

Councillors

During the month since I sent a report prior to the intended February meeting I have had considerable correspondence concerning the following items which has involved corresponding with officers and portfolio holders and lead members as well as residents and parish councillors

1) Broadband and mobile phone coverage difficulties

This makes life even more difficult for those working at home whether employees the self employed or for education purposes . Broadband is the most quoted problem of local residents and I repeatedly challenge officers portfolio holders and our MP for improvement

2 Speeding motorists ,

3) Planning development matters and delays in validating and consideration of planning application

4) Processing grant applications including those related to village halls in the Ward

5) Highways particularly with road surfaces and drainage and around Crooked Lane and Goodens Hill

6) Buses. You will be pleased to know that Councillor Ray Bryan has stated that he recognises the importance of buses and that the provision of good bus services encourages people to make less journeys by car and to fight climate change in accordance with Dorset Council recognising there is a climate emergency

A few further points:

Latest advice as of 5 March 2021 is that Household recycling centres are once again straining under increased visitor numbers Dorset Council is encouraging residents not to use Housing recycling centres right now unless waste can not safely be stored at home

Here is a link on my Dorset Councillor website to the Dorset Council 2021/2022 budget: www.simonchristopher.info

A few weeks ago the Government outlined that some Covid restrictions will be lifted starting with the announcement of changes on coincidentally 8 March 2021

Further pupils and students in all schools and further education can return to face to face education with testing measures in place

People are able to spend time in outdoor public space with one other person for recreation purposes or of course your household or support bubble

Wraparound childcare can reopen such as breakfast and after school clubs

Indoor visits to care homes start again for a single named visitor

Public Health Update

Latest information for the 7 day period to 5 March showed a Dorset Case rate of 51.3 per 100,000 a reduction from the previous week figure of 77.7 . There were 13 Covid related deaths in the County of Dorset in the week to 5 March 2021

The message from Public Health Dorset is that though there has been a continued fall in local COVID case rates , hospitalisation and deaths over the past week thanks to the hard work of local people following the rules the situation can change quickly

We should remain vigilant and look to drive transmission rates down either further by following advice

The Dorset Local Plan consultation continues

Best regards

Simon

Councillor Simon Christopher

Dorset Councillor for The Marshwood Vale Ward

<https://www.simonchristopher.info/>