

**REPORT TO FARINGDON DIVISION (Buckland with Gainfield, Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings, Faringdon, Gt Coxwell, Littleworth with Tubney and Little Coxwell) –February-March 2020**

For information, all that is detailed within my monthly reports is already within the public domain and thus in the media. My monthly report is a document of varied information which will be of interest both to locally elected Parish Councillors and to the residents and rate payers of my Division. The report provides both a local news update and a wider picture of the strategic work that Oxfordshire County Council undertakes and thus involves me both as your local County Councillor and as Deputy Leader for the County Council. Much of the strategic work will have implications locally and thus is “useful” for the local town and parish councillors.

This report is a resume of all the work that is being undertaken at County Hall this last month which I have been involved in either directly or indirectly as your local member.

This month due to the present situation I have decided to format my monthly report slightly differently - we all need to take care and follow the latest Government advice and I should like to thank you all for stepping forward to volunteer within your communities. Staff at the County Council are working flat out, we cannot simply close down as so much of the work we do is service driven for the residents in Oxfordshire equally we are unable to ask everybody to work from home. We support and protect Oxfordshire's residents particularly the vulnerable. We are prioritising our work and where possible staff and councillors are working from home. There are some areas that will see an increase in demand at a time when some of our staff will become ill with the virus. There will be some changes as we have to prioritise our work to key areas. I am having virtual meetings, updates and 1:1's with officers very regularly

The work in Social Care for both adult and children has to continue on a 24/7 basis protecting around 7,000 residents and we expect this number of people requiring care to increase as informal carers become ill and are unable to continue care. This work is vital as it is so important we keep as many people as possible out of hospital.

The County is working closely with the NHS to provide care and facilities for those patients that do not require acute care to be cared for away from hospitals or at home freeing up beds for those that most need them. This includes the group that we need to shield from the virus who are thought to be most at risk across the county.

The Government are shielding the extremely vulnerable approx. 1.5 million across the country and full details can be found on the website: [Extremely vulnerable](#). Currently those people identified by the NHS as extremely vulnerable will be contacted by the NHS by letter, email, text or all 3 to say that they need to isolate themselves at home for the next 12 weeks. They will be asked if they have any help to collect prescriptions and food, this may be supplied by one of the local volunteer groups that have been set up. If folk do not have any help then they contact the council who will arrange a contact which again may come from one of the local groups. As you will see from the document these are certain groups within the population but there may be others that need help such as those in self-isolation which is where all the volunteers will help. If somebody thinks they should be on the list and haven't been contacted by Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, then they should contact their GP or hospital clinician.

To assist in the logistics across the country there are Local Resilience Forums, we are in the Thames Valley based around the Police authority area. These are where the blue light services link in with the NHS and local authorities to consider the high-level strategy. These then delegate down to the County to work with the Districts to coordinate the local hubs. The Government have seconded military planners to assist in the hubs which is where all the local community groups come in to the local networks. This is about all working together to ensure that we do not duplicate provision or even worse miss a vulnerable resident

The organic growth of the community networks or hubs that are being set up is fantastic. These groups are providing some excellent services to local residents who are self-isolating or do not

have relatives locally. It's important that they are community led but we need to avoid duplication, so the County Council and Districts are working with Oxfordshire Volunteers to list them all and provide support where needed.

If you are approached by people wishing to volunteer, they can register at:  
<https://oxonvolunteers.org/vk/volunteers/index.htm>

This is a very fast-moving situation so please use the [OCC](#), [NHS](#) and [Government](#) websites for the latest information.

Please take care of yourselves and I will also share with you additionally information/news as it occurs.

My usual surgeries are suspended during the current epidemic, but, if you wish to contact me my phone number is 01367 241468 and my email is [Judith.heathcoat@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Judith.heathcoat@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Judy

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