

MTC Full Council 16.2.21

Report No 1 MTC Actions in response to Covid 19 Lockdown 3

1. Due to the Government announcements on the 4th January, and the subsequent guidance **the following is the Councils operational status;**
 - **Full Council and Council Committees continue** as planned via a virtual platform.
 - The **Office is staffed** by the Deputy Clerk for general enquiries., or another officer as scheduled via the Estates Officer. NB All Town Hall access is communicated and managed via the Estates Officer to ensure appropriate risk management is applied to the overall access and usage.
 - **Admin and TIC staff are remote working** and supporting Council services and activities as needed, in particular communications with residents, information updates.
 - **TIC** itself is closed.
 - **Parks** are open, the **Outdoor gym** is closed.
 - The **Town Hall** remains **open for the NHS Blood Service** as required (last on the Town Hall on 9.2.21), and all other **bookings are suspended.**
 - The **Cinema** is closed until April (to be reviewed).
 - **Jackdaws Café** is open for takeaways.
 - The **Town Hall toilets** are closed to the public, with some discretionary access for key workers. The **Cross Hayes toilet are open** and opening times have been reduced to close at 4.30pm until March when the lighter evenings return to help mitigate the risk of vandalism , as advised by HiTec whose experience suggests this happens in the 'darker hours'
 - The **Cemetery** is functioning.
 - **St Aldhlems and the Cemetery toilets** are closed due to vandalism; both to be reviewed by the TH&F and Burial Committee.
 - **Bins** are being emptied as usual and the ground staff continue to maintain the open spaces.
 - The monitoring of the **High Street scheme continues**, in particular the care of the plants in the planters which falls to Malmesbury Town Council.
 - The **cleaning regime continues** as needed to a high standard in the Town Hall.
 - Staff are mitigating the balance of their time by taking annual leave owed before year end, where appropriate.

2. The '**live' projects and works** that continue are;
 - Progressing the CCTV tendering process.
 - The finalisation the Lodge tenancy which is due for occupation on the 26th February.
 - Any servicing works to the Town Hall or plant and equipment.
 - Repair works to the Cloister Gardens is underway and planned to be completed by the end of February.

- Remedial and development works to the Chapel continue as planned subject to contractor availability. Repair works are planned to the damaged chapel windows.
- 3. Any **spare capacity remains on 'stand-by'** should a specific back office response be needed in support of the community need as a consequence of the current Lockdown, but the need for this has not yet presented.
- 4. Some **negotiated parking** has been secured with Places for People at the Activity Zone and Waitrose until the end of February, in support of those centrally located residents who would normally work out of town, and are currently reliant on the Marker Cross car park to park their vehicle. The Waitrose offer, limited to x15 places is administered via the TIC on a needs led /first come first served basis. NB Wiltshire Council has made no dispensation on charges for Lockdown 3 as in the first Lockdown period when charges were waived.
- 5. Specifically, the **High Street arrangements** that are in situ in response to Covid 19 will **need a timely review (suggest before May)**, in anticipation of the Covid 19 situation changing as a result of relaxed government restrictions. Wiltshire Council will seek to ascertain a local view from the Council as before, and it is recommended the Council consider the issues involved in readiness for any change to the scheme or new arrangements.
- 6. Notably in relation to the **High Street arrangements**, a Council view will be sought by Wiltshire Council on;
 - a. The **pedestrian space needed for social distancing** when shopping, and the **planters**, and their re-position and use if or when they are no longer needed in the High Street. Assistance will be required to move these if required, and Wiltshire Council' chosen highways contractors have the mechanical capability to do this; so, it would be prudent to request this assistance at the right juncture in any negotiations with Wiltshire Council pertaining to removing them from the High Street.
 - b. The **parking restrictions** (duration, and capacity), **and loading bays** that are temporarily in force will need reviewing as to their relevance in support of driver and contractor access to the retailers in the High Street. This includes the provision for **disabled parking**.

Richard Spencer-Williams – Town Clerk

Link

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>