

## BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT TO DORDON PARISH COUNCIL

Date: - 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

### ITEMS

1. Report on Borough Councillors Community Grant – 2020/21
2. Air Quality report for 2020
3. Travellers and Birch Coppice site
4. Planning matters
5. Grass cutting
6. COVID update

### 1 USE OF “ONE OFF “COUNCILLORS COMMUNITY GRANT -2020/21

During 2020 /21, Borough Councillors had a “one-off “allocation of £17,500 per ward for community use determined at their discretion and which we were told had to be spent by the end of the financial year [ March 21]

In March 2020, Dordon like everywhere else was hit by the COVID pandemic and the first national lockdown. We took the view that this money should be largely spent on providing practical help for residents.

Below is a list of projects and activities funded either wholly or in part by this allocation

- Clap for the NHS video –film featuring local families and children shown on BBC Midland today  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpJA\\_mDrQYU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpJA_mDrQYU)
- **Dordon Community Spirit** group – a small box of chocolates each for 16 street-based volunteers.
- **Click and Collect** subsidised food boxes – an innovative, highly successful “cooperative “scheme which ran over 10 weeks between April and June, organised and run by the **Dordon Activities Group** and residents picked up food boxes for neighbours, friends and family. Around 780 households took advantage of this scheme, and more than 15000 food items were supplied.
- **Parish Council** Deep clean of village hall after Click and Collect ended
- **Dordon Community café** including purchase of new freezer
- **Dordon Community food store.**

The Community café and food store have been operating throughout this COVID period delivering hot food and food boxes particularly to vulnerable people. The PC has had several reports on their activities so these are not reported here.

- **Dordon Activities Group** – to help restart family activities and fun days in 2021

-

The remainder of the funds [ £1541] were transferred to the **Parish Council** in March 21 to commission and install a **Memorial bench**.

## **2 AIR QUALITY REPORT AND DORDON 2020 [ 2019 data]**

Every year the Borough Council prepares an air quality report and submits it to DEFRA. Here only NO<sub>2</sub> levels are monitored using diffusion tubes – not small particulates PM 2.5.

In 2019, at the request of Councillor Pete Morson, an additional monitoring site on the A5 was installed. There are now 3 places in Dordon where air quality is monitored– Long Street, New Street, and the LH side of A5, going towards Tamworth, near footbridge. [ see report for exact locations].

[https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8494/air\\_quality\\_progress\\_report\\_2020.pdf](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8494/air_quality_progress_report_2020.pdf)

In 2019, this new monitoring site [ Site ID 7] registered the annual mean level of NO<sub>2</sub> of 46.8 micrograms per cu m- well above the maximum recommended level for human health. During that year every month exceeded this recommended maximum level of with particularly high readings in January and September [ see Appendix B page 13]

Councillors have raised their concerns about the deterioration in air quality for residents living along the A5 - both in evidence submitted to the Inspector dealing with the LOCAL PLAN, which predicts a 30% growth in the amount of traffic and with Highways England [ A5 Steering group].

We have asked that the area be designated an AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA [ AQMA] but been told so far that the Borough Council is currently awaiting a response from DEFRA. We understand that they will ask for a more detailed assessment and required data over several years before this stretch of the A5 is designated an AQMA. We will be challenging this position at the

Health and Wellbeing WP, the Climate Change action group, Full Council when the Local Plan is discussed, and raising it at County level.

North Warwickshire Borough Council has loaned Cllor Chambers a FLOW personal air pollution monitor for use in the village. This monitors particulate matter as well as NO<sub>x</sub>. We hope that residents who live along the A5 will be amongst the first to try it out.

### **3 TRAVELLERS OCCUPY LAND AT BIRCH COPPICE SOCIAL CLUB**

Dates – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June

A group of travellers [ around 12 caravans] arrived on Tuesday evening and illegally occupied the private land owned by Birch Coppice Social Club. The club manager and secretary contacted the police who advised them on how to proceed. The police made us aware of the situation early the next day and as a result we were also able to offer practical support from the Borough Council. The Travellers agreed to move on and left the site late Thursday evening. The swift action by the Social Club, the police and Council officers are to be commended.

### **4. PLANNING MATTERS**

There is still no news on when the Inspectors report on the Local Plan will become available.

**5. A5 GRASS CUTTING.** Every year various Councillors get complaints about visibility and safety at junctions along this major trunk road. Every year we ask Highways England to bring forward their grass cutting schedule from July to early June which is the month of maximum growth.

We understand from Face Book postings that the Parish Council and Cllr Andy Wright also had complaints from residents and contacted England and told the next cut would be July.

This year, Cllr Chambers sent a video of visibility at exit onto A5 from Gypsy Lane. Highways England along with an email pointing out the risks to road users and residents.

Possibly because of the combined pressure from Councillors, Highways England have now undertaken an “emergency cut “and say they will look at the

possibility of changing the grass cutting schedule. The next scheduled cut of A5 is July.

## **7. COVID UPDATE**

### **National picture**

Population studies by the Office for National Statistics shows that infection rates are low but rising - around 0.19% of people [ ie around 1 in 560 people] are testing positive compared with 0.01% [ around 1 in 1000] 2 weeks ago.

Delta variant accounts for 95% of new cases

SAGE advice was that a 4-week delay to lifting remaining lockdown measures would cut hospitalisation rates by 50%

As of 14<sup>th</sup> June, the number of people admitted to hospital with Delta variant of COVID has doubled to total of 806; of those admitted 527 were unvaccinated and very few people [ 84] admitted had received both vaccines

### **North Warwickshire**

Current infection rates in the Borough are around 36/100,000 and do not appear to be rising [ cf Nuneaton].

No new +ve COVID cases were reported in Dordon over last 7 days. [ i.e., week commencing June 16<sup>th</sup>] The cumulative infection rate for the ward ranks 6<sup>th</sup> amongst the 13 wards in the Borough

In the Borough, 80.7% of adults over the age of 18 have had their first jab and 63% of these adults have had both jabs, which means that around 18000 adults are not yet fully protected.

All adults above the age of 40 are now being called within 8 weeks for their second vaccination – rather than 12 weeks as before.