

Cherwell Parishes Update Bulletin – 15 June 2020

To: All Cherwell Town Councils, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings – 15 June 2020

Dear Colleagues

Please find below my update on a range of issues that will be of interest to you or your residents. 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 Jordan

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

Changes to Bus Passes and Parking

From today (15 June) the following changes to traffic and travel arrangements will be made as restrictions are relaxed and more people start to move around:

- **Concessionary bus passes** will revert to their normal hours of operation (9am – midnight Mon-Fri and any time Sat-Sun). OCC is working with the bus companies to manage these changes.
- **Parking charges** will be reintroduced at the Oxford park and ride sites.
- **Parking concessions** for key workers both in on-street pay and display and off-street council car parks will be maintained.

Councillors Covid-19 Priority Fund

So far, 40 grants, totalling nearly £30,000 have been awarded by Cherwell councillors, to groups responding to the coronavirus crisis. Recipients have ranged from large charities to parish councils and small neighbourhood based support groups. Funded projects have included emergency food supplies; teleconferencing facilities; childcare for key workers; isolation packs; PPE for volunteers; volunteer logistics; a women's refuge shelter; counselling support for victims of abuse.

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

Shielded Residents

Currently there are 2,778 residents who have been required to shield in the district and restrictions are predominantly still in place for this group. Cherwell District Council provides a contact and troubleshooting service for all shielded residents, and continues to work with voluntary sector partners to provide practical and emotional support. An enormous amount of support continues to be provided to shielded and vulnerable residents across the district by parish and neighbourhood based community support groups.

Track and Trace Scam

[Oxfordshire All In](#) reports a new scam that tries to convince people that they have been in contact with someone who has been tested positive, pretending to be NHS Track and Trace. They then either ask for money to send them a test, or try to get hold of their personal details.

Real contact tracers will:

- Call you from 0300 013 5000
- Send you text messages from 'NHS'
- Ask you to sign into the NHS test and trace contact-tracing [website](#)

Real contact tracers will never:

- Ask you to dial a premium rate number (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- Ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product or any kind
- Ask for any details about your bank account
- Ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts

Planning Committee – Thursday 18 June

To view a CDC council meeting– go to the [Browse Meetings Page](#) of our website, select the relevant committee and the meeting date. Click on “View the webcast” on the agenda webpage

The next virtual meetings is:

- Thursday 18 June, 2pm – Planning Committee

Engagement With CDC – A Request

In the absence of a physical Parish Liaison meeting we're keen to ensure that we're still giving Cherwell's parishes every opportunity to engage at the district level. We'd like to get your feedback on what CDC should be telling you about and asking you about. What are the big issues that these bulletins haven't been covering?

We're particularly keen to hear about your experiences with local neighbourhood / village support groups during the crisis. Could they be encouraged to become permanent 'Good Neighbour' support groups? What should their remit be? What help and support would they need? Please do let us know by replying to this email or calling Kevin Lerner on 01295 221706.

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

