

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update Thursday 6th May 2021, our thirty-seventh Update

Barton Vaccination Clinic: Thanks are expressed to those who have recently contacted Mandy in order to join the team of volunteers at the Barton Vaccination Clinic. However, there is still scope for yet more volunteers over the next few months. Barton has already delivered way over 10,000 jabs!

Message from organiser Sue Holden: 'I would like to emphasize the importance of the volunteer role when running these clinics because it really does enable the surgery to get far more people through the door when the outside signposting and car parking operation is the responsibility of someone else.' For further information and to join the team and volunteer for a two-hour slot on a Friday that suits you, contact Mandy on: mandy@bartoncommunityassociation.com

Barton Leisure Centre: The gym is now open 8-00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m., with prior booking being essential. The pool is also open, but currently only for adults, booking essential; before long it will be open for families. The indoor group activity classes will resume on 17 May subject to final confirmation by the government, with the programme being released shortly. An announcement about swimming classes is awaited.

POLLING DAY TODAY: Oxford City Council is ensuring that Covid-safe measures will be in place for polling stations. This means:

- mandatory face covering when attending the polling station unless medically exempt
- polling staff wearing face masks and a Perspex sneeze screen installed in front of them
- stewards on hand at the polling station to offer advice
- hand sanitiser provided
- signage within the polling station; there may be a one-way system in place
- polling station staff will not handle poll cards
- sanitised pencil available for those who don't bring their own.
- polling staff will sanitise the issuing desks, polling booths, ballot box lids and other touch points
- limit on the number of people allowed in the polling station at any one time. This means there may be a queue for a very short while.

COVID Cases Update: Good news continues! Latest figures show further downward movement in cases in the city (down from 32/100k to 24/100k) and at county level (22.1/100k to 20.4/100k) with figures stable for the over-60s.

Council meetings to return to the Town Hall: Herein further evidence of progress combatting the pandemic. The High Court has ruled that from 7 May Council meetings must take place in person. As a consequence, once the remote meetings regulations expire on 6 May it will no longer be lawful to hold remote meetings, or hybrid meetings. Planning is already well underway to hold physical meetings in the Town Hall again from the Annual Council meeting on 19 May onwards.

Access to Headington, Old Rd: There is evidence of exploratory work in progress with a view to creating the often-discussed off-road cycle track in a westerly direction on Old Rd, along the section with the double kerb, the hill and bend. To date no details are available, but we are monitoring the situation, with particular regard to the green screen of elderly hedge and woodland.

From Thames Valley Police and Action Fraud: Warning of yet another scam, pretending to be a helpful security message from a bank. This one purports to be from HSBC, and attempts to trick victims into parting with their bank details. It reads: *HSBC: A payment was attempted from a NEW DEVICE on [Date]. If this was NOT you, please visit.....https://xxxx access-remove-payeexxxx*. The message then asks the recipient to click on a link, requesting the victim's bank login details. If you receive a suspicious text like this please do not click on it.

Amazon/ i-phone scam: Some landlines are receiving calls theoretically from Amazon about the delivery of their new i-phone, for which their account has been debited by an amount over £1000. Then comes the alarming message to press a key 'if this was not you'. On no account press any key! If in doubt visit your account in the usual way.

OxClean Litterpick, 12 June: Save the Date! HRA will be joining the OxClean Litterpick on Saturday 12 June, meeting at 10 a.m. by the Notice Board on All Saints' Rd. Further information in due course. NB OxClean Litterpick will be run on three Saturdays, of which HRA has chosen to take part on the last of the three as the other dates fall on weekends around half-term.

Wildlife Survey of Highfield: What an excellent time of year for enjoying the natural world! Please help us compile our map of sightings of birds, animals, butterflies, plants etc by emailing your sightings to Olivia Goodrich via hracttee@gmail.com, with the subject line Wildlife Survey, stating what you have seen, your road and house number if the sighting took place in your garden, or mentioning the location if elsewhere. At intervals Olivia will forward a list of sightings to our webmaster who will plot them on a map of Highfield. See the Wildlife Sightings map on the HRA website at: <https://highfieldresidents.weebly.com/wildlife-sightings.html>

Oxford Civic Society's Free Webinars:

Saturday 15 May 10.00-12.15: **Planning for our Future: How to ensure good growth in our city and county.**

Saturday 15 May 1.15-3.40: **Transport and Travel**, with a focus on the proposed Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP).

Saturday 22 May 10.00-12.15: **Homes and Settlements:** this session will examine the current needs and aspirations for new homes and settlements across the county in the wider regional and national context,

Saturday 22 May 1.15-3.40pm: **Climate Change: The Path to Net Zero:** This session will look at how Oxfordshire can 'meet or beat' the national 2050 target, and at how planning for Net Zero can help overcome the challenges we face.

To attend either session or both on **Saturday 15 May**, please register [here](#)

To attend either session or both on **Saturday 22 May**, please register [here](#)

About Update: Update was created to meet a need for information in the early stages of the pandemic. As previously mentioned, circulation would, and has, become less frequent as we return to near-normality, until it ceases all together. The situation will be kept under review. This edition might even be the last!

Oxfordshire County Council Interactive Covid-19 Dashboard: See the facts at:

https://phdashboard.oxfordshire.gov.uk/?utm_source=YourOxfordshire&utm_campaign=41e26f4a48-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_02_26_11_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_206c6fb447-41e26f4a48-408038548

Headington News website: <http://www.headington.org.uk/news/items/coronavirus.html>

HRA Addresses:

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HRA Planning: hra.oxford.planning@gmail.com

HRA Webmaster: hra.website@gmail.com

HRA Website: <https://highfieldresidents.weebly.com>

HRA Covid-19 Support Group: hra-covid19-support@googlegroups.com

Useful contacts for people seeking information or help outside the HRA area:

Local data on Covid-19 <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19/controlling-local-coronavirus-outbreaks/stopping-spread>

Oxford Hub: <https://www.oxfordhub.org/>

The City Council provides a single point of contact for people to ask for help they may need as a result of Covid-19: oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance or 01865 249 811 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Disclaimer: The information we give in each edition is, as far as we can tell, correct at the time of circulation but be aware that it can change.