

## **AN UPDATE ON HOW THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL IS SUPPORTING PARISHIONERS WITH REGARD TO THE CORONAVIRUS**

The City of Ely Council continues to function to the best of its ability during these very difficult times. Following guidance from the Government the Council has closed its office at Sessions House, Lynn Road; the Maltings and Oliver Cromwell House. However, a high majority of staff are working from home to ensure the Council continues to function and assist parishioners. We are now entering the sixth week of the lockdown and rules on social distancing.

### **Day to Day Operation of the Council**

Officers from Sessions House are able to deal with queries or concerns from parishioners, either by email or telephone messages. The Council can be contacted, in the first instance by email [info@cityofelycouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@cityofelycouncil.org.uk). If parishioners are unable to email, they can call 01353 661016. Officers are visiting the office on a regular basis to retrieve messages and will respond to these as soon as possible.

Due to legislation changes, the Council is now able to recommence with their Full Council meetings and Committee meetings. These will however be virtual meetings, due to the requirements for social distancing and will be held via Zoom. The Council's website is regularly updated and all agendas and papers for these meetings will be available on the website. The agenda will give instructions on how members of the public will be able to attend these public meetings, if they wish to do so.

### **Working with the Community**

The Council, through Visit Ely, are very much involved with the Facebook group, Ely Community Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group and the East Cambridgeshire Community Hub, working to support residents. Our City Centre Ranger has been working as the connection between the mutual aid group, ECDC, CCC and as a representative of the City of Ely Council. Helping with any problems, unusual or urgent requests. She is also responsible for acting as a go-between in communication between the various bodies and the community group.

The telephone number for Ely's City Centre Ranger **07719 980502**

### **The Estates Team**

The Estates Team is working extremely diligently each day to undertake their various duties, whilst maintaining social distancing. These include maintaining the cemetery at Beech Lane, administering the funerals whilst also continuing to undertake inspections and maintenance of all of the recreational areas and Council owned property. Every week Sessions House, The Maltings and Oliver Cromwell's House are checked together with all the Council's play areas, ensuring they all remain safe and secure for when they all re-open for everyone to enjoy.

### **The Maltings**

The Maltings has had to postpone many upcoming events, unfortunately some of these being weddings and family celebrations. However, staff are working very hard to ensure that alternative dates are offered for the future, to allow these to still happen. The Maltings will be open for two blood donation sessions on the 28th April and 7th May. It is very important, at this time that the public continue to donate blood. These will be by appointment only, and can be booked by contacting the NHS direct on 0300 123 2323.

## **Visit Ely/Oliver Cromwell's House and Ely's Tourist Information Centre**

Ely's Tourism and Town Centre Manager and team have been very busy keeping the community engaged with various resources and 'fun things to do' whilst in lockdown. Our Marketing Officer has also been writing a daily blog, which can be read at <https://www.visitely.org.uk/visitor-information/blogs>. Parishioners can also keep up to date by following Visit Ely on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Visit Ely/Oliver Cromwell's House and Ely's Tourist Information Centre continues to operate remotely by working on a number of projects. Once it is re-opened there will be plenty of events ready, lots of walks, talks, trails and of course planning for Open Heritage and Apple Festival late summer. Information regarding any of these resources, forthcoming events, or if people are planning a late summer staycation, they can email [info@visitely.org.uk](mailto:info@visitely.org.uk) or call **07704 156867**.

## **Keeping Safe**

All staff and members of the Council want to ensure the Council's services are continued to be provided to the parishioners of Ely and are undertaking these in accordance with the Government's guidelines. We would urge everyone to follow these guidelines and ensure that they keep safe. The Council continues to work closely with other authorities and organisations. If any parishioners are in need of assistance or wish to register to be a volunteer to assist others, please do not hesitate to contact the Ely Community Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group on any of the following numbers 07719 980502, 07704 156867 or 07818 580209.

## **Keeping in Touch**

To ensure parishioners can keep up to date and in touch with the Council, the Council's website at [www.cityofelycouncil.org.uk](http://www.cityofelycouncil.org.uk) is constantly being updated. It also contains all the documents with regard to upcoming meetings and past meetings and all the services the Council undertakes.

Parishioners can also email [info@cityofelycouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@cityofelycouncil.org.uk) with any questions or concerns they may have and staff will ensure these are answered or they are given the correct contact details of the organisation that can help them, if it is not the responsibility of the City of Ely Council.