**From:**Communications
**Sent:**23 October 2020 10:25
**To:**Communications
**Subject:**Town and Parish Councils update - 23 October

Dear town and parish colleagues

Here’s our latest update for you, including some useful information for your Remembrance Sunday events.

**Press release on the Oxfordshire Covid alert level**

An Oxfordshire-wide press release was issued yesterday about the Covid alert level in our county. You can read the press release on our website [here](https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/uncategorised/oxfordshire-close-to-high-covid-19-alert-level/).

**Remembrance Sunday events**If you’re preparing for your Remembrance Sunday events this year, the government has provided some really useful information on how you can hold events in a way that reduces risks associated with Covid-19. [Here’s the information](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday).

 **Important update for businesses**The next revaluation of business rates in England and Wales is coming up in 2023. The Valuation Office Agency is writing to businesses to request rental information to support this work.

Once ratepayers receive a letter they need to go online and submit their up-to-date details.

Please signpost businesses in your towns and parishes to the [government’s information page](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/providing-rental-information-for-revaluation-2023).

**Extra-large garden waste collections**Brown bin customers can put twice as much garden waste out for collection during our extra garden waste week next month.

During these weeks, customers can put out an extra brown bins’ worth of garden waste on their normal garden waste collection day in the week commencing 9 November– that’s three bin bags worth of extra garden waste.

We cannot however accept rubble or trade waste bags. [More info here.](https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/)

**More bin info…**And now it’s time for our annual reminder that residents can put their Halloween pumpkins out for food waste recycling in the week beginning 2 November. They can be put inside or next to the food waste caddy – with the candles removed!

Of course, reusing pumpkins beats recycling them, so we’re encouraging residents to only put them out if they cannot use them for cooking.

**Covid-safe Halloween**The government has provided a wide range of posters, information and material to help the public celebrate Halloween and stay safe from Covid-19 – from suggestions of alternative celebrations, to handy hints and tips on how to stay safe with more traditional activities.

If anybody in your areas are concerned, please share the relevant information the government has provided, which you can [download here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-ddeC2lyg2uHueFvz8-agcuWUORAu8Bo).

Finally, if anybody feels unsafe this Halloween for any reason, the advice is to call 101.