

## COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – 2020

Covid-19 PARISH REPORT 2 - end April 2020

### Covid-19 - Vulnerable Residents

I have telephoned all registered residents not picked up by known groups, and it seems that they are all supported by either family, friends or local volunteers. If you suspect anyone has fallen between the cracks, do please register them here and they will be contacted: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershires-community-help-hub/>

### BIN COLLECTIONS AND UBICO

For daily updates of missed services:

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/coronavirus-bins-and-recycling/>

Bin collections have been unreliable and sporadic over the last few weeks. I have received numerous calls and notifications of 'missed' collections and the suspension of the Green Bin collections was not made clear on the CDC website. This has now been rectified and Conservative CDC Councillors have urged the administration to reinstate the garden waste collection, in line with all neighbouring Councils, now that driver and staff numbers have increased at Ubico. If you wish to comment on this please contact [andrew.doherty@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.doherty@cotswold.gov.uk) - Cabinet member for waste.

One resident was told that his bins were not collected as the bin lid did not shut properly. It turned out that this was not actually the case, his bins were not collected on the following occasion either. However, it is worth noting that owing to a catastrophic accident affecting a bin lorry driver some time ago, Ubico drivers are instructed not to collect any bins which are not fully closed.

What to put in your bin:

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/what-to-put-in-your-bin/>

Small electricals in a bag in a black box

Textiles in a bag in a black box

Please make sure all lids are on properly and bags are closed and upright.

It is vital you remember to remove all batteries from electrical items where possible, bag them separately and leave at the top of your black recycling boxes where they can be seen easily.



During a routine sort at Thamesdown Recycling, an operator noticed the smell of burning from a paper bay on site. A bale of paper was quickly soaked in water and on closer inspection, a piece of electrical equipment was discovered. The fire was caused because the battery was left attached to the device which must have been buried.

## BUSINESS

On 1 April 2020, CDC received £36.7 million from the central government to support businesses. Many applications were processed but not actually paid into applicants accounts until 24th or after. This has been particularly stressful for business owners who had counted on being paid within 2-3 days, but I have been told that this has now been addressed.

However 450 eligible businesses have still not yet sent the form in.

The government announced cash grants of £25,000 for businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

For businesses that were actively trading and occupying properties with rateable values of £15,000 or less the grant is expected to be £10,000.

For businesses that were actively trading and occupying properties with rateable values between £15,001 and £51,000 the grant is expected to be £25,000.

Businesses in any sector receiving the small business rate relief

Businesses in receipt of small business rate relief on 11 March 2020 will receive a grant of £10,000. There are some exceptions:

properties which are occupied for personal use, for example, private stables, beach huts and moorings will not qualify for a cash grant even if they are in receipt of relief properties where the liability is calculated using the small business multiplier but not in receipt of small business rate relief will not qualify for the grant.

Please see the government guidance for full details of the scheme.

The Government will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud, and any business caught falsifying their records to gain additional grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to clawback.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

## BUDGET

CDC is currently running at a shortfall of about £500,000 per month partly due to reduced income from car parks and council tax and increased costs. Deficit expected to be £4.5m in this financial year.



It could be worse, the current administration benefits from a healthy inheritance:

May 2019:

- \* CDC debt-free
- \* Cash reserves £13.2 million
- \* Financial market investments £12.5 million
- \* Property investments £7.5 million

Cotswold District Council would normally have a net budget requirement of £12.5 million and a limited mandate of what services it provides. No doubt a revised corporate strategy will need to be implemented owing to the Coronavirus crisis.

## FLY-TIPPING

Fly Tipping has increased, mainly builders waste. If you see any fly-tipping, please photograph it, note the exact location (grid references would ideal) and report it here: <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/fly-tipping/> and let me know so that I can follow it up if it is not dealt with.

## Recycling Centres

We all want to know when the Household Recycling Waste centres will reopen but it does not look like it will be anytime soon. Issues with queueing, highways, social distancing all have to be taken into account. If home composting is not possible, then it is the only solution for people with gardens who have nowhere to put their garden waste. Hopefully a booking system, like the one they already use for commercial waste, could be introduced ...quickly.

## SIR GEOFFREY CLIFTON-BROWN - MP for the Cotswolds

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown is liaising with CDC cabinet members and group members on a weekly basis, to take local concerns back to the central government for answers. Let me know if you want me to ask him something for you.

You can also engage via Facebook on the live streaming sessions at the Barn Theatre on Fridays afternoons.

<https://www.facebook.com/theBarnTheatreCirencester/>



## Families

Life is particularly challenging for families in lockdown. Working from home is very difficult with young children running about, homeschooling can be a battlefield and a computer for each student is needed for on-line lessons - a huge expense at a difficult time and I am told that stocks are low. For those who should be taking GCSEs and A levels this summer, it has been devastating - hopes, dreams and travel plans all on hold.

<https://www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glofamilies/home.page>

Support and advice for parents.

Phone line has extended opening hours in the evening and weekends. The service is available Mondays-Fridays, 9am-8pm, and on Saturdays 10am-6pm.

Call free of charge: 0800 542 02 02. If they can't answer straight away, please leave a message and they will call back.

Email : [familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk) and they will respond to the same working day. Find on Facebook – just search for Family Information Service – Gloucestershire and leave a message. Useful hints and tips, visit [www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk)



## LANYARDS



I am delighted to say that I distributed 80 lanyards in Ermin Ward and I understand that they have made a helpful difference to volunteers who have been shopping on behalf of other people. There is at least one in every village.

## Zoom

I am delighted that some of my Parishes have already held meetings virtually by using Zoom - it was really good to virtually see everyone again!

Zoom can be run from a mobile phone or a laptop (better because you can see everyone at the same time). If you want to give it a go, I recommend you set it up in good time and have a practice and request everyone to join 10 minutes early to give them time to resolve any issues.

<https://zoom.us/>



Local authorities have new powers to hold public meetings virtually by using video or telephone conferencing technology.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/councils-given-new-powers-to-hold-public-meetings-remotely?utm\\_source=e9e74923-3b23-40ab-b860-508a5e8eee17&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/councils-given-new-powers-to-hold-public-meetings-remotely?utm_source=e9e74923-3b23-40ab-b860-508a5e8eee17&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

## PLANNING APPLICATION OBSERVATIONS

Please continue to comment on Planning Applications via the CDC portal (link below). Whilst physical Planning Meetings have been suspended, applications with even one objection will be brought to my attention. I am liaising with residents/parish councillors and the head of planning and officers where appropriate. I strongly encourage any of you who wish to object, support or make other observations to an application to make comments via the preferred Public Access route on the Council's website. The CDC website was updated in February 2020, links saved before then will no longer work.

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-permission/view-planning-applications/>

Find the application you want to comment on, click into it and click on the COMMENTS tab where there is a form for you to fill in the details. Occasionally comments are submitted by other routes and this can lead to misunderstandings and/or a lack of formal record being made on the system, which in turn can lead to lack of formal communication & notification regarding procedures (e.g. Committee dates, public speaking, etc.)

## CAR PARKING

Car parking charges have been suspended until further notice. The Old Memorial Hospital car park is now open and plans for the Waterloo ground plus five multi-storey car park has been put on hold. Traffic wardens are still operating (this is a county council remit).

## CDC Corporate Peer Group Review

Published on 23 December 2019, this report was finally released to the Conservative Group on 19 April by the leader of CDC. He told us that he intends to publish it when things get back to normal.



## Parish Connections magazine

Parish Connections is not being printed this month. An electronic version can be accessed from the end of this month here: <https://erminwestbenefice.org.uk/>

## Ermin Ward Covid-19 Computer Aid

During this time of isolation, it's more important and helpful than ever to have access to the internet, a computer or smartphone and the knowledge of how to use it! Are you, a member of your family, or someone you know struggling with technology and could use some help with setting up or learning how to use Skype, Whatsapp, iPlayer, online radio or join an online exercise class, for example? If you're reading this on Facebook or another social network, you're probably pretty up to speed with computers and smartphones, but have you checked with your older neighbours who are not online, whether they would like to be during this time?

We can help older or less technologically-minded members of the community with a computer, smartphone and internet troubleshooting or advice and provide a patient and listening ear to help with teaching them how to get involved with helpful technology. We can do this over the phone, or we can travel to people's houses within the following areas to pick up their devices to install the software: Winstone, Brimpsfield, Elkstone, Syde and Caudle Green, Miserden, Edgeworth, the Duntisbournes, Whiteway. We will then return these after thoroughly disinfecting them to protect everyone's health!

Examples of things we can help with:

Installing Skype or other video calling platforms and teaching how to use these to speak to family and friends

Teaching and guidance on how to make phones or computers more accessible (by using dictation or larger text, for example)

Showing someone how they can access online TV and radio using a computer, tablet or smartphone



Setting up new devices for people to use and showing what can be done with them  
Getting someone set up with social platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp and teaching them how to use these

Teaching someone how to open email or WhatsApp attachments on their phone  
And other issues that people may encounter when adjusting to new technology.

If you or someone you know needs help with problems like these, you can get in contact with us in the following ways:

Fill in this form with your or their name and telephone number and we'll get back to you. <https://forms.gle/iTD2HEcA66HLg9hr6>

Send Lilly an email on [ermin.computer.aid@gmail.com](mailto:ermin.computer.aid@gmail.com) with your name (or the name of the person who needs help) and number and we'll give you/them a call.

We will do our best to help with problems that come our way from those members of the community who are not as familiar with technology, but to be clear we are \*\*\*not a computer repair shop\*\*\*, if you are already a competent computer user and are looking for general troubleshooting or there is a more terminal issue with your device please find a local computer repair instead.



DOCS.GOOGLE.COM

Ermin Ward Covid-19 Computer Aid

We can help older or less technologically-minded members of the community with computer, smartphone and internet troubleshooting or advice, and provide a patient and listening ear to help with teaching them how to get involved with helpful technology. We can do this over the phone, or we can travel....



## SHOPPING TIPS

It seems that the bigger the store, the longer the queues. Shopping creatively may pay off, especially if you are volunteering.

BP Centurian Garage - Now set up as convenience store  
Gloucester Rd, Cirencester GL7 7JR  
01285 821878  
<https://goo.gl/maps/PwhvuY5S6h38Z4Tv9>

JESSE SMITH - Click and collect

THE MARKET GARDEN fruit and veg - they will make up a box for you which they load into the boot of your car. Pay contactless. May deliver.  
text Ian Crees on 07825 544235

THE TUNNEL HOUSE, COATES - PIZZA's - local delivery or pick-up

BRAMLEYS WHOLESALE - Love Lane, Cirencester - click and collect

JOLLY NICE - collections only

HOBBS BAKERY, TETBURY - will deliver

Food banks - information about how to donate to Food Banks can be found here:  
<https://cirencester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

