

Diptford Parish Council May meeting (App 2)

Report from SHDC Cllrs Pannell & Smerdon

May 2021

COVID

SHDC continues to administer Re-start grants, which provide one off payments for businesses. If SHDC can allocated all its Additional Restrictions Grant by the end of June it will qualify for further Government funding of £891,000. This means that SHDC can be more generous with its funding in terms of making discretionary grants to those who have so far not qualified for funding. First payments of Re-start grants will be made on Tuesday 4th May. As of last week there had been 1,086 applications for this grant with 87 already authorised for payment.

The Government has extended the deadline for the LRSG (Local Restrictions Support Grant) and the CBLP (Closed Business Lockdown Payment Schemes) from last Friday until Friday 14th May. This gives businesses extra time to submit supporting evidence for these earlier grants.

The vaccination centre at Follaton House, Totnes, seems to be working well.

LEISURE CENTRES are open to the general public for lane swimming/family swims/ fitness centres, and from 17 May for indoor group exercise. From 21 May back to normal. More new health programmes on GP referral and to help those with cancer, Parkinsons, cardiac problems and dementia. Recovery programmes for those suffering from Long Covid, and youth activity nights.

Remote Meetings



The case against the Government's decision not to extend the provision for council meetings to continue remotely has been lost in the High Court. Because the air conditioning at Follaton House fails to meet Covid safety standards SHDC has arranged for the Council's Annual Meeting on 20th May to be held in person at the Tavistock HQ of West Devon Council. Hybrid meetings similar to Parliament, with some Members present in person and others remotely, continue to be banned.

Elections



We've needed to risk assess all the polling stations, introduce more staff to support cleaning and social distancing and re-arrange the verification and count to accommodate a reduced number of staff whilst maintaining the integrity and transparency of the election.

New Super Recycler Service



Delivery of new containers is going smoothly. The team has however decided to have a one week pause in rolling out the programme. Unfortunately this means that much of South Brent Ward won't now be getting the new service until the **end of May**.

The new recycling boxes and bags will be delivered to properties 1 WEEK prior to the new service starting.

Motorhomes

The Executive has agreed to consult the public on the possible relaxation of council car park regulations so campervans can park overnight. The fee would be £10 or £15 a night, depending on location. The nearest to us would be Leonards Road Ivybridge. There would be safeguards over hygiene and safety etc.

The link to the consultation page can be found at <https://www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/>

Comments can be made in writing to parking@swdevon.gov.uk

Planning and enforcement

There is to be a review of the work of Planning and Enforcement departments. This will focus on how to improve performance, quality, communication and Customer and Member satisfaction.