

Lezley Picton
Shropshire Councillor for the Tern Division

17th March 2020

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents,

My what troubling times we find ourselves in. First the flooding and now Covid-19. The effects and repercussions of the Covid-19 Virus are already being experienced by individuals, families and business across our area and no doubt will be with us for some weeks before the situation improves.

The official advice changes daily and can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> I can't stress enough how important it is to keep up to date with what is happening and what is being recommended.

It is a worrying time and information on maintaining your wellbeing during the crisis can be found at <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

Shropshire council also have an information page which can be found at <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

Up to Date information is received by Shropshire Council from Central Government and the Council publishes it accordingly. I would suggest that you sign up (if you are not signed up already) to the updates from the council's newsroom, <https://shropshire.gov.uk/> The Subscribe button is in the top right corner.

I know that not all residents have access to the internet, so if anyone wants to speak to me, my details are below, and I would be more than happy to update you on the information on these websites. Likewise, I would ask all members of the community to do the same for those who might not be able to easily access the information.

The community spirit across our parishes is already coming to the fore and it is likely that we are all going to have to support elderly and vulnerable members of our communities be they family or neighbours. I have seen several offers of help and assistance on various social media platforms and the number of "help" groups that are being set up is heart-warming to say the least. It is at times like these when we need to be actively checking on each other especially the more elderly, vulnerable or those living on their own, making sure we do not put ourselves at risk by taking the necessary precautions. Sadly, we also must be mindful of those individuals who seek to gain from situations such as these and I am already aware of a number of scams. Please be vigilant and double check the validity of people offering assistance on social media. It is always worth checking with others in the community if you are in any doubt.

Shropshire Council continues to follow the national guidance that has been made available. Measures are being put in place to ensure that the councils' statutory duties will be fulfilled, around social care and supporting our most vulnerable adults and young people. You will have seen today that the Council is also closing a number of its public facilities. The Council is expecting to be placed under significant pressures as the national situation changes and I ask that you bear with us regarding any delays to non-essential services which might occur. If you have any specific issues, as ever, please get in touch and I will follow up.

I know we have wonderful communities and at times like this we will all pull together. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any help or support from the local authority or from myself as an individual member of the community.

Stay safe, kind regards,

Lezley Picton

Shropshire Councillor for the Tern Division (Including the Parishes of Astley, Bicton, Bomere Heath, Uffington, Upton Magna and Withington)

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