

# HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update Thursday 18 February 2021, our thirty-first Update

**Public Consultation on Proposed Institute for Global Health on Old Road Campus: NB The consultation starts today, with a closing date of 4 March.\*** Some local residents have today received a hard-copy notice of this online consultation to develop another plot on the ORC.

The new Institute will bring together the University's Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health and the Nuffield Department of Population Health. The Centre for Tropical Medicine is currently located in the temporary building occupying the area to the north of the Innovation Building.

Outline planning permission was granted in 2013 for five new plots on the Old Road Campus. The Institute for Global Health will be situated on Plot B1 on the Northern boundary of the campus, sitting inside the planting which forms the boundary with Old Road to the north and Mileway Gardens to the west.

The building will provide approximately 4,500m<sup>2</sup> of space set over three floors, with a partial basement. The top floor will house plant and some research accommodation with the remaining floors being used for offices, research and teaching space. Vehicular access to the building will be via Roosevelt Drive, with parking already provided for in the recently completed Innovation Building. Preliminary design proposals have been prepared.

Due to the current coronavirus distancing restrictions the public consultation will be delivered online and runs from 18 February 2021 to 4 March 2021.\* The consultation information and online feedback survey can be found at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/building-our-future/news>  
An alternative link that you might find simpler is: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/building-our-future/news/2021-02-18-virtual-public-consultation-institute-global-health>

See our website for details and maps. To raise specific queries or to request a paper copy of the consultation information, readers should contact Savills at [oxfordplanning@savills.com](mailto:oxfordplanning@savills.com)

***\* April 4 is also given as the deadline for comments and questionnaires, but I have not as yet received a reply to my email seeking clarification. Assume March 4.***

**Postal vote promoted as the Covid-safe way to cast votes:** The Government has confirmed an extra £31m. funding to make local elections Covid-safe this year. Tom Hayes, deputy leader of Oxford City Council and a Labour councillor said; 'You won't just be doing your civic duty by voting, you will also be doing your civic duty by voting safely and in a way that limits the spread of Coronavirus.' Meanwhile, Conservative County Council leader Ian Hudspeth said: 'We are encouraging everyone to use postal votes because that is the safest way to vote.'  
To apply for a postal vote go to: [gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote](https://gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote)

**Championing the Climate Cause:** October 2020 saw the drawing-up of [Climate Action Framework 2020](#), setting out the guiding principles that the County Council will follow in order to turn Oxfordshire into a zero-carbon county by 2050. This includes an initiative with Oxfordshire Greentech (OG) as its local authority innovation partner. Business network OG was set up in 2019 to bring together a wide range of commercial interests, academia and other organisations to encourage innovation, collaboration and knowledge transfer as a response to the climate emergency.

**Electric scooters:** February has seen the start of a 12-month trial with 50 e-scooters (=electrically-powered scooters) on the streets and designated cycle paths in the Headington area, with likely extension to the whole of Oxford after the 12 months. The e-scooters, that can travel at up to 15 m.p.h., can be hired for short journeys with an app and must be ridden by only one person at a time (yes, those couples having fun, riding together on an e-scooter are illegal). E-scooter riders have to be aged over 17 and hold a UK driving licence. The council has had full Department for Transport authority to conduct the trial with Swedish e-scooter firm Voi Technology.

**OxClean 2021:** OxClean, the annual weekend of litter-picking, usually held at the beginning of March, has been postponed until further information has been received about permitted outdoor and group activities. Chair Natasha Robinson commented that the need for people to take part has never been greater: 'The amount of rubbish is dreadful at the moment', she said, suggesting that individuals might like to undertake to gather up litter when out for a walk, and recycle what was recyclable. However on no account should anyone touch discarded masks or other health-related waste. Lockdown restrictions mean that the Council is unable to lend out equipment, but volunteers might consider buying their own litter pickers.

**Take a virtual tour:** Now for a bit of light relief. The usual tours of the Ardley Energy Recovery Facility cannot be run at the moment, so instead Viridor has produced a short video. It is available on its [website](#) and on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaYCWaRMad0&feature=youtu.be>. If you have a spare 20 minutes, and want to know what happens to Oxfordshire's residual waste, then follow the Community Talk Link and enjoy!

**Scotia Gas Networks (SGN) has produced some educational activities:** useful extra materials for lockdown/ half-term? 'Children will learn all about gas, including where it comes from and why we need it in our homes. SGN's free resources are packed full of cool facts, gas safety tips and fun puzzles.' You will find SGN's education materials at: <https://bit.ly/3eYp1aA>

**Thames Valley Police and Action Fraud write: 'We're warning the public to be vigilant of unsolicited emails promoting cryptocurrency (Bitcoin) investment opportunities.** We've received over 750 reports this week about Bitcoin-related phishing emails that use fake celebrity endorsements to try and lure victims into investment scams. The links lead to fraudulent websites that are designed to steal your money, as well as personal and financial information.'

#### **How you can protect yourself:**

- **Investment opportunities:** Don't be rushed into making an investment. Remember, legitimate organisations will never pressure you into making a transaction on the spot.
- **Seek advice first:** Speak with a trusted friend or family member, and seek independent professional advice before making significant financial decisions.
- **FCA register:** Use the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) register to check if the company is regulated by the FCA. If you deal with a firm (or individual) that isn't regulated, you may not be covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) if things go wrong and you lose your money.
- **For more information** about how to invest safely, visit: <https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart>
- **Report suspicious emails:** If you receive an email which you're not quite sure about, report it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service by forwarding it to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

**For 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](mailto:hracttee@gmail.com)

HRA Chair:

[hrachair@gmail.com](mailto:hrachair@gmail.com)

HRA Planning:

[hra.oxford.planning@gmail.com](mailto:hra.oxford.planning@gmail.com)

HRA Webmaster:

[hra.website@gmail.com](mailto:hra.website@gmail.com)

HRA Website:

<https://highfieldresidents.weebly.com>

HRA Covid-19 Support Group:

[hra-covid19-support@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](https://oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance) or 01865 249811 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.