

Cllr Julia Judd

Email Update 6 April 2020 to Duntisbournes Support Group

WhatsApp Coronavirus information Service

The Government has launched a [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) Coronavirus Information service on WhatsApp. The new free to use service aims to provide official, trustworthy and timely information and advice about coronavirus (COVID-19), and will further reduce the burden on NHS services.

To use the free [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp, simply add 07860 064422 in your phone contacts and then message the word 'hi' in a WhatsApp message to get started. A set of menu options is then presented which the user can choose from and then be sent relevant guidance from [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) pages as well as links to [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for further information. For more information, please click here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp>

Scam - We have received a report of an email circulating from the DVLA that a car tax refund is due. This is a scam so please delete the email and do not open any attachments.

On a positive note crime, in general, has decreased significantly over the Cotswolds area. We are still getting burglaries at rural agricultural locations so we still need you to report anything that looks suspicious.

Waste

Household waste services are now operating as normal with the exception of the garden waste service which has been suspended. There are some missed collections, due to a shortage of crews, which should be resolved with a Saturday collection. Please leave out your food waste bins receptacles until they are emptied. The CDC website is updated first thing every morning with any waste service changes.

As CDC has currently suspended Green Bin Collections, there has never been a better time to think about community composting. As you may know, this is something I believe in for rural areas. Whilst it might make sense in towns, it seems unnecessary to drive a huge lorry around all our tiny lanes and villages in the Cotswolds, better solutions may be available if the options are explored. <https://bisleycommunitycompostscheme.org.uk/>

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

Business information

The Council has announced how it intends to support businesses across the district and you can read all the detail here:

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/council-announces-its-help-for-local-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus>

The business pages, including the form to provide contact information, is here:

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/coronavirus-business-and-licensing/>
<https://cotswold.us19.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=66f35b07c29401898685866be&id=cb401c9a96>

Renting

Non-statutory guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities in the private and social rented sectors in the context of coronavirus was published on Gov.uk over last weekend. This guidance provides advice to landlords and tenants on the provisions in the Coronavirus Act 2020, and further advice for landlords, tenants and local authorities more broadly about their rights and responsibilities during the coronavirus outbreak. The guidance is available to read at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities>