Dear Resident

The Parish Council would like tothank residents for their continued observance of the guidance that has been provided during the pandemic, also for their support of the community via the helpline service provided by the Isle of Wight Council Hub (phone 823600), and Community Action website.

Volunteers in St Helens, via the local network, have supported vulnerable residents with provision of Shopping, collection and delivery of medications, as well as other support, at a time of need – at the same timeinformation has been provided for other support that is available to local businesses and voluntary organisations this advice has resulted in Government Grants being received by some local organisations.

The Parish Council are continuing to monitor and review the situation, maintaining services where it is safe to do so – and have worked with partner organisations and agencies, following the guidance, and ensuring services are maintained where possible.

Discussions have been had to continue the maintenance of the public spaces, the Green, and the safety of all involved being the priority – Councillors appreciate the value of Public Spaces at this time, both for exercise and for the environment, and have made budgetary provision to continue this service.

Work, within the guidance, has also been undertaken to prepare the Parish owned toilets at the Duver, theyare now fully re-opened and include new baby changing facilities, as well as continuing the provision of existing amenities, such as outside tap, dog lead facility, defibrillator and seasonally increased cleaning.

Members will continue to monitor and review the situation as guidance evolves, and will work with other local stakeholders to take appropriate action when required – many of the plans for 2020 have had to be delayed due to the pandemic, and the Council appreciate the support and understanding of the community during this time.

The application for the nationally prestigious Seaside Award was successful, and the Council appreciate the support of local businesses - it has been very difficult for local businesses at this time and the Seaside Award is recognition of the collective efforts of all involved.

Hand litter picking of the beach is continuing and in line with other Councils on the Island, the Parish Council is also mechanical cleaning our beach during the season.

The provision of larger recycling waste bins, in 2019, has continued these are emptied daily with additionalcollections when required – users of the Duver, and other amenities, are requested to take litter home with them when the bins provided are full, it would be helpful if litter is not placed by the side of of bins, this results in the wildlife scattering it over the surrounding area, if the first bin is full please try the next one, if they are all full please take ‘your’ litter home.

Initial work has started regarding VJ Day 75 in August 2020, following the design of a commemorative VE Day 75 by the local primary school.

Further work has been undertaken in Station Road, near to the Bus Shelter, which follows the investment of the Parish Council in additional drainage to help address the issue of surface water – the Council have campaigned for this work for some time, and will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the remedial work.

Resident concerns regarding incidents of anti-social behaviour have been reported to the appropriate authorities, and members are continuing to monitor areas of concern.

The Parish Council are continuing to follow guidance on meetings, working with the Community Centre to plan for future meetings, when possible, and ensure community engagement – a presentation by the National Trust has been postponeddue to the current situation but will be re-scheduled for later in the year if possible.

Members again wish to thank residents for getting in touch, raising issues, and the support for projects being developed and delivered.

Sadly, we must also report the passing away of former Parish Councillor Carole Parker, and Councillor Mike Anderson, both served the community extensively over many years, and our thoughts are with their respective families at this time.

Thank you again, take care and stay safe.

St Helens Parish Council