

Councillor Andrew McHugh MSc BSc(Hons) DIS

Cherwell District Council
Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing

19 April 2020

Dear Madam Chairwoman and Adderbury Parish Councillors

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT ADDERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

APOLOGIES

I may be late in joining the meeting. I am a governor of Frank Wise Special School in Banbury and have an on-line budget setting meeting starting at 17:00. I hope to be finished in time to join you on-line take any questions on my report.

WELLBEING

The coronavirus has caused uncertainty in many aspects of our lives which can lead to anxiety and stress which can in turn weaken the immune system.

There are lots of online resources to help:

- guidance on the mental health and [health and wellbeing aspects of coronavirus](#) (Covid 19) . This includes guidance for people with existing mental health conditions.
- Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's [mental health and wellbeing](#) during the coronavirus (Covid19) outbreak
- [Every Mind Matters](#)
- [MIND](#)

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' COVID 19 FUND

Each District Councillor has been allocated a £2000 discretionary fund to alleviate hardship caused by Covid19. This fund must be spent by 31st of January 2021 or else it will be reabsorbed into council funds. Councillors have already been approached by large charities with large reserves asking for support. My own view is that this money, where possible, should be used to alleviate hardship experienced by local organisations either in the lockdown phase or in the coming breakout phase. I will be guided by The Parish Council. To be deemed eligible for funding, applying organisations must have a committee and a constitution or appropriate rules setting out aims and objectives and how the group will operate. This document must be appended to the application form. I attach copies of the application form and the background information. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further clarification or have suggestions as to how this money, or part of it, could be used to alleviate difficulties.

LOCAL ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

Cherwell District Council revenues and benefits teams are continuing to work incredibly hard to communicate an action the significant changes that are being developed by government to support

Cherwell residents, the economy and businesses through Covid 19. The best place to find the latest information is at

COVID 19 GRANTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

As of Thursday 16 April 2020, Cherwell District Council had distributed £10.7 million of Covid19 grant funding to businesses in North Oxfordshire. 776 businesses had completed a form via the Cherwell District Council's website and have been paid and we are continuing to complete the processing of claims as quickly as possible. Further 796 local businesses in the council believes may be entitled to grants have been emailed encouraging them to apply.

HAND IT BACK

Many of us have items of medical rehabilitation equipment around our houses. It could be a walking frame in the covered or a commode in the shed. Cherwell District Council are supporting the "hand it back" campaign to encourage as many people as possible to return any unused health equipment they may have at home such as chairs, beds, electrical items, frames et cetera so they can be reused or recycled. To "hand it back", people should call NRS healthcare to arrange a free, socially distanced collection on (01869) 225420. Alternatively they can email NRS healthcare at enquiries@oxfordshire.nrs-uk.net

DOMESTIC ABUSE DURING COVID-19

The Home Secretary has confirmed that anyone who is experiencing domestic abuse can leave and seek refuge, despite restrictions on movement. Refuges remain open, and the police will provide support to all individuals who are being abused - whether physically or emotionally.

HOW AND WHERE TO GET DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP AND SUPPORT:

- Anyone in immediate danger should phone 999.
- Or if in danger and unable to talk on the phone, dial 999 and then press 55. This will transfer the call to police, who will assist without the caller having to speak.
- Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Services offers free advice: 0800 731 0055 (Mon-Fri 10am-7pm). Email das@a2dominion.co.uk
- Alternatively, call the 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247.
- Anybody worried about causing harm to the ones they love can get help by contacting Respect Phonenumber - 0808 802 4040. <https://respectphonenumber.org.uk/>

Kind regards



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