

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2021

Agenda item 8: District Council report

VALE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

27 JANUARY 2021

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

Councillors will be aware that Garden Waste collections have not restart as expected after the normal Christmas break. This is due to Biffa staff shortages caused by staff being ill or having to self isolate.

Despite the delay, the council is confident that residents will still get the 20 collections during the year that are offered in the Garden Waste collection contract.

The situation is being reviewed weekly and when the service is able to restart customers will be notified via the Vale website and social media.

If residents have any Christmas trees they need to dispose of these can be taken to any Oxfordshire Waste Recycling centre or can be kept until garden waste collections resume.

COMMUNITY COVID TESTING.

Vale council has been working closely with public health colleagues to set up a community testing centre in South and Vale as part of a plan for a number of centres across the county. It has been announced that a testing centre will be based in Wantage.

This centre will open in February and will provide lateral flow testing and will be for asymptomatic people only who need to work. Appointments will be required and the centre will be prioritising workers such as fire and police officers. People who display symptoms should not attend any of these community testing centres but should book a test via the national scheme.

COVID WINTER SUPPORT GRANT SCHEME

These grants are now available via Citizens Advice and Wantage Independent Advice Centre. They are available to help with food purchases via supermarket vouchers and for payment of fuel bills in cases of hardship due to Covid.

VALE ACTIVE COMMUNITIES - COUCH to 5km

Councillors will be aware that Leisure Centres are closed during lockdown. To help people stay fit and healthy the Vale Active Communities team are launching an online support group for anyone doing the Couch to 5km programme. It started on 22nd January – but if anyone

wants to join, head to the Active Communities Facebook page or email Ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk for more information.

PLANNING APPEAL

I have been notified that the planning appeal hearing for the application to build 9 apartments on the former cricket pitch at Northcourt Road will resume on 8th March 2021. This appeal hearing was started in January 2020 and was then adjourned.

The hearing will continue from where it was left off and will not be repeating matters discussed at the last session. The appeal for the application to build 10 flats on the same site, which was being considered at the same hearing has been withdrawn.

Helen Pighills
Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities
Vale Councillor for Abingdon Abbey Northcourt Ward