



## Update for Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council June 2020

### Wiltshire Council

#### COVID-19

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

Many of our staff eg leisure and libraries, have been redeployed into the COVID response, whether it is taking calls or at our distribution centre.

The Emergency response is now moving towards recovery, so plans are being developed to respond to the Government's phased release of lockdown.

Our Wellbeing Hub is open daily, its primary purpose is to ensure that all those who have been told to isolate (which includes those on our "looked after" list, those from the NHS and those passed to us from the GPs). The opening hours have now been reduced..

We also have the Business Centre is still been helping with grants to local businesses. They have been incredibly busy and most eligible businesses should now have received their grants.

We have also been helping out with distribution of PPE.

Our Neighbourhood Cell has also been making sure that communications with public and parishes go out on a regular basis.

We have been working with all of the schools to help them with their plans for pupils to return to the classroom. Each school is responsible for their own plan, with Wiltshire Council supporting as necessary.

We have been heavily involved with supporting Care Homes and hospitals to ensure that patients are safely discharged.

Wiltshire Council will be taking on local Track and Trace responsibility.

Two highways and transport programmes are being worked on with grant from Government

**Emergency Active Travel Fund.** - The council is set to receive £227,000 of Government funding to support the use of temporary and pop-up measures to create a safe environment for walking and cycling. The initial focus promotes cycling as a replacement for journeys previously made by public transport and could include closing some roads to through traffic, installing segregated cycle lanes and widening pavements.

**Government's Reopening High Streets Safely Fund** - Wiltshire Council has been awarded approximately £450,000 to support the safe reopening of high streets across Wiltshire. This funding supports measures that ensure businesses and their customers can trade safely. This could include temporary changes to public spaces owned by the council and which are next to businesses so they can be reopened safely and supporting retailers on how to make temporary adjustments to their premises to comply with social distancing.

Some measures will be easier to implement such as pavement stickers outside shops showing 2 metres apart and others will take a bit longer as pavements are reconfigured to



support social distancing for shoppers. However, the council will work with town and parish councils and key partners to ensure there is local support for any scheme that is progressed and we will aim to implement as many schemes as possible.

Street markets can now reopen (RWB Market is run by the Town Council who will manage the re-opening of that market)

### **Business as Usual (BAU)**

Some parts of the Council have been carrying on as close to normal as possible. E.g.

Our highways team is still out and about doing road repairs.

Bins are still being collected

Social Services is still providing Adult and Children's Social care.

Our libraries and leisure teams are providing online sessions where possible, and getting a good response.

Our planning team is still processing planning applications.

We are now holding a number of meetings online via Teams or Skype.

Strategic Planning has met, as has Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet. Full Council will meet online on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Car Parking charges have been reintroduced. And some of the Household Recycling Centres have reopened, initially with a postcode rationing system. The queues have been horrendous at times. June 8<sup>th</sup> we will be opening all of our HRCs using an online booking system.

### **Area Boards**

All Area board meetings have been cancelled since March 21<sup>st</sup>. Our Community Engagement Managers are at the forefront of the local level COVID-19 response:-

- Liaising with local COVID response groups
- Sharing information
- Contacting people who come through to the Wiltshire Council Wellbeing Hub to help them find local support with shopping, prescriptions or chats
- Signposting to other agencies for support in other areas such as Mental Health and finance

As well as doing their "day job" eg. Grants and communicating with the public

There is a silver lining with every cloud, and as a result of this crisis, we now have a far better understanding of our communities, more people than ever volunteering either formally or informally, and more agile ways of communicating outside the standard Area Board meetings. Something to build on going forward as we develop our "new normal".

We don't have a date yet for our next Area Board meeting, but the Wiltshire Councillors are meeting informally every two weeks to keep abreast of the situation.



## Local

### MoD Lyneham

Work to install a light controlled crossing outside B site is largely complete and the crossing has been tested and working.

Handover of remaining works in B site will start next week, the last element should be handed over by early July. Currently 5REME is on COVID support so the unit will move in stages once requirement for their support diminishes.

### Road Issues/CATG

We have a new temporary Parish Steward (Pawel) as Bill has left his position. The March CATG was cancelled due to the Coronavirus crisis. This has not yet been rescheduled. CATG officers are currently working on the local response to the cycle and High Street works outlined above.

### Police

We have a new Community Policing Inspector Doug Downing who has taken over RWB and Malmesbury areas from Mark Luffman. Doug is currently liaising with towns, parishes and area boards about concerns as and when we move towards Recovery phase with Lockdown restrictions being lifted. Our local PCSOs are out and about and keep us informed on Social Media as to what is happening -they are being highly visible and catching quite a few errant motorists.

### Children and Young People

All face to face work with young people through CMAS has been suspended until further notice.

### Planning Applications

20/02387/OUT – Land at Pound Farm.

Strategic Planning Committee granted permission, with conditions. A S106 agreement has to be signed within the next 6 months or the application will be refused.

### Bradenstoke Solar Park Community Benefit Fund

A grant of £7717 has been awarded to the Parish Council to pay for replacement lights at Bradenstoke Junction.

The grant committee has offered £1500 COVID Hardship grants to the various community spaces within the parish to help defray the standing costs (eg utilities). Four halls within the parish are eligible for these grants.

### Other

Public Houses:-

**The Mallard** – Work has started on the refurbishment but has slowed down due to the current situation.



**White Hart** – Mr Hamilton, the owner, has spoken to the Parish Council about his proposals. He is awaiting various reports and surveys prior to submitting a planning application.

**Replacements Street Lights – Bradenstoke Junction**

The grant from the Solar Park Community Benefit Fund has been agreed and detailed planning work has commenced. No date as yet for the installation. The Parish Council will be invoiced for the work which will be paid for by the grant.