

District Councillors Report

April 2022

Every day when we watch the television or read the news, we continue to see the devastation that is being caused by the war in Ukraine. I know that there are many people in the district who want to help, and so CDC is sharing information on how they can do this. They now have a web page, which highlights the various ways people can offer support:

www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingukrainerefugees As you know, the Government has launched the 'Home for Ukraine' scheme. This programme allows individuals, charities, community groups and businesses across the UK to offer a room or home rent-free to Ukrainians escaping the war, regardless of whether they have ties to the country. There is a website which is gathering expressions of interest from potential hosts, which you can find here: www.homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk Those who are interested can nominate a Ukrainian individual or family to stay with them for at least six months. Sponsored Ukrainians will be granted three years' leave to remain in the UK, and will be able to work, claim benefits and access public services during this period. People offering accommodation will receive an optional payment of £350 a month. This does not increase for additional people. The Refugee Resettlement Team at West Sussex County Council intends to widen its scope to include support to the Ukraine arrivals, in partnership with district and borough councils. The Refugee Resettlement Team will take the lead on all matters relating to Ukraine arrivals and will follow Government guidance and directives. The scope and size of their team has increased in response to these additional challenges. I will keep you informed as I receive more information on this important matter.

I am also pleased to tell you that as an organisation, CDC is supporting the Sunflower scheme to recognise those with hidden disabilities. All of the customer services staff have completed the training, and CDC plans to extend this across the organisation. Placing customers at the centre of everything they do is a top priority and so they believe that this scheme will help to further enhance the support they can provide to customers. It means that when

someone wears a sunflower lanyard, they will know that the person wearing it has a hidden disability and may need further support, understanding or more time. If you are interested in finding out more about this scheme, or supporting it, please visit: www.hiddendisabilitiesstore.com

The Novium Museum is pleased to announce that its innovative Virtual Field Trips have been shortlisted for another national award! They have reached the final shortlist in the national Museum and Heritage Awards, in the category Learning Programme of the Year. The prestigious awards are considered to be the Oscars of the museum world. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on 11 May. The museum has just launched the second series of Virtual Field Trips. In addition to our Roman history series, they now offer Stone Age to Iron Age for Key Stage 2 and Toys and Games for Early Years and Key Stage 1. You can find out more on the website, where you can also watch taster clips from each virtual field trip: www.thenovium.org/vft

The museum's new exhibition, 200 years of Chichester's Canal, opened on 26 March. 9 April 2022 marks the 200th anniversary of the opening of Chichester's canal. This exhibition traces the fascinating history of the canal, from its development and construction to the thriving leisure waterway.

Following consultation back in December 2021, the Government has confirmed plans to extend the licensing hours for licensed premises over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend at the beginning of June. The extension will apply to premises in England and Wales that are already licensed until 11pm for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises, for the provision of late-night refreshment (only where there is also the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises), and for the provision of regulated entertainment.

I've had some requests for copies or electronic copy of the 'supporting you' leaflet. This aims to offer key advice to those who may be struggling to pay bills, feel isolated or who is concerned about rising energy costs. You can also access this here: www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances

CDC continues to make provision for families who are homeless. The Council already has Westward House, which delivers high quality temporary accommodation and support, including 44 flats. The new building at Freeland Close provides a further 17 flats, as well as delivering excellent eco-friendly credentials. it's worth watching the video that CDC has created: www.chichester.gov.uk/freelandcloseproject

In Chichester district, the number of businesses starting up during the first two months of this year compared with the corresponding period of last year was unchanged (0.0%), according to latest data from BankSearch. This rate ranks Chichester district at 23 out of the 309 English districts. The first two months figure for the South East is down - 23% This data varies considerably from month to month, so the full year figures give a clearer picture. These figures are for the total number of start-ups in the district for the calendar year. 2018 – 784, 2019 – 774, 2020 – 787, 2021 – 596. In February 2022 there were 8.1 start-ups for every 10,000 working age in Chichester district and this compares with a business start-up rate of 6.9 for the whole of South East.

The Chancellor announced on 3 February 2022 that council tax payers in properties in tax bands A to D will receive a one-off payment of £150 to support households with rising energy bills. Details are here <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/energybillsrebate2022>

On 16 March 2022 Natural England (NE) published updated advice on Water Quality and Nutrient Neutrality for 27 protected Habitat Sites, including the Solent. The advice issued by NE amends the methodology used to calculate whether a proposed development would be nutrient neutral. The updated advice and relevant guidance notes will be added to the council's Nutrient Neutrality webpage <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/nutrientneutrality>. Cocking parish is affected by the new advice.