

**Diptford Parish Council Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**App. 2 – SHDC update**  
**District Cllrs. Pannell and Smerdon**

**COVID**

January saw a significant increase in the number of cases locally – up by 800% in some areas. The rate has now begun falling and South Hams remains well below the national average for the number of cases. Please follow the guidance re masks and distancing and stay at home if at all possible. SHDC has switched back from Recovery to Response mode, with staff continuing to work from home wherever possible. Some services may see a reduction in response times as staff are switched to more pressing work.

SHDC continues to work with the Local Resilience Forum and the Health Protection Board to support the response to the pandemic. The vaccination roll-out seems to be going well with the centre at St. Boniface House, Ashburton, in full operation, and new mass vaccination centres being set up in Exeter and Plymouth, together with injections also being offered at some GP surgeries. SHDC has have offered support for the vaccination roll-out if needed.

**BUSINESS GRANTS**

The Government has announced a further round of grant support for the hospitality and leisure sector, as well as a top-up to the ARG grant fund.

A quick reminder on what grants apply now we are in lockdown three:

- The national lockdown grant is called: LRSG Closed (Addendum).
- The discretionary grant for businesses that aren't mandated to close but are impacted is called: Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG).
- Hospitality grants on top of the LRSG Closed (Addendum) grant, which is good news for those businesses.
- The amount that businesses get paid is linked to their RV rating.
- £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
- £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- £9,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000

Inquiries to the SHDC website [Coronavirus: Information for Businesses - South Hams District Council](#)

SHDC can't issue the money until we have a) been told the rules, and b) actually have the money to give, but thereafter we will do so swiftly.

For the LRSG in South Hams, we've paid out £1.995million from an allocation of £3.967 million – roughly 50%. For the ARG in South Hams, we've paid out about £68,644 out of £1.74million – so 4%



**COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICERS** Our Covid Compliance Officers and Environmental Health Specialists were busy over the Christmas and New Year period ensuring that hospitality premises and shops had Covid-secure measures in place. Council Officers carried out 133 visits across South Hams and West Devon between 24 December 2020 and 3 January 2021 and dealt with 10 complaints regarding non-compliance. As we have now in a period of national lockdown, the officers are busy continuing to provide advice and support to those premises allowed to stay open and responding to complaints where premises are open in contravention of the new regulations.

They are continuing to liaise closely with Police colleagues by sharing intelligence and enforcement approaches.

### **CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE PERSONS**

People who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) are receiving correspondence from central Government advising them to shield until at least 21 February 2021.



In November, South Hams District Council sent a letter advising people of the local hotlines and how we may help support them.

Anyone who joined the CEV list after 11 November 2020 should now have received a copy of that letter, with the local details. The Government has requested SHDC contacts people who received support from us in November, and staff have made these calls. We will receive any requests for support made by the CEV group daily via the Government database and make contact within seven days unless indicated it is more urgent. Community Pharmacies continue to help with medication. If you have anyone who you have concerns about, whether they are CEV or vulnerable for another reason, such as age or frailty, please contact [community@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:community@swdevon.gov.uk) and we will make contact.

### **HARDSHIP HELP**



**In the third lockdown, South Hams Council are very mindful of people in our communities who are struggling to make ends meet. The Council has funding available to assist with rent, council tax and homeless prevention. There is specific help for parents who cannot afford the additional costs associated with their children accessing the internet for online lessons. Anyone struggling with the cost of the extra data needed for remote learning can apply for support.**

**This help is accessed via the schools, not the council. People just need to approach their school(s) who can assist them. Citizens Advice has also been awarded funding to make one-off payments to people struggling with their energy costs.**

