

## District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

### Hendreds Ward

May 2020

#### COVID-19 Grant

Last month I had pleasure in granting the West Hendred and Ginge COVID-19 Support Group (WSSG), a total of £400 to help fund the brilliant service that they provide the community in response to the covid-19 pandemic.

#### Oxfordshire All In

A website has been created as a central hub for the community response to Covid-19 in Oxfordshire. [Oxfordshire All In](#) is actively mapping, supporting, and helping coordination between the many volunteer led Community Support Groups, Community Organisations, Businesses, and Public Bodies/Services that are working to provide an effective Covid-19 response across the county.

Click [here](#) to register.

#### South & Vale COVID-19 Support

If you or someone you know has been identified as extremely vulnerable by the NHS and have nobody around to help with day to day tasks like shopping, please contact the district council on 01235 422600 or email [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk). These support lines are open 8:30am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sundays.

To help keep our volunteers and those they are supporting safe and well while volunteering, the Vale has produced a guide of [important information and advice](#).

If you are having any money worries, including if you're struggling to pay council tax or any other

bills, please see our [coronavirus financial guidance page](#).

If you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless you should contact us as soon as possible. The Housing Needs team can help you to find some accommodation, please call them on 01235 422452 or email [housing@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:housing@southandvale.gov.uk).

#### Working from Home

In Sunday's public address, Boris Johnson announced that the government would be easing some lockdown restrictions this week, particularly around people returning to work under certain circumstances. In the advice to employers published on Monday the government reiterated that 'everyone should work from home unless this is not possible'.

The Vale's position therefore remains the same - most of our staff can work from home and will continue to do so.

#### Site Visits

This week the Vale issued new guidance to staff which explains our current position on site visits. Site visits can go ahead provided:

- They are essential
- Social distancing measures can be maintained
- And the relevant officer is comfortable doing so

Any visits going ahead will be risk assessed to ensure they can be carried out safely.

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#### **Discretionary business grants**

The Vale has already been contacted by some businesses about applying for the new government discretionary grants. However, until we receive the detailed guidance needed from government to launch our application process, we cannot accept any applications.

In the meantime, businesses can sign up to the business support newsletter at the [South & Vale Business Support](#) website and they will be notified once we are accepting applications.

#### **Planning Committee Meetings**

Today the Vale held a Test Committee and the first virtual Planning Committee meeting is being held on Tuesday 26th May between 10:30 and 13:00. A change in the meeting format has meant that Parish Councils, Supporters and Objectors will not have the opportunity to speak to an application, however all correspondence received prior to the meeting will be circulated to all members. The associated Ward Councillor will still have the chance to address the committee for up to 3 minutes.

#### **Household waste recycling centre**

Following the government's advice on non-essential travel the Drayton household waste recycling centre has been closed but it is due to reopen on **18th May**. To keep residents and staff safe, there will be some changes including:

- Reduced opening hours 8am - 4pm to allow for cleaning
- Limiting the number and size of vehicles
- Introducing social distancing measures

Read the [waste reopening questions](#) for full details before visiting.

Although I don't hold surgeries I am always available to deal with any issues

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