

District Council Report January 2021

I am unable to join you this evening as I am in a CDC Cabinet meeting.

This third lockdown is certainly different from the others and feels relentless and particularly challenging for many. I don't know about you but my geometry maths circa 1989 is not really cutting it with my teenage children and my homeschooling should be in 'special measures'.

Residents are continuing to be generally awesome at looking out for and after one another and Chedworth is no exception. I spoke to one person on the phone recently and she said she'd never had so many people knocking on her door to ask if she was ok.

Despite being in another national lockdown, and the undoubtedly difficult few weeks and months ahead, I hope that this year will not be entirely filled with bad news.

The pressures on local government this last year have been immense, with officers and support staff being redeployed, working from home and in many cases, shielding themselves or looking after loved ones, homeschooling and vulnerable relatives.

Covid-19

I attend regular meetings and briefings with the government and am the CDC rep on the Covid-19 Engagement Board led by the Glos Director for Public Health - Cllr Hodgkinson also attends these.

The vaccine is good news and the rollout in Gloucestershire in particular, is progressing very well. It is looking very promising for the February target.

There is still no confident data yet on the extent to which the vaccine stops transmission. So we do know it reduces people getting seriously ill, hospitalised or deaths but NO news yet on the transmission.

So it's important to remember to continue all of the safety measures as before even once vaccinated.

I love to hear people's vaccination stories - thank you to those that have shared theirs on social media or with me personally. Very uplifting.

Please find below a summary of what's been going on at CDC since we last met.

In lockdown, the Council once again stepped up to the plate in its role in protecting the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (this lockdown's "shielded" cohort) and made over 4000 contacts with CEV residents to make sure they had the help and support they needed. This was a mammoth job as no contact was allowed to go unspoken to.

This kind of operation puts a huge amount of strain on the existing services, but I am pleased to say that frontline staff worked very hard to juggle as much as they could.

Flooding Forum

Residents across the District recently affected by the flooding are being invited to a virtual flooding forum Q&A session chaired by Cotswold District Council.

The Q&A session will take place on

Thursday 11th February at 6pm using the Council's Webex online platform.

Residents interested in attending can register for the event through Eventbrite:
cotswoldfloodingforum.eventbrite.co.uk

You can also pre-submit your questions by emailing:
communications@cotswold.gov.uk

Crowdfund Cotswolds

A really positive Council community project which I'm really excited about - We're launching a new online crowdfunding platform that enables you, the residents, to raise money to improve your neighbourhood.

Working in partnership with Spacehive.com the District Council has allocated £140,000k for the programme. People and organisations can pledge as little as £2 towards a project with CDC able to contribute up to £10k per project idea and contributions are only charged if the campaign hits its target.

If you have an idea of something you want to run, build, create locally then come along to our online launch event on

Monday 22nd February at 12.00pm

The link to sign up to the event is below (I'm sure Liz will pass it on) and if you have a project idea, ready to go then there will an opportunity to stay on after the launch event to talk through your project and how to get started.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0uf--hrDMuGt1iyavZygDP-U0OE94c-LR>

Meanwhile, do take a look at spacehive.com if you'd like to know more.

Chedworth

I'm continuing to keep abreast of the two other key issues which you have raised in recent meetings -

1. The Planning in Principle that is awaiting a planning application - land east of Chedworth Village Hall.
2. The PCN and ongoing case with Rendcomb Airfield - Cllr Heathcoat-Amory asked her question beautifully at our recent Full Council meeting and has since received a full response which I'm sure she has updated you with.

Do let me know if you would like to know or understand anything further about these or any other issues.

Local businesses continue to be supported as much as possible. Many local businesses have adapted so that you can shop online, or call and order over the phone and collect at an allocated time. Whilst it is easy to rely on the online giants, local businesses will appreciate support through these tough winter months.

This is just a brief overview of what has been happening at your District Council. As ever, if you would like further detail or have a matter you would like me to take up, please get in touch with me directly.

Stay at home, where you can and stay safe.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenny Forde". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Cllr. Jenny Forde
Cllr Chedworth & Churn Valley
Cabinet Member, Health & Well-Being.