

District Councillor's Report for Cocking

April 2021

1 On 12 April, today, CDC is launching a new grants scheme for small enterprises across the district. Managed by their Economic Development Team, the Enabling Grant Scheme will give small businesses in the district the opportunity to access funding that will help them to grow and develop. There are three types of grant – one is for capital projects; another is for website and social media projects; and the third is for start-up businesses. If you are interested in finding out more about this and you want to read the guidance notes in advance, please visit:

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

2 The County Council election is on 6th May and the count will be held on 7th May at the Grange in Midhurst

3 As a direct response to the Covid-19 pandemic, District and Borough Councils were given responsibility under the Business and Planning Act 2020 to process and grant applications for Pavement Licences. This was a new fast-track process in order to allow individuals/companies to place removable furniture over certain highways adjacent to the premises in relation to which the application was made. The intention is to aid social distancing. Businesses that are eligible to apply include pubs; cafes; bars; restaurants; snack bars; coffee shops; and ice cream parlours. Unlikely to affect Cocking but worth knowing.

4 In the Chichester District, 109 new businesses started up in February 2021; 23 more than last month and 40 more than February 2020. The Witterings Ward saw the most start-ups. Harting, Chichester North and Fittleworth Ward's saw the least.

5 Midhurst Community Land Trust has just agreed its first two tenancies, to be let in Wyndham Mews off Lamberts Lane. It has also submitted a planning application for 6 one-bedroom flats in New Road at a brownfield garage site. Applicants from Cocking are eligible to apply for all MCLT houses.