

District Council Report for Sellindge Parish Council 25 January 2021

Covid Vaccinations We're delighted that two buildings owned by your District Council are to be used for vaccinations. The car park at Civic Centre in Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone is now a drive through vaccination centre and Folca (the former Debenhams building in Sandgate Road, Folkestone) opens tomorrow as a main centre. Lydd airport is also being used for vaccinations. These centres are in addition to Oaklands Health Centre in Hythe which will continue to administer vaccinations. The Musgrove Park Medical Centre in Ashford is dealing with vaccinations for those registered with the Sellindge Surgery.

Please do not turn up on site or ring the sites as you may hamper the vaccination effort. You will not get a vaccination without an invitation. For more information about vaccinations, see kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/covid19vaccine

Ideas are being invited for the work programme of the District Council's Scrutiny Committee. There's some guidance on the website about what can and can't be covered and you can ask for a form to submit your topic at committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk.

The District Council has been distributing grants and loans to businesses from the funding we've been allocated by the Government to deal with the impact of lockdown. The turnaround on getting grants to eligible businesses has been remarkably swift and it's well worth checking if your business can be helped. The Government has also allocated our district £75,000 to help individuals who are facing hardship. This funding has been going out since before Christmas with the council working with local organisations, including Citizens Advice, food banks and the community support hubs, to contact those most in need, to help them pay utility bills or buy food. If you wish to apply or nominate someone then you can do so via the website or through one of us.

We are proud of the way our staff have continued to keep services going despite illness and bereavement. Many of them had no break over Christmas as they were dealing with both the disruption caused by the closure of the border by France and the aftermath of litter left by the delayed HGV drivers. We'd also like to thank the volunteers who have helped with the clear up and those who offered to help provide food and drink to the stranded drivers (an offer that couldn't be accepted because of the Covid precautions).

We thought you would also be interested to learn that in the first full week of operation, the specialist contractors working for KCC clamped 192 illegally parked HGVs with many more given verbal warnings to move at the end of their permitted 45-minute break period. It's hoped these numbers will fall as word spreads about the new enforcement powers.

Please continue to follow the letter and the spirit of the Government guidelines to help reduce the spread of Covid as we wait for the vaccine to protect us all.

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee your district councillors