

Report of Alan Storah to Little Bardfield Parish Council

30th June 2020

This is not a typical monthly report because of the exceptional circumstances in which we all find ourselves. So, what follows is a brief item which would, in any event, have been included on this agenda followed by an update on various covid-related issues from UDC which you may – or may not – have already seen and which may – or may not – be relevant to you. You may find snippets interesting and/or useful.

Paul's Farm

The local concerns with regard to the alleged importation and depositing of waste on land at Paul's Farm, its treatment and subsequent removal from the site has been an on-going issue since last year. Feelings are running high as evidenced by the heavy email correspondence and frustration expressed by several local residents to the relevant agencies, between themselves and to me directly. My intention is therefore to present an oral report at the meeting in order to update those present as to what I have been able to both ascertain and undertake.

Covid-related issues

Plans to change guidance for those shielding

From Monday 6 July, shielding guidance for millions of clinically extremely vulnerable people in England will change. The guidance is available @ https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-ease-guidance-for-over-2-million-shielding?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Back to Business Essex

Businesses can access 12 hours of direct support and advice via an Essex County Council business support service aimed at helping the county get 'Back to Business'.

Working with business advice agency Let's Do Business Group, Essex businesses can access fully funded support to help them survive or recover from the impact of Covid-19, improve, change or expand, or to help them consider their options for the future and develop a longer-term business strategy.

Get advice and support including:

- Finance and risk
- Customer interaction, target markets and marketing
- Supply chain management
- Staffing and recruitment
- Workplace Operations

Businesses interested in the free advice and support available can contact the team via the website or by calling the dedicated 'Back to Business' phone line 0800 970 8981

Digital advice for small businesses and charities

Digital Boost (which offers free digital advice, provided by expert volunteers, for small businesses and charities impacted by coronavirus) has announced the launch of [@digitalboost_uk](https://www.digitalboost.org.uk) – a free platform uniting small businesses and charities with digital experts. Visit https://www.digitalboost.org.uk/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery for more information.

Update guidance on getting back to work safely

The government has updated its guidance to help employers, employees and the self-employed understand how to work safely during the coronavirus pandemic. The eight guides cover a range of different types of work. Read the full guidance at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Shop local, shop safe

We are supporting our high street shops in Uttlesford as they begin to reopen from today by working with local business groups, town and parish councils and other partners to create a safe shopping experience in the district.

Over the next couple of weeks, visitors may start to see some physical changes in the town centres such as floor markings and signage on how to shop safely.

Please support our retailers by shopping local and safely – maintain social distancing at all times and follow the signage that is in place to protect you and others.

Advice for shoppers – how to stay safe while out shopping, where to park and getting further updates as new businesses open up

Advice for businesses – which businesses can open, when you can open and how to work safely.

Here to help

Five ways Uttlesford Citizens Advice can support you during the coronavirus pandemic:

- **Telephone advice** – Advice on benefit entitlements, money worries, employment rights, housing concerns or relationship challenges
- **Help to claim** – Help to claim Universal Credit including support to overcome any technical barriers to making your claim
- **Disability benefits** – Help to complete disability benefit forms and advice on appeals
- **Access to local support** – Foodbank referrals, access to emergency funds and information about other local support services
- **Listening Line** – for a friendly ear or chat if you are feeling worried, overwhelmed or just want to vent! Call 01799 618841 or email chat@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk

Staff and volunteers are available Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Call 01799 618840 or email bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk.

Local partnership highlighted in list of national digital leaders

The Essex + Herts Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ), a cross-border, cross-sector partnership to promote digital services across west Essex and eastern Hertfordshire, has been selected as one of the country's top 100 Digital Leaders, in the Cross-Sector Digital Collaboration of the Year category.

The final placings and category winners will now be decided by a public vote which runs until 14 August. Anybody can vote and the winners will be announced in October.

The DIZ is made up partners representing local government, health, education, community and voluntary service and the private sector, and covers the districts of Broxbourne, East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford.

Activities for young people

Essex Youth Service is running online activities for young people aged 13-19 years, or up to 25 with additional needs (they'll also be doing some activities for younger people) via Zoom.

Each session will last approximately 30 minutes and you can apply to join for as many sessions as you like.

Active at Home

The 'Active at Home' booklet provides practical guidance to older adults on home-based activities to maintain their strength and balance during the coronavirus outbreak. It is part of the Sport England Join the Movement campaign and includes inspiration and trusted

sources of information on how to get active in and around the home.

See the 'Active at Home booklet' at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18KN0qyhWQqcxrWy630MRtIPeo-Udc7c0/view>

'Listening Line'

For a friendly ear or regular chat, whether you are feeling worried, overwhelmed or you just want to vent! Call 01799 618841 or email chat@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk.

A volunteer will call you back, and it can also be arranged for you to receive a regular call to check how you are doing if you would like to. This is a non-advice line, but we can point you in the right direction if you need further advice and support.

Useful links

Suppliers to the council. UDC's Procurement and Tenders procedures are available @ https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/procurementandtenders?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

The government has made a full range of business support measures available to UK businesses and employees. These include:

The Skills Toolkit – free digital and numeracy courses to help build skills, progress in work and boost job prospects. Visit @

https://theskillstoolkit.campaign.gov.uk/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Business support finder – find coronavirus financial support for your business. Visit @

https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

For health professionals, businesses, schools and other organisations on GOV.UK. Visit @

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

For food businesses on GOV.UK. Visit @

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-food-businesses/guidance-for-food-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>