

















## WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – JANUARY 2021

Not a lot has happened council wise since my December Report as the Council has a break over Christmas. However, staff continued to be busy with flooding issues and supporting the Covid-19 Social Distancing measures in our towns and providing support to individuals across the county.

The major news is that Shropshire, like everywhere else in England, has been put up a tier and we now sit in Tier 3. This may have seemed slightly unfair as our figures showed that Shropshire had the lowest figures in the West Midlands by some margin, but I can assure you that our figures over Christmas have risen significantly so perhaps Tier 3 is where we should be. Guidance as to what you can and can't do in Tier 3 are below.

The vaccine continues to be rolled out to the over 80s and frontline workers. I think we would all like it to be happening faster and we are keeping up the pressure on the NHS/CCGs to encourage a faster roll out. Please see the item further down as to how you can help with the vaccination programme.

### CHANGE OF TIER - CORONAVIRUS: SHROPSHIRE NOW IN TIER 3 (VERY HIGH ALERT)

<b>MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY</b>  <p>No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).</p>	<b>BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS</b>  <p>Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.</p>	<b>RETAIL</b>  <p>Open.</p>	<b>WORK AND BUSINESS</b>  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
<b>EDUCATION</b>  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	<b>INDOOR LEISURE</b>  <p>Open. Group activities and classes should not take place.</p>	<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>  <p>Closed (with limited exceptions)</p>	<b>PERSONAL CARE</b>  <p>Open.</p>
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>  <p>We advise against overnight stays other than with household or support bubble.</p>	<b>WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS</b>  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.</p>	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>  <p>Indoor venues closed.</p>	<b>PLACES OF WORSHIP</b>  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
<b>TRAVELLING</b>  <p>Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply. Reduce the number of journeys where possible. Plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble.</p>	<b>EXERCISE</b>  <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with your household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	<b>RESIDENTIAL CARE</b>  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	<b>LARGE EVENTS</b>  <p>Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.</p>

The above poster can be found by visiting

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/944215/COVID-19\\_Tier\\_Posters\\_16\\_December\\_2020\\_Very\\_High.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/944215/COVID-19_Tier_Posters_16_December_2020_Very_High.pdf)

For local advice and support during the pandemic (especially if you are self-isolating), call Shropshire Council's COVID-19 Helpline on 0345 678 9028 (lines open on the weekend on Saturday from 9am-4pm and Sunday 9am-12pm) or visit the Council website at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirusAGED](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirusAGED) .

### **CHANGE TO ISOLATION LENGTH FOR COVID-19**

From Monday 14 December 2020, anyone required to self-isolate, due to contact with someone who has had a positive test for COVID-19, will need to do so for 10 days instead of 14.

People who return from countries which are not on the travel corridor list should also self-isolate for 10 days instead of 14 days.

People who test positive should continue to self-isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms, or 10 days from point of taking a positive test if asymptomatic.

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

People across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin are being urged to 'be a part of history' – by applying for roles in the county's COVID-19 Vaccination Service.

### **The COVID-19 Vaccination Service is recruiting**

Hubs are already up and running in Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth, with more due to be set up in other areas of the county in the next few weeks.

Vaccination represents the country's best hope of a return to more normal life, and work is under way to roll out the vaccine as quickly as possible – starting with the over 80s, care home staff and vulnerable NHS staff.

Hubs are currently being staffed by healthcare workers from providers across the region who have been temporarily seconded from their regular roles to get the service up and running.

But a dedicated workforce is being recruited in order to staff the hubs and make sure other important services are not adversely impacted.

There are opportunities for current and retired healthcare professionals, but also for non-clinical staff in a range of administrative, reception and other front-of-house roles.

Volunteers will also be needed to support the vaccination service as it develops, and a volunteer recruitment process is currently being developed, working closely with the voluntary and community sector. Once it is ready, it will be promoted widely so that individuals with time to help, and organisations with existing volunteers, will be able to register their interest.

Anyone interested can find further information on how to apply by visiting [www.rjah.nhs.uk/vaccine](http://www.rjah.nhs.uk/vaccine).

Please do get in touch, no matter where you live, as the chances are that there will be vacancies close to you at some point in the near future.

## TREecycle YOUR REAL CHRISTMAS TREE

Now Christmas is over don't forget that you can recycle your real Christmas tree

- Remove all your lights and decorations
- Place by the side of your green bin if under 5 foot
- If your tree is over 5 feet tall please cut into sections and put in your green bin

Veolia (our waste collection and disposal contractor) will be making a donation to the Midlands Air Ambulance from Christmas trees recycled this year.



Last year Veolia donated £5,000 to Shrewsbury Ark. Thank you to residents across Shropshire who recycled their real Christmas trees.

### **But I have an artificial tree!**

If you have an artificial tree, box it up and save it for next year. If it's seen better days and you would like to get rid of it you can dispose of it at your nearest recycling centre. Click the link below to find your nearest one.

## LOCAL MATTERS

Ever hopeful that some of the outstanding maintenance issues will have been undertaken but my hopes will, no doubt, be dashed when we meet.

Stay safe,

*Lezley Picton*

Shropshire Councillor for the Tern Division