



Covid 19—Working through a pandemic

■ When lockdown approached in March 2020, your three local councillors were immediately involved in the whole process. Seb, as Leader of the Council, Carolyn as Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources, and Jill as both Cabinet Member for Growth & Investment and as a County Councillor.

Our world immediately revolved around setting up shielding hubs, ensuring local businesses could access funding and grants and ensuring our council staff were re-allocated where necessary, as well as monitoring the daily numbers regarding cases.

In addition, Carolyn was self-isolating, but still working from home. Like millions of parents, Jill and Seb both had the challenges of home schooling whilst juggling working from home and Teams calls.

Within our community we were helping out where we could, whether it be arranging for help for someone, or delivering groceries ourselves.

We are all very proud of how our communities and teams responded to the crisis, we distributed over £16m of the Government's small business grants to businesses in Rugby.



As a team we worked well together in unprecedented circumstances, whilst not knowing what the next phone call or email would bring.

The work with different agencies and organisations during this pandemic was truly inspiring and the response by our local community was humbling, as so many people pitched in.

Re-surfacing footpath improves access for all

■ Carolyn has been working hard to find a solution to the footpath between Boughton Leigh and Coton Park estates. This has now paid off, as the footpath has been re-surfaced to allow access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. The path had been deteriorating over a number of years.

Carolyn commented that "The path was virtually impassible in the bad weather, due to its deterioration. Thankfully we were able to identify some funding to get this repaired and it is so much better. So many residents have commented on how much easier it is to use with a wheelchair or pushchair".



The footpath has now been re-surfaced, as Seb and Carolyn inspect the results. Previously it was impassable in bad weather.



Coton Park Secondary School Update



■ I am getting lots of enquiries about where we are with the proposed Secondary School on Coton Park East. A lot of the work to achieve this school has to take place outside of the public domain, however, I can share that the developer for the land on Coton Park East is preparing an outline planning application that shows the site for the secondary school has moved to now be adjacent to the existing Rugby Free Primary School, from the developers original plans to put it at the north of the site near the motorway. This new site is the preferred option for both Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council and is related to the discussions that Warwickshire County Council are having with the land owner.

We are all still aiming for a opening date of September 2022 for Year 7 children, however I appreciate that parents will be nervous at timings. We still believe this is an achievable objective and all the relevant organisations are working towards this. As and when I can provide further updates, I will do so.

MARK PAWSEY MP—REPORTING BACK

■ This year has been hugely challenging for people and businesses in Rugby and no one could have foreseen the impact which coronavirus has had on us all.

The Government has stepped up to deliver an unprecedented level of support to protect lives and livelihoods. Here in Rugby over 14,400 jobs have been supported through the Jobs Retention Scheme. In addition, £8.7m has been provided to self-employed workers and £16.5m worth of grants to local businesses.

We must ensure that we deliver on levelling up Britain and bouncing back from the coronavirus outbreak.

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PHILIP SECCOMBE—POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

■ Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe has set out his policing priorities for the county.

Commissioner Seccombe's top priority is to reduce crime across Warwickshire. Since taking office he has overseen a large increase in the number of Police Officers, PCSOs and Special Constables.

Philip is also prioritising supporting victims of crime and has secured funding from the government for

local charities supporting victims of sexual offences.

He has also launched his Road Safety Fund in a bid to reduce the number of accidents on local roads.



Philip Seccombe, Police & Crime Commissioner