

District Councillors Report May 2021

For Cocking

1 WSCC and Police & Crime Commissioner elections on Thursday

2 CDC is currently putting the finishing touches to the Government's Welcome Back fund to help reopening 'the high street'. You might have noticed that footfall is still quite well down in Chichester city (the vacancy rate has now reached 11.5%) but more buoyant in Midhurst, where several new businesses have opened. Sadly, Barclays has announced the closure of its bank in the town, leaving only the Nationwide (and the post office) in place. The post office reopening in Cocking should help the community in financial matter.

3 You may be aware that the Government is now providing everyone in England with twice-weekly rapid Covid tests as part of a new effort to combat Covid-19. The lateral flow tests are designed to be used by anyone without symptoms, and can be administered by an individual in as little as 30 minutes. These tests have been a regular part of school life for secondary school pupils since they re-opened in March, and the scheme has now been expanded to everyone. Ministers hope regular testing combined with vaccines will result in more restrictions being lifted. There are multiple ways to get a lateral flow test, including:

- a home ordering service, which allows people to order lateral flow tests online to be delivered to their home.
- collection at participating pharmacies.
- collection at a local PCR test site during specific test collection time windows.
- assisted lateral flow test sites.

For a full list of options, including how to order the tests, please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

4 The Government, via the courts has decided that local authority meeting should revert to being held in public. Whilst some panels and licensing appeals can still be held via Zoom meeting, CDC will restart physical meeting shortly

5 The Novium museum re-opens on 18th May, via ticket booking and the Chichester Roman Week will be returning this May half term, from Monday 31 May - Saturday 5 June, thanks to funding by Arts Council England.

Due to the periods of temporary closure during national lockdown, the museum has extended the Mystery Warrior exhibition until 13 November 2021, to ensure that everyone has the chance to visit safely in person.

6 A reminder that Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) work seven days a week, including bank holidays and evenings, patrolling the whole district and will issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) if they believe there is a breach of the parking restriction. CDC will be increasing patrols in our coastal areas over the summer to assist with the anticipated increase in visitors. CEOs are only able to take action against a vehicle where there are yellow line or sign restrictions in place. They are not able to take action in private roads or on pavements or driveways where there are no restrictions in place. These would be issues for Sussex Police where an obstruction is seen to have occurred. If there is an issue of immediate concern which is a danger to the highway, it should be reported to Sussex Police.

7 Midhurst Town Council has possession of a portable speed camera, via Sussex Police. They have already registered a large number of speeding drivers, a significant number who are either untaxed, uninsured or have no MOT. A letter is sent by the police to the drivers in the first instance.

8 Midhurst Community Land Trust has now allocated its first two homes to local families (eligibility includes applicants in Cocking). They have also submitted a planning application for 6 one bed flats in New Road, beside the fire station.

9 The National Park has adopted parking standards, after wide consultation, via Parking Supplementary Planning Document.

10 There appears to be a rising volume of litter in hedges and road verges.