

Clerk's Report – January 2021

COVID – 19:

The same services that were running in November have again been reinstated. These include Click & Collect from Cranborne Stores and the food/prescription delivery service. Newspaper deliveries will not be offered at this time. If demand increases then this decision will be revisited. Transportation for residents to get their COVID-19 vaccination in St Leonard's has been hi-lighted as a potential problem.

I have had numerous telephone calls and emails regarding COVID issues.

Memorial Bench:

The memorial bench has now been installed.

Stolen postbox in Edmondsham:

Unfortunately, still no update on this.

Tree Survey

SEB have now finished their work along the river crane footpath. They have made a real impact on the extensive list of tree works that were needed. I have had a site meeting with Evans Above to discuss the remainder of tree works that needed doing – a quote will be sent shortly.

Playarea

The wooden pole has now been replaced by Wickstead on the basket swing. The basket swing will be reattached by Elite Playground Inspections in the coming days.

New dog signs to be erected by the entrance to each opening. These are in relation to the Dog Related Public Protection Order 2020 – coming into force on 01.01.2021.

Eroding Riverbank

The two signs re the above are now in situ.

Cecil Memorial Hall Update

The appointment of a new caretaker took place in December. The hall remains closed as per government guidelines.

210119 Alderholt & Cranborne Ward Dorset Councillor Report for Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council

This month's focus is on Covid19 and follows a recent briefing provided by Sam Crowe of Public Health Dorset and Tim Goodson of Dorset CCG.

Dorset Council has a call centre set up – 01305 22100 – which is the main DC switchboard.

Calls to this number may be then be passed through to an appropriate channel;

- Citizens Advice
- Adult Care Access Team
- Digital Hotline

The teams available through this line - #DorsetTogether – can help with a variety of issues such as:

- Bills
- Money Issues
- Domestic Abuse
- Housing
- Work problems
- Food
- Universal Credit

The DC Contact Centre has made 7,000 calls, and received over 11,000, whilst AGE UK has made 30,000 calls and received 18,000.

The most common issues relate to Universal Credit, Debt Problems, and Employment issues.

In terms of infection rates the weekly case rates for Dorset Council and close Neighbours stand at:

- Dorset Council 320.9 / 100k
- BCP 671.8 / 100k
- Hampshire 562.3 / 100k

Infection rates seem to be rising very rapidly in particular within the 16-25 year old age group.

Dorset Council has, from 8th Jan launched a locally supported Contact Tracing system, which will pick up from the National scheme if that system has been unable to contact someone after 48 hours. Contact will be attempted for a further 72 hours by the local team.

Within Dorset CCG as of the 7th Jan there were 321 Covid in-patients –
24 hours later as at 8th Jan that had risen to 340.

Hospitals are now at 90-95% capacity, the optimum rate would be around 85%

This sort of daily rise is expected to continue, but should start reducing after a couple of weeks.

Vaccinations are continuing to roll out – and the introduction of the “Oxford” vaccine, which is much easier to store, and transport, has been a great boost to the ability to conduct mass vaccinations. We are expecting a mass vaccination centre to open in Dorset fairly soon – though details are sparse.

We are currently about 25% of the way through vaccinating the over 80 age group – there have been many questions about the apparent way some people seem to get ahead of others in the queue – much of this may be explained by prioritising those with multiple underlying conditions.

Finally, a word on Lateral Flow Testing – this can provide a helpful guide to infection, but depending on viral load may give false negatives. A positive test should be confirmed with a PCR test as soon as possible, and in the meantime people must self-isolate. A negative Lateral Flow test is a nice reassurance, but don’t then assume you are Covid Free. Repeat tests should be carried out at frequent intervals. If you are infected, then the viral load may increase before symptoms are apparent and a later test may show positive.