

# **REPORT TO ROTHERFIELD GREYS PARISH COUNCIL**

## **NOV 2020 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW**

### **GENERAL OCC REPORT**

#### **NEW NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS FROM 5 NOVEMBER**

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister has announced a four-week national lockdown for England, with strict new measures coming into force from Thursday. The move comes in the wake of rapidly rising infection levels across the country and a significant rise in hospital admissions. The lockdown measures are designed to stem the spread of the virus, prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed, and save lives. From 5 November, people will be told to stay at home unless they have a specific reason to leave, such as education, childcare, and work which cannot be done from home. Pubs, restaurants, and non-essential shops and businesses will have to close, although hospitality venues can continue to provide takeaway and delivery services. Schools, colleges, universities and early years settings can remain open. People must not meet socially indoors or in a private garden with family or friends who are not part of their household or support bubble. People are also being asked to avoid travelling in or out of their local area and to reduce the number of journeys they make. For full details see [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) OCC is working rapidly to identify how the new measures will affect service delivery and what action is required. Contingency plans are in place across all services.

#### **OCC CHALLENGES GOVERNMENT PLANNING**

Residents in Oxfordshire are being assured that national changes to planning laws that could reduce local democratic input on key decisions are being challenged by local councillors. OCC Cabinet members have written a response to government to reflect their concerns over future planning policy as set out by in a recent high-profile consultation.

#### **PARENTS URGED TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN VACCINATED AGAINST FLU**

Parents in Oxfordshire are being urged to have their young children vaccinated against the flu this winter. Children aged two and three can have a free, quick and painless nasal spray vaccine at their GP surgery. In addition, children in primary school and those in year seven can have the nasal spray vaccine via the school nurse service. Ansaf Asaf, Director of Public Health at Oxfordshire County Council said: "It's more important than ever that everybody eligible gets a free flu vaccination this winter. Young children don't have to get an injection, and instead can get a quick, painless nasal spray. By ensuring that young children get their vaccinations, we can also help to protect our older and more vulnerable friends and family members by reducing the risk of transmission."

#### **FLU VACCINATION ELIGIBILITY**

The full list of those who are eligible for a free flu vaccine on the NHS is below:

- People aged 65 years and over
- Patients aged from six months to 65 years in clinical 'at risk' groups (see below)
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 2 and 3
- Children in primary school and Year 7
- People in long-stay residential care homes
- Social care and hospice workers who provide direct patient contact
- Health and social care staff working in residential/nursing homes
- Patients on the NHS shielded patient list
- Household contacts of carers and those on the NHS shielded patient list

## **SPECIFIC REPORT FOR ROTHERFIELD GREYS**

### **HENLEY HGV BAN**

Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak, Henley's representative at OCC, is campaigning for an HGV ban in Henley. I have much sympathy with his objectives but my concern is that HGVs will simply be deflected along the B481 if this occurs. When the Bix duals were being resurfaced a few years ago and HGVs were unable to use them, the increase in HGV traffic along the B481 impacted on parishes along the road. Councillor Gawrysiak has acknowledged this concern and has asked to speak to parish councils in advance of putting forward any OCC motion on the topic. He is giving a virtual presentation on Wednesday and I will report back afterwards.

### **FMS UPDATE ON ROAD SURFACE FROM HIGHLANDS FARM TO SAGE LODGE**

During the hot weather the underlying bitumen bled through in places and the road was sanded. Small areas of repair are required although only very limited depth of surface. OCC plans to undertake repairs with a 6mm stone before the end of the year.

### **VILLAGE GATES**

I understand location, installation, costs and invoicing arrangements have been finalised.