

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for April 2020

Parish Council business

In line with government guidance, recommended social distancing and self-isolation rules, Coleford Parish Council conducted its April meeting using 'Zoom' video conferencing technology. It was great to get 10 of our 13 Councillors live using this to conduct Council business. It is assumed at this stage that the May meeting will also take the same format. If you wish to join the meeting please do contact the Clerk using clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com or call 07971 516916.



Update on support for parishioners during the Coronavirus

Many volunteers continue to support vulnerable residents helping with errands such as shopping and collecting prescriptions. The Parish Council would like to thank Amanda Young for organizing the Coleford Angels, keeping the relevant village Facebook pages current and keeping everyone's spirits up in these difficult time. It's amazing to see the community pull together at such a difficult time.



The Parish Council was thrilled to receive a grant from Wainwrights Quarry to help support the vulnerable within the village during the pandemic. The money will be split between funding the newly set up Foodbank and supporting Dagaroo Local Food Delivery service.

The Foodbank has recently been set up so if you need a little help, further information can be found on the Facebook page, **Coleford Somerset Local Villages Connected during Coronavirus**, or please contact the Clerk on 07971 516916 or email clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com and she will put you in touch with the organiser.

Dagaroo is providing daily hot, home cooked meals delivered throughout Coleford. Special discounted rates are available for the vulnerable. Full details can be found on Facebook, search **Dagaroo Local Food Delivery** or call 07515 636501 for more information.

Somerset County Council now has a single Covid-19 hotline number 0300 790 6275. This should be used for anything related to the pandemic. The Coleford Echo Facebook page is also updated regularly with lots of useful information.

Planning Applications

2020/0552/HSE – Application to drop kerb to allow for off road parking.

31 Mendip Vale, Coleford, Radstock

Coleford Parish Council recommended approval.

2020/0663/HSE - Proposed 2 storey side extension and conversion of existing garage

14 Roman Way Coleford Frome BA3 5PX

Coleford Parish Council recommended approval.





Careys Mead telephone box

Despite the Parish Councils request for the telephone at Careys Mead to remain live BT have decided that the phone is under used and will therefore be removed. After careful consideration the Parish Council has however agreed to purchase the phone box which could be relocated and used for variety of purposes which will be discussed at a later date.

Date of Next Meetings:

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wed 13th May 2020.

**If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the Parish Council's attention please contact the Clerk on 01749 880428 or email clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com
Check out the website www.colefordsomerset.info**

Philip Ham, Chairman

County and District Councillor reports

Somerset County Council

County Councillor Philip Ham gave the following report:
'Covid-19' As of 03/03/2020, there were:

- 34,000 reported cases and 2,900 deaths nationally.
- 1,000 reported cases and 126 deaths in the South West.
- 68 reported cases and 9 deaths in Somerset.

Major incidents forums set up.

Most SCC employees working from home (7 days a week). National peak expected Easter Sunday until end of April. Somerset expected to peak end of April to the middle of May.



Services

Adult social care – safeguarding most important. Visits and reviews will lapse and relying on care homes to advise.

Children – Family crisis and safeguarding most important. Keeping schools open but numbers are low – will stay open through Easter holidays.

Waste – New contract started with new vehicles but have delayed 'recycling more' until normality is resumed.

Public Health – SCC have taken control on all infections other than Covid-19.

Busses – Continue to subsidise busses on bus routes and looking for more support from the Government due to less people travelling, many routes are losing money.

Resilience Forums

PPE – very short, just social care/community nurses in Somerset will need over 40,000 pieces alone of equipment per week.

Excess Deaths – Army on standby.

The peak will last 4 weeks.

30 agencies working together daily in different forums.

Facts

Somerset is closed for tourism.

Domestic violence is on the increase.

Spitting at key workers a problem.

Community tension on the rise.

Support cells have been formed:

1. Community cell – to support 1.5million people that need shielding.
2. Single Covid-19 hotline no. 0300 790 6275
3. PPE cell
4. Getting people out of hospital and setting up extra care homes.
5. Business recovery.
6. Business needs.
7. Safeguarding.
8. Early year funding for young children increased.
9. Re-deployment of staff – over 2,000 SCC employees have taken on new roles while epidemic continues.

Finance

Year end 19/20 SCC recording £1.2m underspend.



Government have allocated SCC £15.6m towards Covid-19. However draft estimated costs are nearer £17m.

Business grants and disabled grants being dealt with by District Councils with money from SCC.

Everyone is working hard, many volunteers are doing fantastic work. Cllr Ham said that he was very proud of all his Parishes; the community support is evident everywhere. By everyone supporting each other, we will get through this. Keep well, stay safe.

Mendip District Council

District Cllr Alan Townsend provided the following report:

Highways - Temporary Skid Risk signs have been erected by Owls Nest. Residents have complained about the relentless passage of HGVs on Anchor Rd and question whether these are “essential” in the current climate.

Truespeed - Have advised that the cabinet has gone live in the bottom of the village so customer connections will follow shortly. Applications for new connections are still welcome with free standard installation. Once the current crisis is over they are looking to see if there is an appetite to connect up to the rest of the village.

Mendip – Due to the Coronavirus Mendip offices are closed to the public and site visits for staff are cancelled.

Cllr Townsend reported to Mendip complaints he had received about the closure of recycling centres. Their response is that the contractor is suffering from staff sickness/isolation at the moment so resources have to be focused on the street collections.



Arrangements are being put in place to assist with Council Tax rescheduling and further relief, and also Business Rate relief.

All car park payments have been suspended and MDC markets are now closed. Mendip are nominating a staff member for each area of the District to help Ward Members, community groups and residents find the correct communication channels to seek support from the Council in the current climate.

Planning - Anchor Road - The latest advice from Mendip Planners is that Gladman have agreed to an extension to the determination date until 24th April to allow them to respond to the issues raised by Somerset Highways. These relate to the access onto Anchor Rd from the site, the difficulty with the proposed pavement and an implication of criticism of the width of Anchor Rd.