Wight Council about the 31 Bus. Mark Jefferies reported that Tesco had distributed food to the Better Days Café and local schools. The Group is in contact with waste contractor Amey about the need for them to sort recyclable waste from general waste.

FREE CAR PARKING THIS SATURDAY

All the car parks in the town will be free from 12 noon to 6pm on Saturday as the Isle of Wight Council's contribution to Small Business Saturday that the Town Council is matching. Our four will also be free all day on Saturday 10 December for Christmas in Ventnor.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND IS OPEN

This is for organisations in the town in direct contact with its residents that are unable to afford food and energy and housing costs. To meet the rising demand for their support with Christmas and the winter arriving our Food Bank, Baby Box, Community Pantry and Wellbeing Café will need additional funding.



This new fund has been launched by the Town Council in response to suggestions from residents that viewed our new documentary, Family Voice, in which those without enough income speak movingly of their actual experience. The film can be viewed [here](#).

The Fund invites contributions from residents and businesses for distribution to the front line voluntary organisations that will make such a vital difference. It launched on Thursday with an initial amount of £25,000 made up of a £20,000 donation from a local resident and a £5,000 commitment from the Town Council.

Donations, marked CSF, can be made by:

- **Bank Transfer:** to Ventnor Town Council, Sort Code 40-45-09, A/c No. 41366998
- **Card:** phone 01983 853775 or at our office, Salisbury Gardens, Dudley Road
- **Cheque:** post or deliver to our office.

Donations can be anonymous and details of the Fund's organisation are available on request to: David Bartlett, Town Clerk, phone: 857840/07720 771114 or email: townclerk@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk

CONSULTATION MEETING

Saturday's consultation meeting arranged by our Sustainability & Biodiversity Group at Upper Ventnor's St Margaret's Hall was attended by 16 people including 2 children and 3 visitors. A presentation by Councillor Stephen Cockett was followed by each person having 3 minutes to speak on the issues. Priorities to date: Education 18, Food growing and food waste 18, Homes/energy 15, Biodiversity 10, Recycling 8 and Transport 7.

FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- An [Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development](#) shows the UK as the only one of its member countries expected to have an economy smaller in 2023 and 2024 than this year.
- A new Report today from [Christians Against Poverty](#) finds 'Over four million people across the UK now depend on credit to make ends meet.'