

WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

WINTER SUPPORT SERVICE

A Winter Support Service has been launched to help vulnerable, and potentially vulnerable, Shropshire residents during the winter months.

Commissioned by Shropshire Council in partnership with health colleagues, the Winter Support Service will support people to avoid a health and care crisis situation over the winter period and will connect them to a range of support.

The service will be delivered by the Wellbeing and Independence Partnership, Shropshire (WIPS), and will be an enhancement of the current wellbeing and independence service they offer which is also commissioned by the council. WIPS consists of five voluntary and community organisations:

- Age UK Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
- Shropshire Rural Community Charity
- Royal Voluntary Service
- Oswestry Community Action (QUBE)
- Mayfair Community Centre, Church Stretton.

The Winter Support Service will offer assessment and ongoing support to people identified as needing help, including:

- Shopping and delivery
- Connecting people to local support groups (eg hot meal deliveries)
- Collecting and delivering medications
- Telephone companionship for isolated or lonely people
- Wellbeing home visits and follow-up support.

The service doesn't offer a crisis response, a supported hospital discharge service or personal care; but it will ensure that people get the support that they need through appropriate referrals and signposting.

The free winter service will run until 31 March 2021 and will then revert back to the all-year-round WIPS services.

How to contact and refer into the Winter Support Service

Any Shropshire resident who feels they could benefit from the service should contact Shropshire Council on 0345 678 9028 for more details and to be referred.

Referrals

Primary care, Shropshire Council and partners will begin to refer those who have been in contact with them, into the service this week.

Referrals and enquires about this service can progressed by calling Shropshire Council on 0345 678 9028.

Link workers will discuss the referral with the person being referred (and if necessary the referrer) and put in place a Winter Support Plan. The link worker will liaise with partner organisations and/or other groups required, to provide the right support.

CORONAVIRUS: SHROPSHIRE IN TIER 2 (HIGH ALERT

New restrictions in Shropshire came into force on Wednesday 2 December 2020 as the county moved into the Tier 2 (High) local COVID alert.

Despite consistent reductions in the number of positive cases, Shropshire's current 7-day infection rate is still 127.5 per 100,000 of the population as at time of writing.

Under Tier 2 restrictions, people must not meet socially with friends and family indoors in any setting – including homes, pubs and restaurants – unless they live with them or have formed a support bubble with them.

The new local alert Level 2 restrictions for Shropshire will mean:

- People must not socialise indoors with anyone who is not part of their household or support bubble, whether at home or in a public space.
- People can meet family and friends not in their household or support bubble in outdoor settings. When they do so, they must not meet in a group of more than six people.
- You should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible.
- Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants, and can only serve alcohol with a substantial meal.
- Hospitality businesses and venues selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through.
- Shops, personal care, gyms and the wider leisure sector will reopen.
- Schools, colleges, universities and places of worship will remain open.
- Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees.
- Public attendance at outdoor and indoor events (performances and shows) and spectator sport and business events, is permitted, limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors.
- Organised grassroots sport will be able to resume.

The Government has also announced that up to three households will be able to form bubbles to meet up during a five-day Christmas period of 23 December to 27 December. When a bubble is formed it is fixed and must not be changed or extended further at any point.

Each Christmas bubble can meet at home, at a place of worship or an outdoor public place. The bubbles will be fixed, so you will not be able to mix with two households on Christmas Day and two different ones on Boxing Day. Households you are in a Christmas bubble with can't be in others.

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 .

Aged 50 – 64 Make sure you take up the offer of a free Flu Vaccine



The flu vaccination is being offered to people aged 50 to 64 this year because this is the age that hospitalisations from Covid-19 starts to increase. It is important that this group do not get flu as well.

The flu vaccination is available from GP Practices and pharmacies. For more information about the flu vaccine and Covid-19 please visit: nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/who-should-have-flu-vaccine/

Shropshire residents urged to 'Think Local' this Christmas and help give economy £4 million boost



Shropshire residents are being urged to 'think local' to give the county's economy a £4 million pre-Christmas boost.

After a difficult year for the county's businesses, Shropshire Council has launched a campaign to encourage people to 'Think. Shop. Buy Local' in the run up to Christmas.

Research shows that if every adult in Shropshire spent £3.80 a week in local shops rather than with international retailers online, it would boost the county's economy by £1 million a week, or nearly £4 million before Christmas.

The campaign will ask people to 'think local' when doing their Christmas shopping, and also promote and highlight – via a www.shropshire.gov.uk/thinklocal and through social media – some of the special activities and promotions the county's towns are putting on in the run up to Christmas.

For more information about the Think. Shop. Buy Local promotion, visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/thinklocal.

Support available for Shropshire families struggling this winter

Shropshire has been awarded more than £841,000 under the Government's COVID Winter Grant scheme to ensure children and their families don't go hungry this winter.

The scheme is set to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic throughout the winter period.

A large portion of the money will go towards providing free school meals over the Christmas, February half term and the Easter holidays. This will be arranged via schools and nurseries.

The funding will also provide extra support to families – with or without children – up until 31 March 2021, if they are in hardship and struggling with their food and utility bills.

Families and individuals who are struggling and would like to access help and support can contact the council's Welfare Support Team on **0345 678 9028**.

Local Matters

In case the news hasn't reached you Draft Local Plan goes to Cabinet on 7th December for a Regulation 19 Consultation. There has been no change to the Open Countryside status for Withington Parish.

There has been some movement on the The Rea application for the broiler sheds. Ecology have finally entered their findings and the reports have been entered onto the website. It seems that they require a lot more information from the applicants however at present, they are recommending refusal.

I am ever hopeful that by the time of our next meeting the road signs may have been attended to and the bollards replaced. I chased it up and was told it has been programmed but couldn't push them for a date.



All that remains is for me to wish you a Jolly (careful!) Merry Christmas and my very best wishes to you and your families for 2021, it surely must be an improvement on this year!

Stay safe,

Lezley Picton

Shropshire Councillor for the Tern Division