

Covid 19 Update

All non-essential retail, personal care premises and public buildings will reopen from 12 April. Indoor leisure facilities, such as gyms will also reopen; as will most outdoor attractions and settings. Self-contained accommodation, such as campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities are not shared with other households, will also be able to reopen. Hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors. However, wider social contact rules will still apply in all of these settings to prevent indoor mixing between different households.

New Small Enterprise Grants Scheme

On 12 April, a new grant scheme for small enterprises across the district will be launched. 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. More info here:

www.chichester.gov.uk/enablinggrantscheme

Overview and scrutiny

Met on the 8th April with the main agenda item being:

Water Capacity and Quality in the District

The Committee invited the Environment Agency, Natural England and Ofwat, Southern Water to attend the meeting to discuss the following and to respond to a set of questions from members submitted in advance:

- Water capacity and headroom at treatment plants
- Water capacity challenges for Local Plan
- Responses to planning applications including delays in connectivity
- Nitrates affecting watercourses and harbours
- Chichester Harbour water quality
- Discharge into harbour and water courses
- Drain surcharging

Outcomes will be reported prior to the next Parish Council Meeting.

Governance Task & Finish Group

A group has been set up in response to a motion the Lib Dem group put to Council calling for a review of the way the Council includes members in decision-making. The group will be looking at ways to make governance more effective by involving members in policy-making at an earlier stage.

Local Plan

CDC have just issued the second Local Plan email newsletter. This is sent to around 2,500 subscribers, parish councils, members and the media. People can sign up to this here: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/localplannewsletter>

Local Elections

Preparations are underway for the elections on 6 May. This week CDC have been issuing poll cards to registered voters. Residents are advised to check their polling station, as it may have changed.

Residents can register to vote for these elections at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote until midnight on 19 April. A great deal of work has gone into making sure that all of our polling stations are Covid-secure for people who wish to vote in person. However, people may prefer to apply to vote by post. If they want to do this, they can find a link to download a postal vote application form on our website at www.chichester.gov.uk/howtovote, or they can call 01243 521010. People need to apply before 5pm on 20 April 2021.

Residents can also apply to vote by proxy and they can find details on this, along with more information about the elections, on our website at: www.chichester.gov.uk/currentelections

Petworth Vision

Petworth Vision are developing two projects for which they will be seeking support from CDC Vision budget.

These are:

- A project to continue to offer basic computer skills to the residents of Petworth and the surrounding areas, following on from the successful IT in 2018/19. Following feedback, the approach will be less formal and more sociable, with a pop-up IT café in the United Reform Church with twice weekly IT drop-in sessions.
- Promoting the many heritage sites in and around Petworth by developing a logo and website for the newly created Petworth Heritage Partnership. A brief for the work is being finalised before going out to tender.

Local updates

Lagoon 3 – A meeting to update on the multi-agency visit which took place has been scheduled for 20th April 3pm

Kirdford – A large scale application has gone in Townfield, Kirdford for 75 houses. This has received 160 objections and will go to planning committee (May or June) <https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QOMPYKERM5S00&activeTab=summary>

Wisborough Green – A planning application has gone in for 25 houses <https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

Annual Full Council Meeting

Has been brought forward to 27th April 2021 (2pm)

Surgeries

As always please contact me with any issue, feedback, problem or question and I will do my best to help: gbevans@chichester.gov.uk / 07958 918056. Although I have not been able to resume normal Saturday surgeries yet, I am available to meet and visit residents (whilst observing social distance measures) or for online meetings or surgeries upon request. I look forward to hearing from you!