

District Councillor's Report

March 2022

As you will be aware, there is no longer a legal requirement for people to self-isolate after a positive Covid test.

CDC has been awarded over £34,000 to provide extra support for victims of domestic abuse and their children. The funding, from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, will be used to deliver safe accommodation spaces and provide victims with vital support services.

CDC is in the final stages of building new short stay accommodation for people facing homelessness in the Chichester District. It is are delivering 17 new flats within a Chichester building that has excellent eco-friendly credentials. Solar panels have been installed on the roof of the new building to generate renewable electricity.

The District Council is approaching the launch of Culture Spark. This is a new creative season of events, performances, live entertainment and community projects to celebrate a momentous year of culture. Celebrations will be taking place to recognise 60 years of Chichester Festival Theatre; 40 years of Pallant House Gallery; 30 years of Chichester Cinema at New Park's International Film Festival; 10 years of The Novium Museum and the Festival of Chichester; and even more impressively, 200 years of the Chichester Ship Canal Trust! The launch events will start at the end of March and will be held at 6.30pm on Chichester's Cathedral Green on 29 March; Medmerry Mill, Selsey on 30 March; and Cowdray Ruins in Midhurst on 31 March.

The next issue of Initiates will cover how councillors work and what they do to help their local communities. I'm one of the 4 councillors taking part! Initiates covers all its costs through advertising.

The Novium museum been announced as a finalist in the first annual Little Ankle Biters Sussex Awards (no I have no idea either), in the category 'Best Museum'! The awards celebrate local businesses who provide an outstanding service to families, and finalists were shortlisted based on nominations from members of the public. The winners will be decided by public vote: Little Ankle Biters Sussex Awards

The northern extension to the Centurion Way path and cycleway is now under discussion in Midhurst. The proposal is to go through Jubilee Path and pasted South Pond. The original proposal has required some refinement but it is now hopeful that a new scheme yet to be revealed, should meet all the various needs.

The latest vacancy rate figures: Chichester 12.4% East Wittering 0% Midhurst – 8.3% Petworth – 4.5% Selsey 5.4% (the Chinese takeaway in North Street has now opened for business)

For the month of January 2022, the Business Contact Programme has provided support to 148 businesses across the district, helping to protect 402 local jobs, seeing 31 new jobs created, and assisting with funding for 86 district businesses. Responsive planning application support has also been provided to 9 businesses.

The Chancellor announced on 3 February 2022 that council taxpayers in properties in tax bands A to D will receive a one-off payment of £150 to support households with rising energy bills. It was also confirmed that this rebate will not need to be repaid.

Prior to Christmas, central government announced a further Business Rate grant scheme Omicron Hospitality and Leisure grant (OHL) and a top up in funding to the previously announced Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). The OHL grant scheme is specifically in response to the Omicron variant as is to provide financial assistance to businesses in the hospitality and leisure sectors. Since this scheme went live on 7 January 2022 the Revenues team have processed 270

applications and awarded £926,055 to eligible businesses as of 21 January 2022. This represents 36% of the total allocation. up to date with the processing of all grant applications received. Further promotions and reminders are in the process of being issued to businesses who may be eligible to claim their grant. For detailed information and guidance including how to make an application please visit Business rates announcements: Chichester District Council

CDC's Weigh Better Life 12 week courses are restarting at the end of March in the north of the district. The course is free for anyone with a body mass index between 25 to 40. They will be providing virtual and face to face support including a weekly newsletter, video presentation and a printed handbook. + Tuesday 29 March 6.30 – 7.15pm Loxwood Microsoft Teams + Wednesday 30 March 11.30 – 12.30 The Grange, Midhurst + Thursday 31 March 10.15 – 11.15 Hampers Hall, Petworth. The Wellbeing Advisors have recently completed their refresher training to deliver NHS Health Checks and are looking for their first clients.