



Update for Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council July 2020

Wiltshire Council

COVID-19 Response

As Lockdown eases slightly, calls to the Wellbeing hub have diminished so the hours of opening have reduced to Monday to Friday 9-5 and will be closed at the weekends. Many of the officers who have been manning the wellbeing hub will be returning to their day job.

Our main offices and public buildings are still closed to the public since Lockdown with the majority of our staff working from home.

We have recommenced many of our Council meetings virtually using Microsoft Teams.

We monitor Government advice and although many areas are reopening, our Leisure Centres remain closed for now and we are looking at how we can safely reopen libraries as soon as possible. Please take time to respond to the consultation about library re-opening. The current proposals do not include re-opening Lyneham library in the near future due to its size and the difficulties with social distancing.

The Household Recycling Centres are open and operating on a booking system which appears, for the most part, to be working well.

Update on Government grant schemes

The Government gave us money to grant to local businesses .

To date we have given £86.37 million to 7,221 local businesses.

5,301 Wiltshire businesses have received Small Business grants totalling £53 million and a further 1,920 businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors have received grants totalling £33.36 million.

Of the 1,920 businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, 944 local businesses received a £25,000 grant and 976 businesses received a £10,000 grant.

We have received over 700 applications for the local Discretionary Grant. Applications for this grant closed on Monday 22 June and the applications are now being reviewed, assessed and paid.

We are also directing charities and other organisations to apply to Wiltshire Community Foundation who have funding for Covid-19 related activities.

COVID-19 Recovery

The Council is moving towards a new formation for Recovery, based on 4 cells:-

Economy: sustainable recovery inc Carbon reduction



Community Resilience: How we build on community response to Covid 19 and galvanise through recovery to help communities to thrive. Working with Voluntary sector and community partners through the Area Board structure.

Care, Safeguarding and Education - Assess impact on children who have not been attending schools. Helping children narrow the gap and also work on emotional recovery.

Health and Wellbeing: Public Health response over next 12months. Outbreak Management plans, track and trace.

Financial Position

There have been stories in the press about the dire financial position that Wiltshire Council finds itself in as a result of the Covid-19 response and lack of income. It is true that we are currently potentially £50m adrift, and that the worst case scenario would be to issue a section 114 notice (which is effectively declaring bankruptcy). We do not wish to go down that route and are doing everything we can to make sure that we can find the savings and are lobbying the government for additional funding. The Government has recently announced additional funding and we are waiting to see how much of that tranche will come our way.

Area Boards

All Area board meetings have been cancelled since March 21st. Our Community Engagement Manger Jane Vaughan is now less involved with the response and we are starting to look at work load going forward.

Health and wellbeing and youth funding is still available.
Capital grants are temporarily paused but hopefully will be reinstated by the time of the Parish Council meeting.

Communities, through the Area Board, will be at the forefront of the Recovery and we will soon be setting up virtual engagement sessions.

From September 1st, we hope to get back into more of a rhythm with our Area Board meetings, although whether they will be face to face or virtual remains to be seen.

There is also an Area Board review ongoing due to changes in the electoral Division boundaries.

Climate Change

Wiltshire Council has become a founder member of a newly-launched Countryside Climate Network to promote the voice of the countryside in climate change .

The Countryside Climate Network aims to ensure that the voice of rural knowledge and experience on climate action is listened to in Westminster, and asks that rural councils are an active participant in transforming the national economy into one that saves, rather than harms, our environment.

**Councillor
Allison Bucknell
Lyneham**



The network brings a voice on climate change to the two-thirds of the country who live outside major towns and cities, and calls for investment, such as the government's delayed £100bn infrastructure fund, to be targeted at rural areas.

Local

MoD Lyneham

Approximately 75% of staff now back on site.

Road Issues/CATG

We have a new temporary Parish Steward (Pawel) as Bill has left his position. CATG is currently paused whilst the officers work on the cycle route/reallocation of road space projects following Government funding/direction.

Police

The Police have been very busy of late with their 3 priorities (see separate police report). Community Policing Inspector Doug Downing is intending to get in touch with all of the towns and parishes shortly and we are aiming at setting up a new forum for town and parish engagement with police and Fire and Rescue.