

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

Monday 23rd November 2020 – 6pm

Present

Cllr Andy Foulsham (Chair)
Cllr Gabby Barody (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Cheryl Briggs
Cllr Eric de la Harpe
Cllr Alex Greenaway
Cllr Lorraine Oates

In attendance

Louise Brown Communications, Marketing and Events Officer (CME Officer)
Nigel Warner Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Ex-officio members Cllr Charlie Birks (Mayor) and Samantha Bowring (Chair F and GP/ Leader). **Noted.**

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Notes

The Committee received and considered the notes of the meeting held on 16th November 2020.

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the meeting of the Covid Response working group held on 16th November 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Update on news from County Council and District Council

Cllr Gabby Barody provided an update on the Coronavirus support from the County Council; confirming she had spoken to Cllr Emily Smith and Cllr Helen Pighills regarding funding and how it might be dispersed but there was no news in this area. Cllr Barody would continue to monitor this and update at future meeting when an update was ready.

Cllr Andy Foulsham confirmed he had spoken to a senior officer at The Vale of White Horse District Council, Adrianna Partridge, and she had confirmed that the central government guidance had not come through until the PM of Thursday 19th November so they were still working through it and would keep Andy updated as this was done. Cllr Foulsham agreed to update the committee at future meetings when an update was ready.

5. Update from Abingdon Coronavirus Response group & AbiMeds

Cllr Alex Greenaway provided members with an update on the Abingdon Coronavirus response group; confirming that things were still quiet in terms of requests at the moment and commenting that this may be because the December Town Criers had not been delivered yet and that the Supermarkets and Pharmacies in Abingdon were set up well for delivery's now which may have reduced requests.

Cllr Greenaway confirmed that as we are entering the 3rd week of a 4-week lockdown the level of support needed from the Community group might be mercifully low and will depend on the Tier that Oxfordshire enters on 3rd December.

Members did not feel Oxfordshire was likely to be a high tier but agreed that it was good the Community group were set up well to be able to handle an uptake in requests if needed.

The Communications, Marketing and Events Officer confirmed that as part of her work with the Community groups she had sent updated publication over to Abingdon Doctor Surgeries so it was possible this would also increase the number of requests.

6. Feedback from contact with local businesses / organisations.

The Communications, Marketing and Events Officer had distributed the current responses from the Businesses and Organisations prior to the meeting.

Members considered the responses and Cllr Andy Foulsham told members he had put together a spreadsheet to work out estimated costings of providing free school meals.

Cllr Foulsham shared his screen and talked through his costings; estimating that there may be a need for approximately 120 meals and that the cost of covering school meals over the Christmas holidays would be approximately £3864. The cost of reimbursing local businesses would be approximately £1288.

As more figures were sent in from Organizations and businesses these numbers could be confirmed.

Cllr Foulsham agreed to distribute this spreadsheet to all members after the meeting.

The Town Clerk confirmed he had spoken to Sue Wiper from The Abbey Cinema who had confirmed that subject to Abingdon being in a lower tier as of December they were very keen to assist and felt they could provide for 100 people very easily.

They would be looking to recover food costs, but they would cover staffing costs.

The Town Clerk confirmed that should Abingdon fall into a higher Tier when the national lockdown ends on 2nd December then this would affect the above as Cinema staff would be coming in for this alone which would increase the financial implications and increase the risk of Covid contamination for the Cinema.

Members did not feel Abingdon was likely to fall into a higher tier and agreed to reassess once tiers were confirmed.

It was agreed that members should meet regularly with The Abbey Cinema to maintain regular planning for this.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Clerk would correspond directly with the Chair and Vice-chair to arrange a meeting with the cinema.

7. Busker in Market place

Cllr Cheryl Briggs confirmed that there were 2 separate buskers operating within Abingdon and that one was operating in the precinct which we have no authority over and was not singing which reduced the risk of spreading Covid.

The other busker was operating in the Market place and was singing. It was agreed to monitor this situation.

8. AOB

As agreed at the last meeting Cllr Lorraine Oates was continuing to try and find details of the local service offering vulnerable people transport to hospital appointments.

Cllr Lorraine Oates confirmed she had not yet managed to confirm this but would continue to pursue this and update the committee at the next meeting.

9. Next meeting

Monday 30th November – 6pm
(Group will meet every week at 6pm on a Monday).

The meeting rose at 6.30 pm.