

# District Councillor's report

January 2021

## Cocking Parish Council

Corona virus; with the upsurge of cases in the area, we are now in Tier 4 but vaccinations for the virus are due to start w/c 4<sup>th</sup> January at the Riverbank surgery. Looks like a long haul for Midhurst and Cocking but the vaccination priority list should reassure our older residents.

1 CDC continues to offer support grants for businesses and organisations in the area, with funding of up to £5000 still available. A number of businesses in Midhurst have successfully applied for such grants. During lockdown, CDC has continued to process many hundreds of grant applications and requests for business rate relief and figures show that it is one of the most efficient councils in the country.

2 The shop vacancy rate in Chichester is 9.2% and heading in the wrong direction Midhurst also has a number of vacant shops. It is likely that we will see a change in our streets over the coming year(s) with more non retail use and even residential use becoming more common.

3 The Council is promoting a new Move if or Lose it campaign starting in January, to promote wellbeing and a healthier life style. The course, starting this week is on Team or Zoom for 18 people, apply via the CDC website. The Council is also promoting, via social media, a Dry January.....alcohol not rain.

4 CDC's Planning Department is launching an enhanced pre-planning service in January, full details on the planning pages of the web site.

5 An amendment to CIL regulations now required planning authorities to disclose all CIL payments and what they are spent on. The SDNP's report is here...

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy/spend/>

The actual allocated figures are in the appendix.

6 The Environmental Protection Team deals with 10 -15 cases of vulnerable people who hoard at their homes each year, often resulting in a home that is not fit for habitation. The Council can offer a lot of support and help if you know of any one who might be in such a position.

7 The rural gigabit scheme has been successful with 91 applications, equating to over 1000 homes, although the Covid problems seem to be delaying some of the work involved. If anyone is interested please look at the web site <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>