

Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council – District Councillor Report – January 2021

Happy New Year.

Coronavirus cases have seen an incredibly sharp rise over the Christmas period and the impact of Christmas, itself, is only just starting to filter into the figures. Malvern Hills has seen one of the sharpest rises in the West Midlands region but there are rises throughout.

You can see the updated daily figures via the Worcestershire County Council website.

From a local level I am receiving calls from residents about neighbours or near neighbours continuing not to abide by the rules set out. I have had conversations with people who have seen 12 or more people in homes near them and people coming from outside of the area to visit with no social distancing at all – all within this last week. These have all been reported to the police. This is very much happening and is why it is important that we all continue to play our part in encouraging residents to stay at home and follow the rules.

As a District Council we have ramped up our communications again. Leaflets are going to be distributed and handed out at supermarkets to as many people as possible, new posters and further use of social media is all going ahead.

Because we are now in a full lockdown again – if people need help accessing food or essentials then they should visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help.

Public toilets and playgrounds will remain open in line with government guidance. Household recycling centres remain open and libraries are offering a limited service.

Our Economic Development team are continuing to support business including the distribution of new grants and giving information in terms of further support, which includes the extension of the Furlough scheme.

Village halls can still be used in a Covid Secure way.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

Finally, on Covid, we have been made aware of a scam where people are being called and ask to pay for their vaccine, via an online link they are provided with. This is a scam and there will be no charge for the vaccine.

Since our last meeting it has been a quieter time with Covid really dominating a lot of what we do – although I know we've both been involved in a lot of calls and messages around drainage and flooding across our ward.

The planning application for Stone Ley was taken to Northern Area Planning. It concerned the removal of a hedgerow to create a new entrance to the fields. It had been recommended for refusal by the planning officers. The committee voted to remain with the officer's conclusions.

I have spent a lot of time in Broadwas since the last meeting – In particular around Church Lane and the drainage issues. I am happy to update on these separately, but we have the relevant agencies – WLDP and WCC onboard to resolve this now.

The other two remaining issues relating to Zourka are around the access at the bottom of the site and the fenestrations in plot one. Again, both are being dealt with and if there are further updates on prior to the meeting I will pass on.

Thank you.

Daniel.