

SODC ward councillor's report

– Shiplake – 9th November 2020

Covid-19

Covid cases have been growing in Oxfordshire and Reading. w showing strong resurgence and impacts have been seen in Oxford and Reading. At 30/10, Oxford City was at a weekly rate of 135 per 100k population. By comparison Cherwell DC was 143, West Oxon DC at 120, SODC at 106 and Vale of WH DC at 80. Reading BC was at 119.

A national lockdown has been confirmed lasting until 2nd December. It is hoped that this will help choke the growth in cases and reduce the reinfection "R-rate".

The government has extended the previous furlough scheme, opened it up for new employees to be added and extended cover to self-employed people. The scheme has now been extended to March – indicating that the Covid situation may be difficult for some time? For businesses affected by lockdowns or high-tier restrictions there is also funding available through (district) local councils and the government have provided funding for the national period to 2nd December.

Community Hub details

Please help us spread the word the word to make sure help reaches those most in need - if people are in urgent need of support during the lockdown they should contact our Community Hub on 01235 422600 or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk.

There's more info at:

- southoxon.gov.uk/covid19
- whitehorsedc.gov.uk/covid19

SODC have been working hard to prepare for this second lockdown – it will require a lot of work. Staff will need to call once again on local support in the coming weeks to ensure our most vulnerable residents get the support that they need.

E-mails will go to all the voluntary groups and individuals that SODC have been working with since March to explain the current situation, seeking support and to provide support resources and information too.

It is suggested that a joint memorandum of understanding be signed so that personal details can be shared in cases of need.

SODC will also be advising on details of the funding streams available to them.

Homeless

SODC will be once again taking action as part of a wider initiative to ensure that the homeless are given appropriate support and accommodation – including where households are made homeless as a result of the pandemic.

Business Grants

As regards business grants businesses that need help and guidance should go to svbs.co.uk

Businesses required to close in England due to local or national restrictions will be eligible for the following:

- For properties with a rateable value of £15,000 or under, grants of £1,334 per four weeks
- For properties with a rateable value of over £15,000 and below £51,000, grants of £2,000 per four weeks
- For properties with a rateable value of £51,000 or over grants of £3,000 per four weeks.

Details are still coming in.

Additional Restrictions Grant

The government has also announced that SODC will be receiving a pot of funding to use to provide discretionary business grants. More details will be available soon.

Leigh Rawlins

District Councillor