



Here's edition 150 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.

TIME FOR A CHANGE...

Adverts for a new Town Clerk will soon be appearing following the Mayor's receipt of my letter of resignation on Monday. Our HR Committee met on Friday to plan the recruitment process and my last Clerk's Column will be edition 162 on 13 June.

The years following my appointment (for three months!) on 12 April 2010 have been filled with the incredible privilege of working for this remarkable town through and with its Council. During that time I've had the unforgettable opportunity to work with so many talented and committed Councillors who have given their expertise and time so freely as volunteers.

And I cannot speak too highly of the very skilled and totally committed staff team that I have been privileged to be part of and without whom none of the projects and support for residents we have developed would have been either deliverable or sustainable.

LIVING WELL & EARLY YEARS GOLD AWARD



The Island's Living Well & Early Years service is managed by a Community-based partnership led by Aspire supported by partners Pan Together, the West Wight Sports & Community Centre, IWALC and Ventnor Town Council with our Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy as a Board member. The service has won the IESE's prestigious Gold Award for transformation in its health and social care category.

ASSETS & SERVICES WORKING GROUP

The Group's first decision at its meeting on Tuesday morning was to develop a 5-year repair and maintenance plan for Salisbury Gardens. That was followed by the final details of the planned upgrade of the Green Room Kitchen and then the issues of restoring the damaged planted area at Boniface Fields and the installation of WiFi to the site. Car park charges and finally Ventnor Park's electrical certification and new instructions to our Grounds Maintenance contractor about not mowing in May.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

After accepting the monthly Finance Report Monday evening's meeting of the Town Council agreed to rebrand its Staffing Committee as its HR Committee and appointed its Chair and Members. Next was a decision about increasing the charges applied in its four Car Parks (see below) followed by a decision to not mow the Town's grassed areas – with the exception of the Park, the Cascades and the Salisbury Gardens' Green - during the month of May. The final resolution was to fund, along with Ventnor Royal British Legion's Social Club the purchase of Coronation Mugs for the town's children.

CAR PARK CHARGES INCREASE

The Town Council took over the management of the Dudley Road, Market Street, Pound Lane and Shore Road car parks in 2015. Parking charges in them have remained unchanged since. Monday's Town Council meeting agreed to increase them

Band	Current	Increased	IoW increased
Up to 30 minutes	£0.60	£0.80	££2.05
30-60 minutes	£1.60	£1.30	
1-2 hours	£1.90	£2.50	£3.60
2-4 hours	£3.40	£4.50	£6.20
4-6 hours	£4.50	£5.85	£8.30
6-10 hours	£6.60	£8.60	£12.50

alongside another increase in the Isle of Wight

Council's charges for the town's other four car parks. The formal notice is expected to be published this week with the new charges starting no later than June. As the table listing the new charges shows, those managed by the Town Council remain significantly lower.

LITTER PICKING IS BACK!

The Great British Spring Clean is a national initiative to litter pick our towns and runs from 17th March to 2nd April. Ventnor will not be left out. You are invited to join the Ventnor town litter pick on Sunday 26 March at 9 am starting from the council offices Dudley Road



VIA MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- The Office for Budget Responsibility's assessment expressed in its tweet today: 'Living standards are expected to fall by 6% over this fiscal year and next as inflation outstrips income growth...the largest two-year fall since ONS records began in the 1950s.'
- A [Russell Group Students' Union](#) report finds '1 in 4 students regularly go without food and other necessities because they cannot afford them, rising to over 3 in 10 for students from the most socioeconomically disadvantaged.'