

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update: Thursday 24 September 2020, our nineteenth Update

Oxford University Hospitals Annual Public Meeting: Monday 28 September 6.30-7.30. Due to the current situation, the meeting will take place online. You can register to attend the event at <https://ouahpm2020.eventbrite.co.uk>. A link to join the meeting will then be sent to you.

Covid-19 and collaboration across organisations: The two universities, the City and County Councils, police and residents' associations have been working together with a view to managing the health and wellbeing of students, staff and the local community, while also protecting the benefits that students bring to Oxford's economy.

With Oxford Brookes University students already back, and Oxford University freshers due to arrive on 4 October, ahead of the arrival of ongoing students on 9 October, increasing concern has been expressed about the transmission of Covid-19. Brookes has already taken decisive action against students who fail to act in accordance with the law and with the revised student conduct regulations. Since students arrived, Brookes has issued around 150 fixed penalties for breaches within halls of residence, and has accelerated the process for student conduct hearings for students who have been repeat offenders. Brookes is continuing to work closely with the police and council, both of whom are conducting dedicated patrols within the city to ensure compliance with the 'Rule of Six'. If residents have any concerns, they should contact the Community Engagement Team by clicking on this link: [online form](#).

Virtual Event at the Town Hall re Covid-19 Safety Arrangements as Students Return:

This event, to be streamed live (click on this link) [City Council's YouTube channel](#) on Monday 28 September (6.00-7.30 p.m.), can be watched with no sign-up required. It will be chaired by Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader of Oxford City Council, and will enable members of the public to hear from senior staff of both Universities, representatives of the Student Unions, of City and County Councils and Thames Valley Police. Speakers will briefly outline key issues and the measures being taken by their organisations. This will be followed by a 60-minute Q&A session when a selection of pre-submitted questions from the public will be put to the panel, and further questions will be invited from those logged in live.

Submission of questions: Pre-submission of a question requires residents to state their postcode, going to: studentsreturn@oxford.gov.uk

A selection of these questions will be put to the speakers, making sure the most popular themes and issues are covered, thereby making the best use of the Q&A session.

Residents wishing to ask a question live to the panel must have access to Zoom, and are asked to submit their question as part of the registration process using this link: [please register for the City Council's Eventbrite page](#).

For names of speakers and further details of the event see: HRA website or https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/1547/councils_universities_police_students_unions_hold_online_event_for_residents_to_explain_covid_safety_arrangements_as_students_return

Warning about E-scooters: E-scooter usage has increased in Oxford. Some of us have almost been mown down by them in various parts of Headington, and there has been considerable debate about their legality. Thames Valley Police informs us that if you own an e-scooter you can only ride it on private land, i.e. a garden or a field, with the landowner's permission. Privately-owned e-scooters cannot be used on public roads or pavements as they need to be insured, taxed and registered with the DVLA, just like cars. BUT, you can't register, tax or insure an e-scooter. Anyone riding their own e-scooter on public land, could get a £300 fine, 6 points on their driving licence and the scooter can be seized. Even if they don't have a driving licence, points can be added once they have passed their driving test. Since new drivers are only allowed to receive 6 points on their licence in the first 2 years after passing, they could lose their driving licence.

Now for the great anomaly: e-scooters from approved schemes can legally be used on roads. In July 2020, rental e-scooters were made legal on English roads for a 12-month trial while the government reviews the legislation. (Currently Oxford has no approved e-scooter rental company.)

Mislaid a copy of HRA Update? Fear not, help is at hand. Just go to the HRA website where you will find recent Updates and Newsletters, and the archive of older editions.

Free Electric Blanket Checks in Oxfordshire: Is your electric blanket safe? Reminder: there is still time to book and take advantage of this free check.

FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OXFORDSHIRE
Make sure your blanket is safe to use this winter.

Things change **FREE**

- but your safety is most important to us.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will test your blanket, but you will not be able to visit the test venue.

We will collect your blanket from your house, take it to be tested and then return it to your house (we will post you a plastic bag and label prior to our collection).

Testing in Oxfordshire in OCTOBER 2020

Monday 5 – Friday 9 and
Monday 19 – Friday 23

BOOKING INFORMATION:
To book your collection call **01865 895999 Option 1**
Or email: **communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk**

Recycle week: 21-27 September: Recycling policy changes over time and by area. For general policy in Oxfordshire, see Waste Wizard: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling>

For details on plastics, on what can be recycled in your blue bin or lilac sack, what can be recycled at recycling centres, and what plastics simply cannot be recycled anywhere, see:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/oxfordshire-recycles/types-plastic>

The Great Sunflower Initiative: Inspired by the New Headington Residents' Association's initiative, residents were invited to plant, nourish and cherish sunflowers. To date only one resident has notified us of his tallest specimen (2.65m). We await news of other champion sunflowers at hreactee@gmail.com

Some Recent Changes in Headington:

AGN: in the former Post Office, offers Butchery (halal) and Grocery, Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Bhoomi Kitchen: Restaurant now open for Indian BBQ and South Indian plates. Takeaway service available. Closed on Mondays. Adjacent to Kwik Fit. Tel. 01865 762696

Breckon & Breckon: has moved from the north side of London Rd to just opposite, on the south.

Phonemax: replaces The Garden, and offers a wide range of phones, phone accessories, masks, and operates a repair service to phones and laptops, but not desk top computers.

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

HRA Addresses:	Chair: hrachair@gmail.com
	Admin: hreactee@gmail.com
	HRA website: https://highfieldresidents.weebly.com/
	HRA Covid-19 Support Group: hra-covid19-support@googlegroups.com

Useful contacts for people seeking help outside the HRA area:

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

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

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