

District Councillors' Reports to the Parish Council: 28 October 2020

Dist Cllr M Whitham reported:

Covid Crisis

In view of the second wave community Libraries had been closed and staff had been re-deployed to deal with urgent priorities in relation to the Covid crisis. Two of the staff at Shevington Library had been re-deployed locally and were working in the library, which would be acting as the base for the local hub.

Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles staff were contacting all 'strength and balance' class members to update them with the position. Members of different groups that met in Shevington Library were keeping in touch with each other even though they were not meeting formally.

The local community hub had been set up to support people in the area who needed it. A great deal of gratitude was owed to all volunteers in the area – many unknown and unseen – who had helped people earlier during the pandemic and had continued to provide support. Because of all the networks in operation the hub had not yet experienced an increase in calls.

The Chapel Lane Testing Centre had been re-opened to handle testing of key workers in the Borough. Infection rates and case numbers in the north of the Borough were high. Because of this the Regulation Team were concentrating their efforts on inspecting establishments this area.

Using the Brighter Borough scheme the District Councillors had been able to help the Youth Club and the Methodist Church to re-open for some groups by providing grant funding. They had also provided financial support to enable a Guide group that had closed a few years ago to re-open.

Dist Cllr J Brown reported:

Crossing Patrol in Church Lane

Traffic control measures had been introduced in Church Lane to prevent double parking, which was causing blockages at peak times and preventing people crossing the road from seeing on-coming traffic. The situation was often made increasingly dangerous for pedestrians because the crossing patrol was regularly being re-assigned. This had happened again recently.

The Headteacher at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School had been approached recently and was asked if she would be willing to organise walking bubbles for pupils at the school. This would involve parents leaving their cars parked in streets further away from the school and walking their children from the parking spot to the school in the morning and then doing the reverse at the end of the school day. The Head had replied that at present she was doing her best under very challenging circumstances to try to keep the school just ticking over, but she might consider it in the future. It had subsequently been suggested that such a scheme could be rolled out throughout Shevington.
