

## **SODC Councillors report Thame Town Council 19 May 2020**

The Offices at Milton Park remain closed and all staff are working from home. Feedback from staff is that this is working well. This position will continue for some time but is continually being reviewed as the Government advice changes.

Recent changes include new guidance to staff to explain the current position on site visits. Site visits can go ahead provided:

- they are essential,
- social distancing measures can be maintained
- and the relevant officer is comfortable doing so.

Any visits going ahead will be risk assessed to ensure they can be carried out safely.

### **Cabinet Changes**

Cllr Leigh Rawlins has moved to Finance with Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson taking his Planning post.

Cllr Simpson will now lead on the Local Plan.

### **Business Support grants**

Business Support Grants which came in in March 2020 are still being processed although the vast majority have now been paid. The eligibility criteria are determined by Government with no discretion for SODC.

Where there are issues over payment then it is often because of variance in details from the Business Rate data and that on the application form.

If a business still has grant issues please ask them to contact one of us and we will try to get it resolved.

### **Discretionary business grants**

You won't be surprised to hear that we're already being contacted by some businesses about applying for the new government discretionary grants. However, until we receive the detailed guidance needed from government to launch our application process, we cannot accept any applications.

Once we receive the guidance, we will need time to review it and create an online application process based on the prescribed eligibility criteria. This may take a little time initially but will ultimately mean a much quicker process for determining applications and releasing funding to successful applicants.

In the meantime, please let businesses know that we'll notify them once we have had the guidance needed through our business support newsletter, which they can sign up

for at svbs.co.uk. Until then, there is no value in businesses sending in early applications.

Latest: Information just received says payments will start at the beginning of June..

## Recycling Collections

Recycling/Waste Collection services are continuing as near normal as possible now that staffing issues have been resolved. The collection of small electrical and textiles alongside recycling bins has restarted.

## Housing register

The weekly update will resume from 20 May.

## Contacting SODC

We ask that if you need to contact SODC on any matter, that you use the generic e-mail addresses below and not to try individuals' names as they will be at home and may not have their normal contact

