



Here's edition 151 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.

TIMING FOR A CHANGE...

Tonight's Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council has a single item Agenda: to agree the Recruitment Process for the town's new Town Clerk recommended by its HR Committee on 17 March and published in last week's Clerk's Column.

The recommendations include a Schedule for the process with adverts out from 10 April, an application deadline of 3 May and confirmation of appointment at a Town Council meeting on 22 May.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee had six applications to assess at its meeting on Tuesday. It supported four of them, saw no objection to another and objected to just one: the proposed workshop/art studio to be built on top of an existing garage building at St Michaels Kings Bay Road was objected to because of *poor design, overbearing mass and detrimental impact on the area and the street scene*. The application for replacement windows on the ground floor, hard landscaped area forming steps and seating areas at The Dell in Bonchurch's The Pitts was supported as a *well considered and sensitive application for Listed Building Consent*.

SUSTAINABILITY & BIODIVERSITY GROUP

This Working Group had its monthly meeting on Tuesday morning and opened as usual with its commitment to see a reduction in the carbon footprint of the Town Council's Assets & Estate. It then agreed to postpone its draught-proofing project to the autumn as temperatures are now rising. The importance of the £2 per journey bus fare was stressed and the Group's determination to progress the extension of wild flower areas in the town was returned to. The final *Anything Else* slot agreed a proposal that the Group should develop a Work Plan and welcomed news of progress with the Time and Tide Bell project.

OFFICE OPENING HOURS...

...are now back to their 9am – 4pm Monday to Friday normal times. Our Administrator Rachel Redfean was able to re-join us last Monday and Assistant Town Clerk Alison Killick will be back from today.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED THIS WEEK

- The [Child Poverty Action Group](#) comments on today's new child poverty statistics: '29% of children are growing up in poverty. 4.2 Million children.'
- The [Food Foundation](#) says today 'The cost of The Food Foundation's Basic Basket has increased by approximately 20-25%.'

MARCH OUR PLACE EVENT

The opportunity to enjoy a warm space infused



with tea and chat that also offers

access to advice from

a wide range of experienced Agencies drew residents to St Catherine's Church on Thursday for March's Our Place event organised by our Community Development Officer Tony McCarthy and an amazing team of volunteers. Open from 10.30 to 2.30 it included a hot lunch. You're very welcome to sample it all at its next session on 27 April.

MEETING THE ISLAND'S MP

Bob Seely holds a monthly virtual meeting open to all the Island's Town & Parish Councils – arranged by IWALC - and I joined it as usual on Wednesday afternoon with, unusually, only six others this time. It started as usual with a summary of his work on the Island's behalf in Westminster and elsewhere.



Then the Q&A: will there be more assistance for small businesses including community centres? Why no action on the Camp Hill site? More help with cost of living crisis? Any progress with Red Funnel? Are you helping Community Pantries?

LITTER PICKING IN ACTION

Sunday morning during a dry interlude three councillors and a small group of residents gathered rubbish as part of the Great British Spring clean.

The hot spots were the car parks but as we now have so many



local volunteers litter regularly Picking the town is much cleaner. A big Thankyou to the volunteers from VTC.