



NEWSLETTER 24th FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Parishioner

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – ENGLAND’S FOUR STEP LOCKDOWN EXIT PLAN

With vaccinations in the UK now rapidly approaching the 20 million mark and infection rates falling, the target for vaccinating all over-50s, who have accounted for 98% of Covid deaths, has been brought forward to April 15th with every person over 18 now expected to have been offered a jab by the end of July. Against the backdrop of this greatly encouraging trend, Monday 22nd February witnessed the Government’s announcement of the 4 step roadmap for the end of lockdown. There will be a minimum of five weeks between each stage and further progression will be subject to four conditions being met at each stage, i.e. the rate of progress of the vaccination roll-out, a reduction in the number of deaths from the virus or in those needing hospital treatment, no surge in hospital admission rates and no increase in the risk of lifting restrictions posed by any coronavirus variants. As the Prime Minister said, decisions made at each stage will be led by data and not dates.

The main features of the 4 steps are as follows: -

STEP 1 from 8th March

All students return to schools
Two people can meet in an outside space for a chat, not just for exercise
Care home residents will be allowed one regular named visitor
Funerals can be attended by 30 people – only 6 at wakes
Weddings can be attended by up to six people and can take place in any circumstances
Stay at Home rules still apply

from 29th March

Outdoor gatherings of either 6 people or two households allowed, including in private gardens
Outdoor sports and facilities such as football, golf, tennis, basketball and outdoor pools can recommence
Stay at Home rules end but people will be encouraged to stay local – no holidays permitted

STEP 2 from 12th April

Shops, hairdressers, beauty salons, gyms, indoor pools and certain outdoor venues such as zoos and theme parks reopen
Pubs and restaurants can serve people sitting outdoors
Libraries and community centres can reopen
UK staycations away from home allowed in self-contained accommodation if not shared with other households
Weddings and receptions can be attended by up to 15 people
Funerals can be attended by up to 30 people – only 15 at wakes
People should still work from home if possible
Overseas travel not permitted (except for exempt reasons such as work)

STEP 3 from 17th May

Most outdoor restrictions will be lifted, subject to a limit of 30 people
Up to six people or two households can meet indoors
Pubs and restaurants can reopen indoors
Cinemas, theatres, sports stadiums and some other venues can reopen with limits on capacity
Adult indoor sports and exercises classes can resume
Hotels and B&Bs can reopen to household groups
Weddings, funerals and other events such as christenings can be attended by 30 people
International travel can resume – subject to review

STEP 4 from 21st June

It is hoped all legal limits on social contact, including weddings, funerals, festivals and conferences will be removed and restrictions lifted on large events and performances

The rules on social distancing and wearing of face coverings remain in place until further notice.

For more details of all these measures please refer to the Government's guidance from the Prime Minister's Office which can be seen here: -

[Prime Minister sets out roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-roadmap-to-cautiously-ease-lockdown-restrictions)

BURY PARISH COUNCIL

Anti-social road use – A29/Bury Hill

On Wednesday, February 17th, Bury Parish Council chairman Karen Davis and Cllr Paul Whyles, who takes the BPC lead on road issues, attended a meeting with senior police officers and other involved parties on the subject of road safety on Bury Hill. This meeting resulted from a previous meeting between Cllr Whyles and Chief Inspector Habib Rahman, Sussex police's new dedicated anti-social behaviour chief inspector, recently appointed by Chief Constable Jo Shiner.

Ch Insp Rahman called the meeting and it was also attended by Supt Juliet Parker, Sussex and Surrey Police Head of Operations and Partnerships, Oliver Fisher, Inspector Operations Command, Emma Tugwell-Smith, Operations Manager for Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, Jon Forster, Road Safety Manager for West Sussex County Council, Chris Stark, Areas Highways Manager for West Sussex County Council, and Jeff Travis, Media Office for the South Downs National Park Authority.

Cllr Whyles was invited to paint a picture of the issues surrounding anti-social road use for the residents of Bury, during which he discussed a 20-year history of ever-growing motorbike noise disturbance, dangerous speeding, past police operations that failed to resolve the problem, residents' gratitude for the most recent Operation Downsway but also disappointment that no lasting and sustainable solution had been found that did not depend upon a police presence.

Cllr Whyles reminded the meeting that BPC had made a well-researched and argued application for an average speed camera installation on Bury Hill and added that BPC was disappointed by the lack of response to that application by Sussex Safer Roads Partnership. He argued that while the problems were long-standing, deep-seated and complex, the best possible approach to arriving at a sustainable solution would be one involving inclusivity and cooperation, as was represented by this meeting.

Cllr Davis added that BPC was a forward looking and proactive parish council which was more than willing to play a role in the business case for a camera installation, adding she was confident that Bury could make a contribution via fundraising should affordability be the central issue over the provision of such an installation.

Jon Forster reported that the issue of anti-social road use on Bury Hill was something he had been aware of for 20 years and that still no solution had come to light. Engineering solutions, such as amending the start of the two-lane section of the hill, were limited in scope, he said, because of strict rules over road layouts. The meeting was told that an average speed camera installation had been made on Box Hill in Surrey where very similar anti-social biker road use was a problem. However, this had not served to reduce the problems of noise.

There was discussion of re-educating the minority of bikers who choose to speed and create excessive noise, through a campaign that would serve to stigmatise anti-social behaviour. While this was seen as a worthwhile approach, and that BPC could perhaps instigate a poster campaign to this end, it was also accepted that it would

be a very long-term engagement and would not necessarily produce the sustainable solution that is most urgently needed.

Encouragingly, Supt Parker stated that she was determined and confident that a 'blueprint' solution could be found for the problems of Bury Hill.

Cllr Whyles said that all options should remain on the table, including average speed cameras and even acoustic cameras, which have been successfully deployed in other countries but have had only limited trials in the UK, with problems relating to securing prosecutions based upon their evidence.

It was agreed that a further meeting would be convened in about three weeks time.

While it is perhaps disappointing that an instant and lasting solution was not identified and agreed upon, it is nevertheless very encouraging that Sussex Police are engaging directly with Bury's stakeholders in this matter and there is every reason to be hopeful that continuing dialogue will indeed produce the lasting solution that Supt Parker wants to see for Bury Hill.

Any feedback on this issue would be very welcome and should be directed to Cllr Whyles at: - paul.whyles@buryparishcouncil.org.uk

Barlavington Whole Estate Plan

In our Newsletter of 3rd February, we reported that the Barlavington Estate had been working on a Whole Estate Plan for the previous 12 months and were inviting comments via their consultants from local residents before presenting it for review by the South Downs National Park Authority. On the issue of possible sand extraction, the Estate has already invested in the planting of tree screens around the area that could be worked and is investing in a drilling programme to determine the extent and quality of the sand. Whilst obviously the submission of the Plan to SDNPA is not in itself an application for sand extraction, it would appear to indicate a desire on the part of the Estate to exploit the sand reserve at some future point if and when the opportunity arose.

The Plan was discussed at the meeting of Bury Parish Council's Environment and Planning Committee on 17th February, as a result of which on Friday 19th February, Bury Parish Council submitted its response to the consultants to the Barlavington Whole Estate Plan which reads as follows: -

"Bury Parish Council wishes to record its considerable alarm about the prospect of any forthcoming application to undertake sand extraction at the Horncroft/Coates reserve. We would be vehemently opposed to such an application on the grounds of the destruction of rare heathland habitat, the introduction to the rural national park setting of large-scale open cast mining and the unprecedented and hostile impact from the level of HGV traffic from the fleet of lorries that will be required to transport the extracted sand. The extraction operations would destroy the tranquillity of the district and blight not just the immediate surroundings but an area for many miles in all directions. It would undermine those very special qualities of the South Downs National Park that we all work so hard to sustain."

We will of course keep parishioners informed of any relevant developments.

Photo Competition

A reminder that the last voting date for this competition is Sunday 7th March so if you would like to help decide the winners please have a look at this year's entries on the Bury Parish Council website at <https://buryparishcouncil.org.uk/galleries/2021-bury-photo-competition-entries/>. Click on each picture to read the details and then please list your first three choices in order (e.g.: A, B, C) in an email to the parish clerk Mike Simpson at clerkburyparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Broadband Upgrade for Bury Parish

In October last year we decided to investigate the potential for improving broadband speeds within our community. We would like to thank those Parishioners who expressed an interest in this feasibility study. It was this initial interest that allowed us to get the ball rolling. We approached two suppliers from the list approved by The Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for an indicative offer. The process then allows a chosen supplier to apply for grants in the form of vouchers from both Government and WSCC, greatly assisting with

the cost of the upgrade. We have just received such an offer from Openreach which gives us some cause for optimism.

Although the current voucher scheme is set to expire 31st March 2021, unfortunately the Government has stopped service providers, including Openreach, from making any new applications to the current voucher scheme. This is disappointing, however news of a new voucher scheme is anticipated soon and once details are released, we can work with Openreach to assess how it will assist our application.

Next steps - the good news is that Openreach have now assigned a Rural Engagement Manager to our application which should enable us to make some progress, as there is clearly a lot more work to do. Our aim is to seek clarification on certain aspects of our application and to prepare for any new voucher scheme when it goes live.

To view a Frequently Asked Questions document created by Openreach please see here: - <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/WhctKJWQfIDfIHVzQTQVKqjsHpPwzxtdtCLIsKKChcWVRKjzDDbXMnphmmZKbNgHxabcDTB?projector=1>

As soon as we have more news, we will make a further announcement.

TREE PLANTING

You will be aware of the ever-increasing calls for us to do what we can to combat climate change by cutting our carbon emissions. One way that we can help is to plant trees and/or hedging as they store carbon that we emit when using fossil fuels for heating our homes, car use etc. As part of this initiative Chichester District Council have appointed a project officer to assist councils and individuals by offering advice on what and where to plant and linking applicants with available funding. New trees must be planted outside existing woodland and can range from small numbers of trees through to new woodland blocks.

The parish council is very supportive of this scheme and indeed any measures to mitigate our carbon emissions, so if you have an area that you think could be suitable, even just a corner of a garden that might take a single tree, please either contact chris.daykin@buryparishcouncil.org.uk (07548 175226) or follow the link direct to the Chichester District Council web page at <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/treescheme>

Another potential source to approach could be EFORESTS who will provide free trees to wildlife trusts, community woodlands and farms as well as private landowners. Normally they would supply a minimum of 200 trees for projects but they state they can be fairly flexible. For further information, the link to their website can be seen here: - <https://www.eforests.co.uk/FreeTrees>

THE SQUIRE AND HORSE, BURY

It looks as though it will be almost three months before we can once again sit and enjoy a meal (indoors) at the Squire and Horse. However, we don't have to wait that long to sample their delicious food as their takeaway service has been expanded to offer the choice of a dozen main courses on Friday and Saturday from 5.30pm to 7.30pm and on Sunday from 12 noon until 2pm. Full details can be seen on their website here: - [The Squire and Horse \(squireandhorsebury.co.uk\)](http://TheSquireandHorse(squireandhorsebury.co.uk)) To place your order phone 01798 831343

Keep safe and stay well and if you need help with shopping or prescriptions please contact **Fr. Peter Mallinson (Bury) 839057 or Ken & Diana Rowsell (West Burton) 831475**

For more information please contact the parish clerk Mike Simpson at clerkburyparsihcouncil@gmail.com

To visit the Bury Parish Council website please see www.buryparishcouncil.org.uk

Best wishes
Bury Parish Council