

ERMIN WARD

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT– 2020

Covid-19 PARISH REPORT 5 - JUNE 2020

1 JUNE 2020 - First office virtual Cabinet Meeting

3 JUNE 2020 - First official virtual Council Meeting

CDC Cabinet

Cotswold District Council Leader, Councillor Joe Harris, has announced his new cabinet for the coming year.

Councillor Joe Harris was elected last year for a four-year term and is taking on responsibility for the overall coordination of Covid-19 recovery in the District.

The size of the cabinet has been reduced from 9 members to 8. Councillor Mark Harris vacates the Cabinet.

The full Cabinet, with portfolios, is:

Cllr Joe Harris: Leader of the Council

Cllr Mike Evemy: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Cllr Rachel Coxcoon: Cabinet member for Climate Change and Forward Planning

Cllr Jenny Forde: Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing

Cllr Lisa Spivey: Cabinet member for Housing and Homelessness

Cllr Andrew Doherty: Cabinet member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling

Cllr Tony Dale: Cabinet member for the Economy and Skills

Cllr Clive Webster: Cabinet Member for Planning, Town and Parish Councils

Full details of each portfolio are available on the council's website

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/councillors-and-committees/>

Head of Paid Service retires

A full meeting of Cotswold District Council yesterday voted to recruit to a new Chief Executive post for CDC. Sadly this means that Nigel Adams, Head of Paid Service at Cotswold District Council, is to retire from the council at the end of this month. Nigel started at the Council 39 years ago, straight from school and is arguably the most knowledgeable local district Head of Paid Service there is. .

HOUSING FIRST

Cotswold District Council has approved £60,000 of funding to implement a 'Housing First' approach to reducing homelessness in the district.

Housing First helps people with complex personal issues who have been homeless for a long time or who have had issues in sustaining accommodation. This often means people return to or are living on the streets. Housing First will help people to move into their own permanent home with a tenancy agreement and extensive support. The aim is to provide a robust and personalised approach to finding permanent accommodation.

This Housing First model works in reverse to the traditional model by offering a person with multiple needs a permanent residence alongside intensive support to address their needs by way of a Housing First Support Worker.

LOCAL PLAN TO BE REVIEWED

A full meeting of Cotswold District Council this week (3 June) approved plans to review the Council's Local Plan. Work on the revised Plan will begin immediately with a view to it being adopted in 2023. A timetable for full public engagement and consultation will be published later this year. The Local Plan, which currently runs to 2031, is the key document in the Council planning process. It steers future development in the District

"The current Plan needs to be revised to properly support the new corporate plan and the future needs of the district. Policies to be 'Green to the core' and that has to be the key message to every developer working in the district. All parts of society have to play their part in tackling the climate emergency. This is at the heart of this Council's policies and it will provide a step change in helping to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change." "Additionally, we have a crisis of housing affordability in the district.

ALDERMEN

Do you think that retired, long-serving councillors should be thanked and acknowledged with the title Honorary Alderman?

The title of Honorary Alderman does not confer any special privileges or rights upon the appointee to speak or vote at Council meetings, beyond the rights and privileges already afforded to the public. Cheltenham Borough Council (LibDem) retains the Alderman scheme. CDC voted against it.

Garden Waste Licences

Garden waste licences run annually from April to March, but this year residents' 2019-20 licences were extended to 30 June 2020, allowing council officers to concentrate on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new licence costs £30 and covers the period to 31 March 2021. Information will be sent to residents with existing Garden Waste Licences and those who have expressed an interest in having one. Since last year there have been some important changes to the service:

- Food waste CANNOT be placed in your garden waste bin
- Food waste is collected separately, and weekly, from your new (dark grey coloured) outside food bin - you can keep using your small green food caddy indoors
- Garden waste collections are now made fortnightly.

The charge for this year would have been £35 but, due to the temporary suspension of the garden waste service in April and May, the price has been reduced to £30. A suspension was needed so that resources could be concentrated on providing those waste and recycling collections that are used by all households. Residents will be encouraged to sign up before 30 June 2020. This will ensure existing customers receive no break in their service.

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/what-to-put-in-your-bin/garden-waste-green-wheelie-bin-and-brown-sacks/>

Dentistry

NHS England and Improvement wrote to dental practices asking them to commence opening from Monday 8 June for all face-to-face care, where practices assess that they have the necessary infection prevention and control and PPE requirements in place.

Second Homes & Holiday Lets/Air BnBs

Day trips to outdoor open space are permitted as long as you can return the same day/evening.

You are not permitted to stay overnight away from the place where you are living, for a holiday or similar purpose. This includes staying overnight in a second home. If your work requires you to stay away from home you can do so, but should continue to practise social distancing.

Premises such as hotels and bed and breakfasts will remain closed, except where providing accommodation for specific reasons set out in law, such as for critical workers where required for a reason relating to their work.

ARE YOU SELF-EMPLOYED?

Check if you can claim a grant through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. The government's Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will be extended, with those eligible for the scheme able to claim a second and final grant.

The scheme currently allows people to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering three months' worth of profits and capped at £7,500 in total. If you're eligible and want to claim the first grant you must make your claim on or before 13 July 2020.

The extension means that those who are eligible will be able to claim a second and final grant in August 2020. This will be a taxable grant worth 70% of average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering a further three months' worth of profits and capped at £6,570 in total.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

COVID-19 business impact survey

Two months since lockdown started, and the business landscape changed for everyone. For better or worse, the GFirst LEP Growth Hub wants to hear how your business has been impacted, and what the future looks like for your business. The results will help them shape their support, and your views will be fed back to the government to impact national support schemes.

https://thegrowthhub.typeform.com/to/uOnhga?utm_source=GFirst+LEP+Newsletter&utm_campaign=9c693def33-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_17_12_54_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7537d87148-9c693def33-151198797

NEW COVID TESTING CENTRE

The Department for Health and Social Care has confirmed the new testing site will begin testing from 5 June from Hempsted Meadow in Gloucester.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-june-2020/breaking-news-new-regional-covid-testing-centre-in-the-county/>

PICKERS

Can you help British Farmers? Calling out for pickers!

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/seasonal-work-on-farms-guidance-for-workers>

4 JUNE 2020:

Coronavirus deaths have fallen to their lowest number in the last seven weeks, according to official statistics. And in care homes HAVE A COVID-19 TRAINER.

It is positive to see the week-on-week decline in the number of care home deaths attributable to COVID-19 continue. However, the total number of excess deaths in care homes remains above the five-year average, with our elderly and most vulnerable residents still at risk.

Local plans to protect care homes, alongside greater information sharing with councils as part of the test and trace programme, will be key to our national effort to finally defeat this disease.

Meanwhile, Public Health England (PHE) has published its review into how different factors, such as age, sex, ethnicity, deprivation and region, have affected COVID-19 risk and outcomes. It found the risk of dying among those diagnosed with COVID-19 is higher in males than females; higher in those living in more deprived areas; and higher in those in black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups than in white ethnic groups. The greatest disparity is by age.

Test and trace scheme

The report showed that 4,456 confirmed cases had been reported to the scheme and of those, 1,831 had filled in a form providing information about their contacts. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said earlier this week that the track and trace system has more capacity than needed, and official figures will be published soon.

Speaking in the House of Commons (3 June), Prime Minister, Boris Johnson said all COVID-19 tests will be turned around within 24 hours by the end of June.

Computers for school children

2 Sapperton, 1 Birdlip, 2 more pos in Coberley

Back to school?

I would love to hear news from Coberley, Birdlip and Sapperton Schools.

Many parents are choosing to keep their children at home after the easing of lockdown measures, with 35% of English primary schools and nurseries having opened on 1 June, according to a survey by the National Education Union. Ahead of schools opening to more pupils this week, the Department for Education updated guidance on critical workers who can access schools and on implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings. Schools have also been advised to contact their local authority if they are unable to obtain personal protective equipment (PPE), according to the latest guidance.

Families in Gloucestershire Magazine

The Families Gloucestershire magazine is FREE and aims to help local families by providing the best source of information on how to get the most out of family life. It is run as a small business by the local editor, Katie of Cheltenham, who, as a consequence of the COVID crisis will struggle to maintain the viability of her magazine and her business.

<https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/gloucestershire?fr=sMWUwMjE0ODA2Mzk>

Pressure on council funding

Based on council returns, it estimates up to £6 billion more is needed if councils are to avoid making major cuts to services to balance their budgets. CDC Inherited a healthy balance in May 2019 but have spent significantly since with no perceivable benefit to constituents. Since then they have shut leisure centres, employed consultants (climate change manager, business manager, housing expert),

More shops to reopen

Retailers have raised concerns about how social distancing rules will be maintained when more shops open, with numbers limited inside stores and queues stretched outside at two-metre distances. Shop owners say queueing rules used for supermarkets will not work for high streets and shopping centres that do not have the space for single-file lines as frontages are next to other retailers, who will have their own queues. Cllr David Renard, the LGA's Economy Spokesperson, said businesses and the public have a "shared responsibility" to follow social distancing measures when shopping.

'Cut air pollution to avoid second coronavirus peak'

Air pollution must be kept at low levels to help avoid a second peak of coronavirus infections, according to a report from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution. The report proposes a series of actions, including the continuation of home working, increased cycle lanes and training, more frequent public transport services to avoid crowding, and the rollout of clean air zones, currently delayed by the pandemic.

Transport is the biggest single contributor to our carbon emissions and COVID-19 has had a profound effect on travel patterns, providing an opportunity to change travel behaviours as we move towards a recovery phase.

Sport and leisure

The Government has published guidance on the phased reopening of all types of sport and recreation venues. The LGA has been working closely with the Sports Ground Safety Authority, UK Active and the Chief Leisure Officers Association on these issues, and has separately developed a short guidance note summarising councils' responsibilities.

Keeping cycle lanes clear

Legislation which gives local authorities the powers to use CCTV cameras to enforce parking or loading restrictions in mandatory cycle lanes will come into force on 22 June. The Department for Transport has published guidance for local authorities on things to remember when enforcing against parking in mandatory cycle lanes. The

LGA and councils have called for these powers, which should also help promote cycling.