

THE CHRONICLE'S E-MAIL ADDRESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

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ALL E-MAILS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED

We would advise readers that all letters printed are the views of the correspondent and not those of The Chronicle.

For The Record.....

THE WIGHTBUS MANAGER would like the following information made known :

Please note that the assertion is wrong that Southern Vectis will take over the operation of services 121/123/126/130 from Wightbus. Southern Vectis is in fact shadowing our services and, in some cases, picking up our passengers. They are doing so mainly because those passengers are being told that Wightbus is no longer operating. This is far from being the case and I would appreciate anything you can do to rectify this misunderstanding.

Great School Debate

HOW THE PAGES of the Chronicle are flowing with the debate about the local schools issue!

Councillors expressing their view, members of the town expressing their view! All being expressed without as much of a hint that they have enquired of the local governors. Only one Councillor (not a Town Councillor at that) has enquired of my understanding as a chair of governors!

Please forgive me; but many of the views expressed are so wide of the mark, and woefully failing to engage with the root issue of a decline in numbers of the pupil population of our town. Those of us trying to work closely with the educationalists in our town are deeply concerned that we could lose out on what promises to be a wonderful opportunity for Ventnor. An opportunity to put something in place that will be sustainable and continue to deliver educational needs to the town 50 or maybe even 100 years down the line. All too often options are shot down before they even have a chance of being appropriately debated. This is our chance to work with those who are the providers for education securing the best outcomes for the future, not just the here and now. I feel let down by our elected representatives in as much that they are only expressing a very narrow view. The picture and the debate I assure you is far broader, and indeed more complex.

Graham Morris, Chair of Governors St Boniface School.
The Vicarage, Maples Drive, Ventnor.

Where Does Responsibility Lie?

FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) of 1995 & of 2005, of which the following is an extract from the DDA of 1995 -

Goods, facilities and services

19 Discrimination in relation to goods, facilities and services (1) It is unlawful for a provider of services to discriminate against a disabled person -

(a) in refusing to provide, or deliberately not providing, to the disabled person any service which he provides, or is prepared to provide, to members of the public;

We (the Disability Forum, Ventnor & The Isle of Wight) interpret this as meaning, amongst other things, something as basic as

1) PERMANENT RAMPED ACCESS/ADAPTATIONS TO THE FACILITIES & SERVICES

2) that any new build, renovation or refit should include these basic services.

If this provision is not made, is the service provider 'refusing to provide, or deliberately not providing.....'? Are suitable access/adaptations a service?

As stated this is our interpretation, and if anyone (disabled person, service provider or council official) could offer some clarification we would be most grateful.

Also we have been told that is the County Council's Building Officers job to enforce the provisions set down in the DDA. Other sources tell us that it is the service provider themselves and section 19 of the 1995 Act seems to back up this claim. Again if anyone could offer some clarification.

Alan Davies, Victoria Street, Ventnor.

CHEMIST ROTA The following Chemist in Ventnor will be open between 6pm and 6.30pm (not Sundays or Bank Holidays). Week beginning Monday 31st March is **BOOTS CHEMIST** in the High Street.

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