Latest update from Cllr Simon Howell

Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

Vale of White Horse District Council 05.11.2020

At 00:01 on Thursday 5th November, England entered into a 4-week lockdown. If any changes are made, we will let you know as soon as we can.  Below you will find National, County and District information.

Thank you to everyone for their amazing efforts so far, we know the next four weeks are going to be very tough for so many and we are here to help.

The [new restrictions](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#businesses-and-venues), in place from 2 November to 2 December mean:

* You must work from home if you can
* You should not socialise with people who are not from your household, indoors.
* You may only meet with one person from another household and must stay outdoors
* All non-essential shops to close, but may offer click and collect or delivery services.
* Food stores, supermarkets and pharmacies will stay open
* Hospitality businesses to close, but may offer take-away, deliveries or click and collect
* Gyms, leisure centres and leisure venues like cinemas and museums to close
* Schools, colleges and universities remain open

Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> - including Job Retention Scheme, full restrictions, transport and school's guidance.

**Community Hub details**

The District Council is re-launching the Community Hub to the public in the next couple of days, but please do get the message out as far and wide as you can now – we can’t push this message enough. If people are in urgent need of support during the lockdown they should contact the Community Hub on 01235 422600 or email [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk).

There’s more info at:

* [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/covid19](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/covid19)

And don’t forget to point businesses to our South and Vale Business Support websites at [svbs.co.uk](http://www.svbs.co.uk/).

**Leisure centre update**

To comply with the new lockdown, leisure centres will be temporarily closed from 5 November.  GLL will contact their leisure members with further information in due course but they will not be charged during the lockdown period.

**COVID-19 Councillor Grants**

There are various grants available, in the first instance contact the community hub above.  Locally, Elaine and I have a small fund available for local grants, so please if other sources not available contact us for any local need.

**Remembrance Sunday**

Please find the link to the latest information on preparations for Remembrance Sunday - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday>

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|  | [Local authority preparations for Remembrance Sunday - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday)  This note sets out how Remembrance Sunday activities can take place in line with current COVID-19 restrictions and requirements in England. From 5 November, there are new national restrictions in ...  [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) |

**OCC Updates:**

**Household waste and registration services remain open and limited library service**

Libraries in Oxfordshire will close when the national four-week lockdown begins on Thursday 5 November but household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) and registration services will continue to operate.

Despite closing on 5 November, Oxfordshire County Council’s library service will continue to offer an array of online resources at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries) and residents will still be able to benefit from the home library service. The county council is also investigating the possibility of a click and collect service in some libraries in addition to limited access to public network PCs.

All decisions have been made in line with government guidance.

Residents will still be able to register births and give notice at registry offices and register deaths over the phone in Oxfordshire. Weddings civil partnerships and citizenship ceremonies will be paused.

The HWRC at Redbridge in Oxford was already scheduled to close 9 - 30 November for essential structural repair work.

**Help for vulnerable people**

In Oxfordshire (please see below for Oxford City). Help is available on 01865 897820 or email [shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk). The service is open 8.30am - 5pm Monday – Thursday, 8.30am - 4pm on Fridays, closed Saturday - Sunday and bank holidays.

Help for vulnerable people is available in Oxford City on 01865 249811 or by visiting [oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance). The service is open  8am - 5pm.

**News on other council services**

* The Oxfordshire Comet bus service is with immediate effect only providing transport for essential journeys for shopping once a week or for medical appointments for individuals that have pre-booked.  All group bookings and timetabled services are suspended.
* The Oxfordshire History Centre in Cowley, Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock and Museum Resource Centre in Standlake will close.
* Oxfordshire Music Service’s Centre for Music will close to students, but online lessons will continue.  Lessons in schools will continue.

**Useful Websites -**

If you have found any which have been useful for yourselves, please let me know and I will include them going forward for others.

<https://www.oxfordshireallin.org/>

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stopthespread](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stopthespread)

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>  
  
<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/coronavirus-community-support>

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19>  
  
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/c19/coronavirus-covid-19/>

As ever, any questions please don’t hesitate to get in touch and Elaine and I will do what we can.

With best wishes, and stay safe

Cllr Simon Howell

Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward

Vale of White Horse District Council

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For more detailed information about how I will look after your personal data please [click on this link](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/councillors-committees-meetings-and-agendas/councillors-privacy-)