

Compass point:

The residents in Compass Point have contacted me because they are unable to use the communal lounge at present. This is because there are not enough cleaning staff available due to the general shortage of labour being experienced at a national level, and therefore it is not deemed safe. The residents are reporting concerns that some of their more vulnerable neighbours are suffering mental health problems because of ongoing isolation. I am looking into this and it has also been raised with DBC by my colleagues. The information at present suggests that the government guidance means that it is very difficult to open up communal areas to allow the residents to socialise. I am following this up and looking into possible compromises going forward.

Covid in the Community Ashlyns School:

In the summer term I offered to assist Ashlyns school with fundraising for the purchase of air filters to help mitigate the spread of CV19 in the autumn term, particularly as the temperature drop will make window opening less practical. This offer was declined by the head teacher at that time.

Ashlyns school re-opened at the beginning of term with an announcement that many mitigations would be abandoned, such as mask wearing, keeping children in bubbles and the operation of a one way system no longer being required from the start of term.

There appears to have been an increase in the school community as a result of the dropping of many mitigations (my own 15 year-old-child contracted CV19 at Ashlyns and remains unwell).

This resulted in an emergency email to parents on 26 September 2021, following an intervention from Hertfordshire's director of public health, informing us that the reintroduction of face coverings, cancellation of assemblies, re-instatement of the school cleaning protocol would take place with immediate effect (letter for information sent separately).

The vaccination was offered to the students on a single day last week. The community reports that there was insufficient supply of vaccine to meet the demand, so many students have not yet been offered the vaccine and have not yet learned of the date when it will be offered.

There appears to have been an increase in school absences due to the unmitigated spread of the virus at the start of term, whilst significant numbers of the students at the school have not been able to access vaccinations.

I will continue to offer to support the school in obtaining air filtration equipment should they choose to take this up at any stage.

Road Safety

New Road bend near the common - as previously raised - update: I have provided HCC with documentary evidence to establish their ownership of the land in issue and have highlighted the threat to visibility by the failure to maintain. I am awaiting their response.