

Crofton, Ryhill & Walton

(incl Havercroft with Cold Hiendley, Notton,
Chevet & Wintersett)



CONTACT US:

visit our FACEBOOK Page

@working for you in ward 5

Email councillorsward5@outlook.com

May Edition

UPDATE ON COUNCIL ACTIONS

FLY TIPPING

There has been much in the press recently regarding the increase in fly tipping during the current situation.

Statistics here in Wakefield show for the same period this year i.e weeks 1 to 17 there have been 3033 reports of fly tipping the same period last year saw the report rate at 3095, this shows a drop in recorded incidents.

Also reported in the national press that some councils are burning recyclables, let me assure members that this is not happening in our District.

BEREAVEMENT

The service continues to have high demand due to Covid-19, this is affecting waiting times. The council recently changed the numbers of mourners allowed at Cremations or Burials to 10 but the council come under increasing pressure to reduce the numbers to nil as they are in neighbouring authorities, the council at the moment, are resisting this. However, there are rumours that the government may review mourners' numbers.

Bereavement services are now working a 6 day a week, 12 hour shifts to ensure that all cremations and burials are conducted in a timely way. However, times are unprecedented waiting times are around the 3-week mark for cremation a little shorter for burials.

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

Several if not all of you will have had enquiries regarding the garden waste collection service and when this will resume.

On 7th April, the Council received guidance from Defra and supported by the government which outlined the priority areas that all councils should adhere to.

Priority One High: collection of food waste, fly tipping, care homes and clinical waste.

Priority Two Medium: Dry recyclables and trade waste.

Priority Three Low: Garden waste and bulky items.

As like the rest of the council many operatives are off work for a variety of reasons, this along with social distancing has had a massive impact of waste services. The service is currently working 5 days a week to keep up with the collection of households and recycle waste. The number of operatives in the vehicle is restricted to two with a third operative being transported to the beginning of the round this is all having an affect on collections. If we reintroduce the garden waste service, the other two services would suffer and may push our waste collection services to once every three weeks. With households being on lockdown more household waste is being produced so it is important that we stick to the Defra Guidelines and concentrate on Household and Recycle waste. As soon as there is a change in the situation, and we can return to our usual collection rounds we will. In the meantime, we will continue with the current collection rounds.



HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLE CENTRES

The council has taken the decision to open all three waste/recycle centres from May 11th. There will be strict highway controls in place, the Police will be present certainly in the first couple of days. Visitors will be encouraged to stay in their vehicles and only a small number will be allowed on site at anyone time. Visitors are being encouraged to wash their hands before and after their visit. The staff at the centres will be practicing safe distancing and will be wearing PPE.



Friday 8th May was the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe and a day of great celebrations were planned for the whole of the UK.

Following social distancing rules – VE Day was celebrated across our ward, with street parties, massive conga lines, singing and dancing in the tradition of the late 40's.

Respect was paid with a minutes silence at 11am to remember those who dies so we could live.

Stay Safe Stay Home, protect the NHS

Why is the Council not enforcing social distancing rules and stopping kids meeting in groups? This is the role of the Police – if you feel that social distancing rules are being ignored please call 101 and give full details. The Police will take action and issue fines if they feel it is appropriate.

Why is the Council not cutting the grass? Same as with garden waste – HMG class this as a nonessential service. However not all grassed areas belong to Wakefield Council. Some spaces in our ward belong to Wakefield District Housing, Network Rail and private individuals. The council continue to cut some highway verges, bowling greens and school grounds where there is a service level agreement.

Why will the Council not collecting more rubbish if left at the side of my bin? We have had to take the decision operating with reduced staffing levels, due to staff being off with either COVID 19 or being in self isolation, we can only provide a bin service. More waste means that we have to empty the wagons more often during the day, which means that less bins would be emptied.

Overgrown Vegetation:

The warmer than usual weather and recent light rain has caused vegetation to grow very quickly. If when you are out walking you come across a blocked footpath or pavement, please take a picture and email to me with the location details. I will then try and get the greenery cut back. Again, this only applies to Council owned land and actual public footpaths.



Other issues

In a recent walk earlier this week, I was shocked to see that people had been dropping vinyl gloves and tissues in to hedge bottoms and on pavements. Please use a bin or take them home.



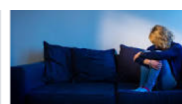
[UK lockdown: Calls to domestic abuse helpline jump by half](#)

BBC
20 hours ago



[MPs demand urgent action plan to tackle rise in domestic abuse during lockdown](#)

Sky News
15 hours ago



[Domestic abuse killings double and calls to helpline surge by 50% during coronavirus ...](#)

ITV News
5 hours ago

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic Abuse during the lockdown period was expected to increase because families are in such close 24/7 proximity.

This, at the moment does not appear to be the case. Domestic Abuse incidents are up by 1.6% in our area which is not unusual for the period following an annual holiday in this case Easter.

However, this could change once the lockdown is lifted and people feel able to contact the support services without being overheard.

The Home Office's recently launched its 'you are not alone' campaign.

An e-campaign, under the hashtag #YouAreNotAlone, aims to reassure those affected by domestic abuse that support services remain available during this difficult time. It will encourage members of the general public to show their solidarity and support for those who may be suffering, by sharing government digital content or a photo of a heart on their palm, and asking others to do the same, to show victims that they are not alone and to convey to perpetrators that domestic abuse is unacceptable in any circumstances.

The campaign publicised the support available including the freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline and www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE
0808 2000 247
24/7 CONFIDENTIAL FREEPHONE

Positive Mental Health Network

The Positive Mental Health Network is continuing to distribute weekly newsletters and are doing a 'soft launch' of a virtual **"Postcards from Wakefield"** project. They have a small band of volunteers, who are testing out the system of getting postcards out to people and then putting them onto the Facebook page using email and social media.



A new 24 hour mental health helpline has been launched, offering confidential help and advice, to anyone registered with a GP in Calderdale, Kirklees, Wakefield, Leeds and Barnsley.

Phone number: 0800 183 0558

The new service will support people who are:

- ⇒ At risk of developing mental health problems.
- ⇒ Diagnosed common mental health problems.
- ⇒ Known to mental health services.
- ⇒ Experiencing mental health distress.
- ⇒ Seeking information, advice and support.

The service will provide a listening ear, emotional support, advice and signposting to other local services for both individuals and their carers. The provider, NCHA will respond to urgent concerns and operate within a recovery model, ensuring callers' benefit from an effective intervention, in line with local mental health support pathways.

Drug and Alcohol Commissioned Services

The Coronavirus has caused a significant impact on our drug and alcohol commissioned services but each one has raised to the challenge admirably and some of our most vulnerable residents in the district continue to receive the support and treatment that they require.

Young Persons Substance Misuse Service

This service provides support and information to young people who may be impacted by their own or someone else's substance use. The service also offers a provision for parents, carers and professionals who support young people in Wakefield.

During this period they are continuing to accept referrals, however they will discuss with the young people and referrers how best to contact and support young people during this complex time. This could be via phone, social media WhatsApp and text.

They are also continuing to provide regular phone, social media, Skype, WhatsApp and text contact to all existing service users.

includes a free Quit Clinic 7:30 to 8:30pm every day.

The Alcohol Liaison Service (ALS)-

The ALS offers specialist advice, treatment and short term case management to those admitted to the Pinderfields hospital with alcohol related illnesses continues to operate from the hospital but with a reduced service; only 1 nurse will be on site at any one time (2 nurses operate the service normally) and they are onsite on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On these days, they:

- ⇒ Continue to receive referrals from the A & E Department and Psychiatry Liaison Team. Patients will be contacted by phone and be given brief advice;
- ⇒ Attend the Acute Admissions Unit to assess 'Green' patients, and visit 'Green' patients in other wards;
- ⇒ offer a telephone advice service to support staff with 'Red' patients
- ⇒ At other times the nurses are available via the telephone.



SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

The council took delivery of around £15,000 of food. The delivery was made into the food storage facility by colleagues from Morrisons supermarket. This food will be delivered direct to the vulnerable residents across the district who have contacted the council for support. The 15-strong team who are working at the site have already started packing the supplies up, ensuring deliveries were made today and will continue tomorrow and over the weekend. The team are also doing pharmacy and fuel voucher deliveries to help people out.

Copies of the Wakefield Express newspaper are also being distributed to residents with all these deliveries. Thanks to an agreement made by the Leader with the newspaper publisher, we are able to support our local media and help keep vulnerable residents informed.



Over the coming week the council will be looking at how they can support people with children by trying to extend our delivery offer to include education and recreational goods, like colouring books and crayons.

Hardship Funds

If you or anyone you know is in debt to their energy supplier it may be worth applying for a grant from a charitable trust to help pay it off. This includes gas, electricity and water suppliers. Eligibility criteria varies depending on your energy supplier, there are some suppliers who will support you even if you aren't a customer with them. Details of all hardship funds from energy suppliers can be found at www.let-talk.online/home/allschemas why not look them up.

Mortgage Breathing Space

Practical help for homeowners who are struggling with their mortgage and could become homeless as a result of repossession action. Interest free secured loans to stabilise the mortgage plus debt and money advice is available. The scheme is open to owner occupiers across the Yorkshire and Humber who own one property. Further criteria applies why not get in touch for more details 01924 305892 or email mortgagehelp@wakefield.gov.uk

These are just a couple of ways the Council can help in these trying times.

Stay Safe, Albert, Faith & Maureen

Contact Details

Councillor Faith Heptinstall	07960 001497
Councillor Albert Manifold	01226 726219
Councillor Maureen Cummings	07834 997767