

District Council Report

July 2021

The District Council has issued over £70m Covid related grants over the past 12 months or so. Because of the speed that this was done, one of the top 5 in England, the Government has allocated a further £1.1m to the District.

The first full District Council meeting at East Pallant House will be held tomorrow (20/7/21). CDC is maintaining the existing precautionary measures for the time being.

Southern Water has been fined £90m for their continuous pollution of the sea and rivers in their area. CDC is now in regular discussions with SW to ascertain their investment plans to stop the discharge of raw sewage into the water system.

CDC is currently looking at the Boundary Commissions proposals for the new parliamentary constituencies. The main changes are the inclusion of Petworth and the area to the west of it being included in the constituency and Selsey being hived off into the Bognor constituency. The matter is now up for public discussion and response.

The Government has announced that the temporary Pavement Licensing regime will be extended for at least 6 months, making it easier and possibly safer for premises to offer external seating.

Mobil home owners will be given further protection against rogue site owners and managers. As a result, the Authority now has the following tools when dealing with Relevant Protected Caravan Sites: • guidance on calculating annual site licensing fees in a transparent and legally robust way. • a template

and guidance Fit & Proper Person determination policy. • a template for a Fit & Proper Person fees policy, plus other useful documents.

The 'ping' track and trace arrangements are making it difficult to fully operate the refuse collection system. Figures are not available.

The Council draws attention to matter relating to Gypsies and Travellers

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

A number of district councillors have received emails about using goldfish as prizes and the distress this causes the fish.

Here is an internal note that might be of use if this issue arises in Cocking.

It would appear you've all separately been contacted with a generic email (signed by different individuals) about the use of 'pets as prizes' in Chichester.

Although not an area of work that sits with the Licensing Team I have done a bit of research with colleagues.

Firstly I can confirm via Sarah Peyman, Divisional Manager for Culture & Sport that a hirer of CDC owned land is made aware in our Terms and Conditions that we do not allow any animals to be given as prizes.

Also Ralph Walling, Principal Environmental Health Officer within our Environmental Protection Team, who are responsible for this area of licensing i.e. animal welfare so zoos, pet shops, kennels etc., has confirmed it's an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to (sell or) give pets as prizes to Under 16s. If they are accompanied by a person over 16 it's not an offence. The offering of an animal as a prize is defined as a "sale" for this specific purpose. There is some debate about whether offering a goldfish as a prize otherwise (i.e. to an over 16) constitutes a sale and makes it a licensable animal activity. Ralph has experience in this field given the extensive requirements his Team place upon premises licensed to sell animals as pets. He is not aware of any specific complaints to the council on this issue but would be happy to answer any further questions if you have any.

Although not an apparent issue locally Ralph has intimated there is potential for offences relating to a failure to provide a suitable environment if goldfish are kept in poor conditions and in his professional opinion a small plastic bag is not a suitable environment for any length of time although realistically it would be a challenge to enforce.

