

District Councillors Report for Cocking

March 2021

Covid.

A total of 10 people have died, attributed to Covid, in the Midhurst/Cocking area, since the start of the Covid outbreak.

The District Council continues to offer a range of support and grants to mitigate the problems caused by Covid, full details at

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/covidbusinesssupport>

Parking.

1 The Cabinet has agreed changes to the parking charge regime.

The changes will include minor increases and also decreases to some parking tariffs, with other tariffs remaining the same. It was also agreed that part-time

X Roving season tickets would be introduced on a trial basis and that a small increase will be applied to some season tickets too. The Parking Services

Team will now work to introduce these changes, ready for April to include further advertising and notices being displayed across the car parks.

2 Parish Council members might recall that WSCC undertook consultation with the public to determine whether an extension to the existing controlled parking zone could be introduced. WSCC Members decided to implement the proposals in phases. The first phase is comprised of new parking zones in Donnington (Zone A) and Swanfield (Zone S), as well as the addition of various roads into the existing CPZs (Zones F, H and N). WSCC's highway contractor – Balfour Beatty – has confirmed that everything is in place for a potential works start in March. An earliest possible 'go live' date is 26 April. District Council Civil Enforcement Officers will police the new zones.

Local Plan

Parish Council's should now have details of the consultation on the Chichester Local Plan. Although Cocking is in the National Park's area, it is important to remind CDC that it is the housing authority for the village as well as being responsible for its economic well being.

Retail

Shop vacancies remain in an unhappy place with the end of restriction a litmus test on who will remain standing. One item of interest in Midhurst is the former restaurant premises at 7 Fishes which is likely to be changed to a deli with some tables for coffee and refreshments.

Puppies

The Council offers advice for prospective puppy owners The demand for puppies has increased significantly since the March 2020 lockdown. CDC has received an increase in reports of unlicensed breeders, and reports that some are using the excuse of Covid restrictions to get round legal requirements. For example, not allowing buyers to visit the breeder to see the puppy with its mother before making a purchase. They will continue to use their social media to remind people looking to buy a puppy to always check that the breeder is licensed, and, if they are going to visit a breeder, remember to stay alert and observe social distancing. CDC has a list of licensed breeders on their website at: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/25475/Animal-licences>.

Recycling

Textile and small WEEE (Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment) collection

A pilot for a monthly kerbside collection of these items has been approved.

The pilot will cover approximately 75% of all households and is intended to help specify any future permanent collection of these materials by identifying the volume of materials and the participation rate of our residents. Small WEEE items would include items such as hair dryers, kettles and radios. It's planned that the service will commence in the summer when it is hoped that workforce availability, due to Covid, has stabilised.

