

Covid Response Advisory Working Group

Monday 13 September 2021

DRAFT notes of meeting

Present:

Cllr Andy Foulsham	Chair
Cllr Gabby Barody	
Cllr Cheryl Briggs	
Cllr Eric de la Harpe	
Cllr Lorraine Oates	

In attendance:

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Alex Greenaway sent his apologies.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

3. **Notes**

The notes of the Covid Response Advisory Working Group meeting held on [16 August 2021](#) were agreed.

4. **Updates from District Council**

The Chair reported on updates from the Oxfordshire County Council Health Oversight Scrutiny Committee, which is attended by County Council, District Council and NHS representatives. The committee reported that hospitals across Oxfordshire are currently under extreme pressure with sustained, high demand. An element of the problems faced is the difficulty discharging in-patients to free up hospital beds, in part because of limited capacity in social care.

5. **Updates from County Council**

It was reported that infection rates in Oxfordshire were reducing at the end of August but they have now started to rise. Cllr Barody noted the increased strain on health services across the county.

6. **Covid bounce back projects**

The three projects agreed by the Town Council at its meeting on 28th April 2021 were considered.

a. Grants: No grant applications were received for this meeting. Members were reminded to invite local groups to apply.

b. Additional seating within the Town Centre: Verbal update at meeting. The Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Officer reported that the supply of new benches had been delayed but an update was expected soon.

c. Engagement with businesses: Cllr Foulsham reported that he had spoken to many businesses at the Abingdon Air Show and they had reported how happy they were to be working again.

Other matters

The Deputy Town Clerk / RFO noted that the Outdoor Services Team is managing its workload well. Officers were reminded that any issues with staffing due to the pandemic should be reported as soon as possible so that staff can be supported.

Cllr Briggs asked for an update on plans to allow the Yellow Submarine charity to use the Charter and how this would affect the use of the building as a vaccine centre. There was no information available but this item would be reviewed at a future meeting.

7. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting was suggested as Monday 20 September 2021 but it was noted that the group would meet again in four weeks. The next meeting would therefore be Monday 11 October 2021.

The meeting ended at 6.24pm