

REPORT TO BIX & ASSENDON PARISH COUNCIL NOV 2020 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

NEW NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS FROM 5 NOVEMBER

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister has announced a four-week national lockdown for England, with strict new measures coming into force from Thursday. The move comes in the wake of rapidly rising infection levels across the country and a significant rise in hospital admissions. The lockdown measures are designed to stem the spread of the virus, prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed, and save lives. From 5 November, people will be told to stay at home unless they have a specific reason to leave, such as education, childcare, and work which cannot be done from home. Pubs, restaurants, and non-essential shops and businesses will have to close, although hospitality venues can continue to provide takeaway and delivery services. Schools, colleges, universities and early years settings can remain open. People must not meet socially indoors or in a private garden with family or friends who are not part of their household or support bubble. People are also being asked to avoid travelling in or out of their local area and to reduce the number of journeys they make. For full details see www.gov.uk OCC is working rapidly to identify how the new measures will affect service delivery and what action is required. Contingency plans are in place across all services. Further updates will be issued soon.

OCC CHALLENGES GOVERNMENT PLANNING

Residents in Oxfordshire are being assured that national changes to planning laws that could reduce local democratic input on key decisions are being challenged by local councillors. OCC Cabinet members have written a response to government to reflect their concerns over future planning policy as set out by in a recent high-profile consultation.

PARENTS URGED TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN VACCINATED AGAINST FLU

Parents in Oxfordshire are being urged to have their young children vaccinated against the flu this winter. Children aged two and three can have a free, quick and painless nasal spray vaccine at their GP surgery. In addition, children in primary school and those in year seven can have the nasal spray vaccine via the school nurse service. Ansaf Asaf, Director of Public Health at Oxfordshire County Council said: "It's more important than ever that everybody eligible gets a free flu vaccination this winter. Young children don't have to get an injection, and instead can get a quick, painless nasal spray. By ensuring that young children get their vaccinations, we can also help to protect our older and more vulnerable friends and family members by reducing the risk of transmission."

FLU VACCINATION ELIGIBILITY

The full list of those who are eligible for a free flu vaccine on the NHS is below:

- People aged 65 years and over
- Patients aged from six months to 65 years in clinical 'at risk' groups (see below)
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 2 and 3
- Children in primary school and Year 7
- People in long-stay residential care homes
- Social care and hospice workers who provide direct patient contact
- Health and social care staff working in residential/nursing homes
- Patients on the NHS shielded patient list
- Household contacts of carers and those on the NHS shielded patient list

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR BIX & ASSENDON

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS (VAS)

The poles are now installed and the VAS heads are on order. The supplier / installer of the sign has advised of a slightly longer lead time than they would like (at 6 to 8 weeks) so this should have them up and working by mid-December. All funding by the Parish Council, the County Councillor Priority Fund and OCC directly.

CLEARANCE OF DRAINAGE DITCH IN MIDDLE ASSENDON

Subsequent to unblocking of road drains I arranged in Middle Assendon, the topic of obstructions in the drainage ditch arose. I explained clearing these obstructions was the frontage owners' responsibility as they were covered by 'Riperian Rights'. As ever, this topic generates strong feelings and the PC should be aware the issue may come to the fore again.

HENLEY HGV BAN

I previously advised that Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak, Henley's representative at OCC, is campaigning for an HGV ban in Henley. I have much sympathy with his objectives but my concern is that HGVs will simply be deflected along the B481 if this occurs. When the Bix duals were being resurfaced a few years ago and HGVs were unable to use them, the increase in HGV traffic along the B481 impacted on parishes along the road. Councillor Gawrysiak has acknowledged this concern and has informed me he has written to parish councils along the B481. My view is that a holistic plan for the whole area is required and one that simply deflects HGV traffic is not acceptable.