

Lighthorne Parish Council 9th June 2020
County Councillor's Report

1. Coronavirus

First of all, I must congratulate the community work that the Parish Council is carrying out for the residents of Lighthorne. The current crisis we have in the UK would be far worse if it was not for the work carried out voluntarily by people such as yourselves.

Shire Hall is effectively closed and whilst most of the staff is working from home a large proportion have directed their efforts working as carers at this time. Elected Members on the County Council do receive regular virtual briefings. We are continually bombarded by requests for finance from all sources. The scale of the economic environmental and community challenges that are now faced by WCC should not be under-estimated. Warwickshire County Council has been appointed the lead authority between Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull as the new NHS Test and Trace Service. This reflects the high esteem in which Warwickshire is held by the NHS. The long-term way ahead is still to be determined but the County Council as Public Health Authority is regularly updating the electorate in line with any advice it receives.

Latest update regarding Country Parks is that they are now re-opening although I am aware of a problem on the Burton Dassett Hills regarding vehicles speeding through villages and anti-social behaviour.

This past week has seen gradual steps being taken to reopen some services and previously restricted areas in Warwickshire. Some of our recycling centres and country parks have started to reopen in a limited way (read more below on country parks).

More generally we can now exercise more than once a day, and some of us will be returning to work, if working from home is not an option. But in doing all this we must continue to be vigilant and stay alert as we all continue to play a part in controlling the virus and saving lives.

We're taking small and very careful steps to ensure that where we do re-start services this can be done safely and while still maintaining social distancing measures.

Many of you will be cautious about these changes. Some of you may be keen to return to some sense of normality. However, we all need to act sensibly and remember to think of others so we can play our part in controlling the virus. This means that you must:

- Stay at home as much as possible
- Work from home if you can
- Limit contact with other people
- Keep your distance if you go out. 2 metres apart where possible
- Wash your hands regularly
- Do not leave your home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms

[Find out more and to keep up to date with the latest symptoms here](#)

Staying safe during the Covid19 pandemic is essential and we have been working hard to help communities understand how to stay safe at home, in their workplace and online. For key guidance from the Government check the links below:

- [Key guidance on what you can and can't do](#)
- [Staying safe outside your home](#)
- [Staying safe online](#)

The **health and wellbeing** of our communities is essential. The Government has issued new guidance for the health and wellbeing of people at work:

- [Guidance for the public on mental health and wellbeing](#)
- [Supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#)

Residents urged to use online booking system for country parks

On 18 May, we launched a phased re-opening of our four main country parks - Kingsbury Water Park, Ryton Pools, Hartshill and Pooley - with an online booking system for car parking, allowing more people who live further afield to visit and enjoy the parks.

Visitors must now pre-book a parking ticket using our online booking system before heading to any one of these parks. They will need to show this ticket to parks' staff through their closed window on arrival before they will be allowed entry to the site. Parking permit holders will not be required to make a booking at the parks where that system is operating

Two slots are available to book – either from 9am to 12pm or 1pm to 4pm - after which the car parks will be closed. People are requested not to turn up to the site without pre-booking or a car park permit otherwise they will not be able to gain entry.

Usual social distancing measures still apply, with visitors being asked to only attend parks with members of their own households and to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others using the parks. Toilets and café facilities will not be open at this stage.

We would also like to politely remind visitors to our country parks to show consideration for our neighbours and the surrounding highways by not parking dangerously outside of our parks when they visit.

2. Highways

The Highways Team have used the past three months in planning their priorities for when they are able to get the maintenance staff on the roads again. If in the meantime you have reported a defect, please be assured that this is not forgotten and will be attended to at an appropriate time.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

STAY SAFE

Cllr Chris Williams

Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division

08.06.2020