

Report to: Town Council
Report on: Operational Update
Report from: Chief Officer
Date: 21st April 2020



Comms/Social Media

We have added and publicised, on the Town Council website, information from central government on Covid-19 information page. This page aims to keep residents accurately informed with easy to use links and information relating to the coronavirus pandemic.

To engage with the community on a more personal level, letters from the Mayor are being published on a weekly basis and shared on social media platforms. We have received lots of positive comments from residents and its proving to be a positive form of virtual contact.

The majority of our Facebook and Instagram content has been sharing posts from both national and local sources such as Northamptonshire Police, NCC, DDC, Various Support Groups, and other organisations operating in Daventry providing information, support or access to services during Covid-19. We continue to monitor, seek, and share useful information to ensure residents have up-to-date information and an awareness of services that could prove useful to themselves and others.

We are currently promoting the local support line #NorthantsTogether and are working with the District Council in relation to delivering support to those who need it.

Welton Road Cemetery.

The gates are now open 24 hours, 7 days a week to allow residents to continue to visit loved ones and the following notice has been issued to Funeral Directors in relation to social distancing and government guidelines:

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Attendance to Burials

Following the latest advice from the UK Government, Daventry Town Council has put in place measures to ensure that the cemetery at Welton Road can remain open to the public and continue to provide burials taking into account guidelines issued by the Government for social distancing.

In order to meet these requirements Daventry Town Council has made the decision to permit immediate family members, up to a maximum of 10 mourners, to attend funerals.

These guidelines have been put in place to protect the health of everyone, but it still remains a priority to offer a sympathetic service and Daventry Town Council will make every attempt to accommodate the bereaved families wishes.

Market

Although Daventry Market is currently suspended our traders John Thorne & Sons (Butchers), Elliotts of Leicester Fruit and Veg and the market florist are selling their goods online and delivering (as per government guidelines) to the Daventry Area. This has been a positive result following the closure of the market and has greatly assisted the promotion of the Markets Facebook page as it continues to receive excellent reviews and recommendations. Since its launch in February it is proving a good tool to reach potential customers and more importantly vulnerable residents who could benefit from delivery services.

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Allotments

Our Allotments are flourishing, as tenants use their time to exercise to cultivate their allotments and prepare for bumper harvests. The Council has issued the following rules to ensure measures have been put in place to ensure everyone complies with

Important Notice to All DTC Allotment Holders Relating to COVID-19

The current government direction recognises that allotments provide both mental and physical benefits and therefore can remain open, but EVERYONE MUST comply with the following conditions:

- Any allotment holder in receipt of direction to isolate for 12 weeks must follow this instruction and not go to the allotments – stay at home.
- No more than two persons (from the same household) are allowed per plot.
- All allotment holders must observe social distancing (2-3 metres).
- Use hand sanitiser or wear gloves when opening and closing gates.
- Do not wash your hands in the water troughs.

As per the announcement from Central Government on 23rd March 2020, if EVERYONE follows these rules, we can continue to enjoy this freedom of movement.

PLEASE NOTE: IF THE RULES ARE NOT FOLLOWED, DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL WILL BE FORCED TO CLOSE THE ALLOTMENTS AT SHORT NOTICE.

Please understand the seriousness of the situation, this is a time to work together and follow the rules to protect our NHS, ourselves and save lives.

Events

As all our planned spring events have been cancelled it is understandably very quiet at present on this front. However, we are brainstorming ideas for an online/virtual event in time for the VE 75th Anniversary on Friday 8th May (all national events have been cancelled and it is hope that VE day will be celebrated in conjunction with VJ day on 14-16 August 2020). Work is being done to create a 'Celebrate Daventry' event online to get as many residents involved as possible to promote a positivity and encourage community spirit.

Bunting has been installed and has received positive feedback on social media.

Museum

The museum been very busy taking the museum experience online and launched a virtual tour of the museum, plus a virtual treasure hunt of historic Daventry buildings as a fun and free activity for kids and parents alike to participate in.

Museum volunteers are in regular contact with the office and they continue to hold their weekly meetings online.

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Finance

The purchase of 3 New Street is progressing. Approval has been received for the Town Council to for the loan, legal work is progressing in relation to the conveyance.

The Accounts for the Year Ending March 2020 have been finalised and work the office is working on the supporting documentation that will need to be submitted alongside the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn. The Internal Auditor appointed by NCALC is currently in the process of reviewing the Council's information on the website and the Annual Accounting Statement that forms part of the AGAR. Due to current Public Health England guidelines of social distancing, instead of the usual review that would be concluded with a face to face meeting, this stage will be completed by email, telephone or a virtual meeting, and is expected to take place early May. The office will be working towards the original deadline for the submission of AGAR, however an extension to the deadline has been granted to 31st August 2020 should this prove to be unachievable

Planning

A virtual meeting was held with the planning representatives for the proposed development of 1100 houses on site H01 to establish the possibility of the public open spaces being managed by the Town Council. We are awaiting more detail from the developers landscape consultants to prepare a full report to Council on this matter.

PSCO

PSCO Mia is currently very active dispersing groups of people who are not adhering to the social distancing rules. She has also been making regular visits to the allotment sites, to help us enforce our rules that protect the welfare of allotment holders.