

**Notes of a meeting of the Covid Response Working Group
held on Microsoft Teams**

Monday 15th March 2021 – 6pm

Present

Cllr Andy Foulsham (Chair)
Cllr Charlie Birks
Cllr Cheryl Briggs
Cllr Eric de la Harpe
Cllr Alex Greenaway
Cllr Lorraine Oates

In attendance

Susan Whipp Deputy Town Clerk/RFO

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Gabby Barody and Cllr Samantha Bowring.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Notes

The Committee received and considered the notes of the meeting held on 1st March 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the meeting of the Covid Response Working Group held on 1st March 2021 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Update from Vale of White Horse District Council

Cllr Foulsham provided an update from the Vale of White Horse District Council; waiting to see the impact of schools now open for all students. OCC Director of Public Health continuing to urge for caution. Latest heat map shared with District Councillors suggesting new cases increases largely in school age children and those aged 85 years or older.

5. Update from County Council

Members noted the continuing advice of hands, face, space. Cllr Foulsham stated that there was some anecdotal evidence that the social distancing rules

were not being followed by all visitors to the Monday Market in the Market Place and **it was requested that the Council's security contractors were reminded** to enforce the guidance. Cllr Greenaway suggested that the amount of signage at the Market Place could be increased to remind visitors.

6. Update from Abingdon Coronavirus Response group

Cllr Greenaway updated the committee on the decisions made at the meeting of the Response Group held the previous week. The Response Group were planning on winding down support with effect from 12th April, in line with the Government's roadmap (step 2). Cllr Foulsham thanked the Response Group for all their hard work during the pandemic.

7. AOB

The group considered how the Council could formally recognise the town's volunteers who have provided a much-needed service during the pandemic. Cllr Birks stated that he is already drafting a shortlist for consideration for a Mayor's award, as part of the annual award giving process. The group agreed that, although there is no limit to the number of Mayor's awards which can be given each year, alternative awards such as a Mayor's certificate could perhaps be presented to a larger number of volunteers, with Mayor's awards being limited to volunteer group "leaders". Cllr Birks will be discussing the format for issuing awards with Council staff and the Leader of the Council.

→ Cllr Birks requested that Members should email him the names of volunteers they wish to be considered for an award.

The group discussed the frequency of meetings. It was proposed by Cllr Foulsham, seconded by Cllr Oates, and agreed that, going forward, meetings would be held every four weeks.

8. Next meeting

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 12th April 2021 – 6pm

The meeting rose at 6.25 pm