

Cherwell Parishes Update Bulletin – 18 May 2020

To: All Cherwell Town Councils, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings – 18 May 2020

Dear Colleagues

Please find below my update on a range of issues that will be of interest to you or your residents. Thanks to those of you who sent us feedback following last week's request. If you've ever got suggestions for the parish bulletin please email parishes@cherwell-dc.gov.uk. From now on these bulletins will be fortnightly, but of course we will send one-off messages if there's anything urgent to tell or ask you in the meanwhile. As ever, please do forward this update to your councillors and encourage them to forward to any group or individual who might benefit from the information.

Best regards

Steve Jorden

Corporate Director for Commercial Development, Assets and Investment, CDC and OCC

Sports Facilities and Playgrounds

Under the revised lockdown arrangements outdoor sports facilities are allowed to re-open as long as appropriate social distancing is maintained. The Lawn Tennis Association has issued tennis guidance for venues, players and coaches: <https://www.lta.org.uk/coronavirus>

The venue guidance is aimed at clubs, so assumes a degree of supervision. For unsupervised courts you would have to think carefully about how to ensure the maintenance of social distancing. The same principles would apply to other outdoor courts and courses.

The rules for children's play areas have not been relaxed, so these should remain closed.

Village Halls and Community First Oxfordshire Services

Village and community halls must remain closed for the time being. Community First Oxfordshire (CFO) has issued an update (attached) summarising the current advice and encouraging forward planning for when halls are able to re-open.

All of CFO's main advice services are still up and running including support for: **community halls and shops, Assets of Community Value, community transport, and strategies for community action (including support for volunteers)**. In addition, their work on Neighbourhood Planning and community-led housing continues as normal, as does the heating oil purchasing scheme.

Get in touch with CFO at info@communityfirstoxon.org for help with setting up new community strategies or developing existing ones. Visit the Community First Oxfordshire website (www.communityfirstoxon.org) for information and guidance on a range of themes related to COVID-19

Domestic Abuse

In the 4th May bulletin we asked your help to display a poster with information about help and support available for anyone experiencing domestic abuse. National helplines have experienced increasing numbers of calls from victims, but locally we have seen a reduction in referrals to support agencies. This is partly due to the reduced contact between individuals and organisations such as the Police and schools. Therefore, we are trying to encourage people to watch out for their neighbours and to be alert to the signs of abuse.

There are some good sources of advice and information we would like to share as widely as possible to encourage people to be alert to the signs of domestic abuse.

The [Neighbourhood Watch toolkit](#) is a source of advice for anyone seeking information about how to help someone who might be a victim of domestic abuse. This resource is supported by a [leaflet](#) providing the same advice.

The [UK Says No More](#) campaign was launched in the last few weeks and provides advice for people concerned about neighbours. It also promotes the Bright Sky app for use by victims.

Finally, there is also the [Oxfordshire Reducing the Risk](#) website with information about local help and support services.

Anything you can do to raise awareness of these resources would be helpful.

Councillor Covid-19 Priority Fund

This week the [Councillor Covid-19 Priority Fund](#) has paid £1,504 to support the local response to the COVID-19 crisis across the district, giving a new running total of £22,107 since the fund opened. Successful bids this week include: Gosford & Water

Eaton Parish Council (for teleconferencing facility), Hook Norton Good Neighbour scheme, and Oxfordshire Association for the Blind.

We remain ready to process applications as soon as they come in. The application form and guidance on how to apply for the [Councillor COVID-19 Priority Fund](#) is on cherwell.gov.uk. All applications should be sent electronically to grants@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Community Connect Social Prescribing

The Community Connect Social Prescribing service has broadened its normal services to help people during the current crisis and is now accepting self-referrals and referrals from friends or carers (see attached poster for contact details). The telephone based service is at Citizens Advice and provides support to:

- Help to manage worries and wellbeing at home
- Help with money, benefits and budgeting issues
- Signpost to practical support with food or medication collection
- Link people with services that can further support them

Waste and Recycling Centres Re-opening

Oxfordshire County Council re-opened its Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) today (Monday 18 May), for **essential use**. Essential use means waste that cannot be stored at home, or would cause harm to health if stored. There will be new site rules to ensure social distancing and the safety of residents and site staff. This includes **reducing opening hours to 8am – 4pm** to allow for cleaning, limiting the number and size of vehicles coming in and contactless payments only.

Queues are likely, so we're asking residents to hold onto their waste for a few more days if they can. If it's waste that can be disposed of legally and responsibly in another way we are asking that residents do that. This includes using their weekly kerbside collections or paying to use additional services provided by their local council such our [home and garden excess service](#) or [bulky waste service](#)

Staying Up To Date

For the latest information about the council's response to Covid-19 regularly check your emails, visit the [council website](#) and follow our social media accounts.

This is a briefing emailed to all Cherwell Parishes



Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE