



Here's edition 147 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 PUBLIC MEETING

Some 70 residents came to the public meeting



the serious damage to the town's sea wall. The presentation by the Council's Strategic Manager for

the Environment, Natasha Dix, provided details of the Emergency Works already completed and the Urgent Repairs stage that had now started and would take the rest of this year to complete.

SUSTAINABILITY & BIODIVERSITY MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Town Council's Group took place on Tuesday. After noting that a report was being prepared on Salisbury Gardens' carbon footprint the first major item was a potential pilot project for draughtproofing local homes that are leaking heat. The standing section on Transport & Mobility focused this time on the potential for additional funding from the Isle of Wight Council to extend our 31 Bus service including the outcomes of recent consultations on which days and times would be the priority. Increasing the recycling of food waste was explored before moving on to the need to ensure the better grounds management of the wild flower area on the Eastern Cliffs and the Glanville Fritillary area on Bonchurch Revetment now that Natural England's funding of it is no longer available.



arranged by the Isle of Wight Council at St Catherine's Church on Tuesday evening to see drone footage revealing

OUR PLACE FEBRUARY SESSION

The February Our Place Session at St. Catherine's Church was well attended by agencies – including Sight for Wight, Living Well Early Help, People Matter, John's Club, Co-op Member Pioneer, Barnardo's, Ventnor Community Shed, Baby Box Isle of Wight, Oddfellows, Veteran's Outreach, Ventnor's PCSO and Ventnor Community Foodbank.



Our fabulous volunteer team, Jo, Sarah, Grace, and Teresa, prepared and served a hot lunch – with a choice of baked potato with cheese and beans, vegetable curry or chilli. Many thanks to the congregation of St. Catherine's Church for their support.

The next session is on Thursday 23 March from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm.

Our volunteer team prepare a hot lunch at St. Catherine's every Thursday from 12.00 noon. All welcome.

SUPPORTING RESIDENTS

We learned on Thursday that our latest application to the Isle of Wight Council's share of the government's Housing Support Fund had been accepted in a total of £10,000. This will fund two circulations over the coming months of our food/energy vouchers to households known to our Food Bank, Baby Box and Community Pantry.

Also, during this month our *Community Support Fund*, set up following residents' response to our *Family Voice* documentary, received a further 10 donations totalling £1,555. More is still needed to fund the local organisations in the front line of food and fuel poverty: the link to contribute is [here](#).

OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Due to staff absences our office at Salisbury Gardens will continue to close at 2pm Monday to Friday. Phone and email connections continue to be live as usual.

FROM MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- A [Citizens Advice](#) study of the experience of private renters includes: '31 % of renters feel unable to heat their home to a comfortable temperature; and 1.6 million children in privately rented homes are living in cold, damp or mouldy homes'
- An [Institute for Fiscal Studies](#) graph today shows 'benefits will still be lower than pre-pandemic levels in real terms after April's uprating.'