

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update Thursday 14 January 2021, our twenty-ninth Update

Thames Valley Alert about Vaccine Scams: Action Fraud has received reports from members of the public who have been sent text messages claiming to be from the NHS, offering them the opportunity to sign up for coronavirus vaccinations. The texts ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases the online form has looked very similar to the real NHS website.

Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, said: *"The vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free of charge. The NHS will never ask you for details about your bank account or to pay for the vaccine. If you receive an email, text message or phone call purporting to be from the NHS and you are asked to provide financial details, this is a scam."*

The NHS will never:

- ask for your bank account or card details
- ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ask for documentation to prove your identity, such as a passport or utility bills

If you receive a call that you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726, which is free of charge.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk or Tel. 0300 123 2040

Plans to re-develop the Co-op site on London Rd: If you feel strongly about keeping the Co-op and Post Office, please sign the petition and encourage others to do likewise.

Petition to: Cantay Estates Ltd **Keep Our Post Office and Co-op Shop in Headington**



"We want to ensure that the Cantay Estates Ltd:

- Keep to their promise of providing a Post Office and Co-op Shop in Headington
- To ensure that the Post Office and Co-op Staff Jobs are safe
- That the Post Office and Co-op Shop are guaranteed to continue trade on a 'long term lease.'

For details see:

https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/keep-our-post-office-and-co-op-shop-in-headington?share=e81f27a9-954e-45ab-897d-e4a51066a190&source=email-share-utton&utm_medium=socialshare&utm_source=email

Have you ever had a Contactless Payment turned down? Shoppers making contactless card payments are being affected by new security rules that block transactions after they have made five tap-and-go payments in a row. Customers trying to pay this way are finding that their cards are being declined – despite having adequate funds in the bank and an up-to-date card.

But what many do not realise – and many shop staff are not aware of either – is that when a message saying 'card declined' flashes up, chip and PIN payments will be accepted instead. From now on it will be more common for people to be asked to use chip and PIN. This is because of new industry-wide rules introduced this month designed to stamp out fraud, known as 'strong customer authentication.'

Looking ahead to better times and travel: Have you hitherto travelled in Europe with a (free) European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)? This is the card that gave us the right to access 'necessary healthcare' from state services during a temporary stay in a European Union country on the same terms as patients from that country.

Until our EHICs expire, we can continue using them post-Brexit in the same way as before. However, once they expire they cannot now be renewed; we need to apply for a (free) Global Health Insurance card (GHIC). Every member of the party requires one.

Entitlement to a UK GHIC is not based on nationality, or on National Insurance contributions or UK taxes, but on residence.

NB1 GHIC and the old EHIC do not work in Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland.

NB 2 Students planning to study in the EU need to apply for a GHIC that is limited to the length of their course.

NB 3 Non-British and non-Irish nationals will need to provide evidence that they are eligible.

NB 4 Beware of unofficial sites that may demand a fee for supplying a GHIC.

NB 5 Remember that the EHIC and GHIC may not cover all medical expenses, and correspondingly that your holiday travel insurance may decline to cover you if you have no EHIC/ GHIC.

For further details: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

HRA Covid-19 Support Group: hra-covid19-support@googlegroups.com is available to help those living within the HRA boundaries (HRA members and non-members alike) when they need urgent assistance due to Covid or for other urgent reasons.

Oxford Together Community Support: People not living within the HRA boundaries may wish to contact Oxford Together which connects local people to help one another with simple practical tasks. The Oxford Together online form at [Oxford Together](#) enables people to request assistance, and also to volunteer to help others.

Farmoor Reservoir, run by Thames Water: Please note that the reservoir, popular with anglers, water sports enthusiasts, ornithologists and walkers is closed to the public until further notice. No reason has been given: presumably there is concern about non-compliance with social distancing.

For latest information on COVID-19 from each university:

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/alerts/coronavirus/> and <https://www.ox.ac.uk/coronavirus>

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

HRA Addresses:

HRA Admin: hracttee@gmail.com

HRA Chair: hrachair@gmail.com

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 each week is, as far as we can tell, correct at the time of circulation but be aware that it can change. NB As previously mentioned, Update is being circulated less frequently, until it ceases all together.