

200914 Cranborne & Alderholt Ward Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council

Local Plan News

Essentially no news – the Options Consultation which was due this month has now been delayed until the New Year.

However:

- We have been told that Development should be in those areas where there will be a reduced need to travel to work.
- That towns will act as hubs for their hinterland.
- It will be important to minimise climate change – which means reducing distances travelled, to reduce energy use.
- It will be driven by sustainable economic growth and improved infrastructure.
- It will propose suitable housing - affordable housing to meet needs of Dorset.

Despite delays in the Options Consultation, Spring 2023 is still the estimate for Local Plan to be in Place.

Covid-19 Local Outbreak Position

A “Local Outbreak” will be declared if the 7-Day count of new cases rises above 7 per 100,000 – which would entail some Local Lockdown

Time period	BCP Council	Dorset Council	South West	England
22 - 28 Aug 20	5.3	2.7	6.5	12.8
15 - 21 Aug 20	4.3	3.2	6.7	11.3
8 - 14 Aug 20	4.0	3.2	4.9	12.2
5 - 11 Aug 20	2.5	2.9	5	7.8
24 - 30 Jul 20	1.8	1.3	4.5	9

Cases Per100,000 as at 03/09/2020 – Sourced from:

<https://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/your-health/protecting-your-health/latest-updates-on-covid-19-in-dorset.aspx>

Whilst Dorset has one of the lowest rates of infection per 100,000 there has been an increase from July, but figures in Dorset remained fairly steady during August – though BCP has seen an increase.

Care Homes are at the highest risk nationally and locally. There are a small number of care homes with positive COVID cases in the county. These are being monitored closely and are all currently under control – Residents are tested every 28 Days, and Staff every 7 days. Whilst this regime has uncovered the occasional case there is no evidence of anything greater. The current assessment is that due to the low number of cases and transmission in the area, there is no reason why care home visits in Dorset cannot take place, providing [national guidance](#) and risk assessments are adhered to.

Should a Local Outbreak be declared then the Local Outbreak Engagement Board will be convened. This board consists of a subset of members of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and can convene and act rapidly.

Councillors' News

At the recent Full Council Meeting Councillors voted against a recommendation from the independent remuneration Committee to award themselves a £500 per annum increase in Allowance – this amendment was passed with a significant majority as most Councillors agreed that in a time of national employment crisis this would be an unwelcome and insensitive step.

The Leader of the Council has appointed six “Lead Members” to assist Portfolio Holders in carrying out their duties. These Lead Member will receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £10,000 per annum. This was despite an amendment being moved by the opposition parties to make this a net zero impact cost on the Council.

On a personal note, as well as retaining my seat on both the Eastern Area Planning Committee, and the Strategic Planning Committee, I have been appointed on to the new Place & Resources Scrutiny Committee.