



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 143

30 JANUARY 2023

Here's edition 143 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.

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF OUR SPACE

Held at St Catherine's Church from 10.30am to 1.30pm on Thursday, the first in what will now be a monthly event, the Town Council's *Our Place*



provided residents with advice from a wide range of agencies, a Warm Space and a hot lunch. Its regular flow of residents had the opportunity

to chat with Veterans Outreach, Barnardo's, Ventnor Community Shed, Baby Box Isle of Wight, Ventnor Community Pantry, People Matter IoW, Living Well & Early Help, Citizen's Advice, Wessex Cancer Trust and Ventnor Community Foodbank.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's Agenda for its Tuesday meeting covered the maintenance issues at Salisbury Gardens – the scaffolding is back - dealing with the leak at Boniface Fields with a new water main and piping, the possible addition of WiFi to that area and parking for people with disabilities in Dudley Road Car Park.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Tuesday evening's meeting of the Group started with Tony McCarthy's excellent and encouraging report on our responses to the cost of living crisis in the town and the successful and well attended AGMs of the Community Shed and the Carnival. The other Agenda items were *Our Place*, Warm Spaces, the Community support fund and the monthly meeting with the town's County Councillors.

NEW ROAD CLOSURES: NO TRAFFIC

Pound Lane: 8am Wednesday 1 February to 4pm Friday 3 February.

Zig Zag Road: 8am Tuesday 31 January to 6pm Thursday 2 February between its junctions with Castle Road and Bellevue Road.

MAYOR @ VENTNOR'S INNER WHEEL

Our Mayor, Steph Toogood, was the guest speaker at the Inner Wheel's lunch at the Bonchurch Inn this week, giving an insight into the Town Council's work.



PLANNING COMMITTEE: EAST DENE

The Committee had a single-item Agenda at its meeting on Thursday, reflecting the considerable local concern about the proposals for development of this Grade II* Listed



Building and its site. The meeting was attended by local residents with a detailed explanation of their concerns about damage to the environment, traffic, parking and lack of clarity. The Committee resolved *Ventnor Town Council strongly objects to this application and submits the Framework document agreed at this meeting and attached to these Minutes as the statement of its objections to the application.*

SEA WALL REPAIRS

The Mayor and I had a Zoom meeting on Wednesday with the Isle of Wight Council's Strategic Manager Environment & Waste Natasha Dix about the repairs to the sea wall.



She told us that the Emergency stage of the works was almost complete at a government funded cost of around £500,000 and that the Urgent Stage has begun. That is expected to take 8 to 10 months. She is arranging with us for another public meeting on the matter to be held in mid-February.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

This Fund is to support organisations providing the essentials of food and funding for heat and light for those without enough.

Donations, marked CSF, can be made by:

Bank Transfer: 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.

FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- [Joseph Rowntree Trust](#)'s new Report finds: 'one in five of our population (20%) were in poverty in 2020/21 - that's 13.4 million people. Of these: 7.9 million were working-age adults, 3.9 million were children. 1.7 million were pensioners.
- A Report today from the [Institute for Financial Studies](#) reveals that the number of new Disability Claimants has doubled in less than a year