

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

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – 6pm**

Present

Cllr Andy Foulsham (Chair)  
Cllr Lorraine Oates

In attendance

Louise Brown	Community Services and Events Officer
Susan Whipp	Deputy Town Clerk

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cheryl Briggs and Cllr Gabby Barody.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Notes**

The Committee received and considered the notes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the meeting of the Covid Response Advisory Working Group held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4. Matters Arising**

Cllr Gabby Barody had sent a request for an update on the purchase of new litter bins. Officers confirmed that a recommendation from Amenities and Recreation committee was going to the Urgency Committee on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 regarding the purchase of new bins.

Cllr Gabby Barody would also be contacting the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager regarding this topic.

**5. Update from Vale of White Horse District Council**

Cllr Andy Foulsham provided an update from the Vale of White Horse District Council confirming that there was some concern about the rise in rates of infection in the areas with the City Centre and South Oxfordshire currently being the worst affected. Cllr Foulsham confirmed that there was likely to be a big media push from The Vale of White Horse District Council to encourage

residents to get their vaccinations and requested that the Town Council echo this message in its own communication.

Cllr Foulsham confirmed that he had a meeting set up where he would be able to question the director of public health and confirmed he would provide a further update on this at the next Covid Repone Advisory Working Group meeting.

Cllr Foulsham also confirmed that the Asymptomatic testing centre at the Beacon in Wantage is shutting down now that testing kits are easily acquired online.

## 6. Update from County Council

Cllr Andy Foulsham confirmed there was no specific updates from the County Council since the previous meeting.

## 7. Covid Recovery project

At the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021, three key objectives were identified for Covid Recovery within the town.

Members discussed them as below:

**Grants:** The Community Services and Events Officer confirmed that all grant recipients from the last two years had been contacted to see if they required any financial assistance for any Covid bounce back projects. The uptake had not been high, but the organisations knew the support was available if they required it.

**Additional Benches within the Town Centre:** Members considered the report of the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager regarding his suggested locations for the benches. Officers confirmed that this report had also been taken to Amenities and Recreation Advisory Committee for noting so members had seen the suggestions.

The Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager had provided costing per benches and the total for all suggestions came to approx. £7500. Members felt this amount was too high and felt £4000 would be a more suitable amount.

The Deputy Town Clerk suggested that members agree a budget and delegate the final locations to the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager. Cllr Foulsham asked if the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager could put the suggestions into three tiers of different priorities to identify which ones could be prioritised.

*Subsequent to this meeting the Senior Management Team meeting took place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, and it was agreed that to wait for the next Covid Response Advisory Working Group would mean a further delay of a month*

*which members felt was too long. Suggested another Covid Response Advisory Working Group on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June to resolve this.*

**Engagement with Local Businesses:** The Community Services and Events officer confirmed that she had contacted Melanie Smans from The South and Vale Business group requesting information on any plans they had to support local businesses and was still awaiting a response.

## **8. AOB**

Cllr Lorraine Oates enquired how the Carbon Cutter Zero Waste event had gone and Cllr Andy Foulsham confirmed that it had largely been a very successful event; requesting that if further reusable cups were to be ordered then could they be better quality cups.

The Community Services and Events Officer reminded members that £80 had been set aside for the banner for the above event and that an invoice was required from them for this money to be issued. The Community Services and Events Officer would contact Cllr Gabby Barody about this who had been speaking directly to Carbon Cutters regarding the banner.

## **9. Next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – 6pm

*Subsequent to this meeting It has been requested by the Senior Management Team Meeting that another Covid Response Advisory Working Group be called on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June to resolve the item of new benches in the town.*

The meeting rose at 6:40 pm