

## 200608 Cranborne & Alderholt Ward Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council

Once again Corona Virus is a major topic for the Council. Dorset had been one of the least affected areas in the Country, with an R rate of well under 1, and relatively few deaths. Indeed, the South West region has had the lowest number of infections across the Country.

However, there has been a lot of overcrowding on beaches in the region, with particular issues on the Dorset Jurassic Coast, and on BCP beaches. You will have all seen the appalling pictures from Durdle Door, where the arrival of helicopter air ambulances to remove the casualties from the idiotic tombstoning off the top of the arch blew dust and particles – including any viruses present among a tightly packed crowd. Currently the R Rate in Dorset has risen to 1.

The Council has taken action in conjunction with local landowners to restrict the number of cars that can park around the Lulworth beaches, and beach marshals will be used to discourage people from overcrowding.

The Council has also announced that businesses that were previously not eligible for the Government's earlier COVID related financial support schemes are being invited to apply for Business Support through the Discretionary Fund Grant. Applications must be in by 14<sup>th</sup> June. These are grants not loans and do not have to be repaid.

Please see:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/business-and-employers/pdfs/dorset-discretionary-business-grant-policy.pdf>

for full details.

There will be an Extraordinary Full Council meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> June to provide dispensation to those Councillors who are unable to attend Council and Committee meetings in person or via technology from disqualification under the usual 6 month rule.

I have been in touch with Dorset Council officers, Simon Hoare as our MP and John Wittingdale who is the Minister for Media and Data at the DCMS regarding an unanticipated problem that seems to be being caused by GDPR. Many Volunteer groups are not getting details of vulnerable and shielded people from the central authorities who hold the relevant data. This is said to be because the data is classed as "special data" and under GDPR should not be released. My view, which is shared by a number of Dorset Councillors, is that whilst under normal circumstances this is a good thing – it may lead to great harm to these people if local groups are not made aware of their existence. The responses from the Council, Simon, and the Minister have been positive, and the Minister has said that there are provisions in the Data Protection Act that would allow exceptions in such cases and that the ICO will be flexible in looking at such cases. I hope that information will now start to flow a little more freely.