

District Councillor Report

October 2021

CDC is currently developing a Christmas 'Support Local' campaign, which will build on what was achieved last year. The Observer series and V2 Radio have both agreed to partner CDC on this campaign.

CDC is currently working on their Climate Change campaign with the Environmental Strategy team, and have allocated three pages to this in the November issue of initiatives. The income from Initiatives covers the cost of producing and distributing the magazine, just over £38k.

The latest vacancy rate is:

Chichester 11.55%

East Wittering 0%

Midhurst – 8.3% (this has probably increased in recent weeks)

Petworth – 4.5%

Selsey 5.4%

Enabling Grants The second round of funding is currently open to new applications. This round of funding opened on 22 September and the deadline for applications is midnight on 13 October 2021. As with the first round of funding, businesses who fit the grant criteria

will be eligible to apply for one of the following three grants: • Capital Projects: up to a maximum contribution of £2,000 from the council (50% match funded). • Website/Social Media projects: up to a maximum contribution of £1,500 from the council (50% match funded). • Start-up Awards: up to a maximum contribution of £500 from the council (nonmatch funded). After the deadline, all applications will be evaluated by our economic development officers. Applicants will receive a decision within six weeks of the application closing date. For further information please visit: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/enablinggrantscheme>

As part of a DEFRA-funded subsidised tree scheme, applications for the free tree phase of the project were open between 19 July and 2 September. CDC received more than 100 applications. During the upcoming planting season, they will be distributing around 8,300 trees to successful applicants which included residents.

CDC is starting to feel the effects of the nationwide shortage of HGV drivers. Over the last six weeks it has become increasingly hard to recruit new drivers and a number of existing drivers have resigned. This, combined with ongoing COVID impacts has made the daily task of providing a full collection service even more challenging.

Natural England's Position Statement for Applications within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone. NE has issued a note on development in the zone, which includes Cocking. Essentially, they will probably oppose development unless water neutrality can be effective. This is a work in progress but has implication for building works in the area.