**District Councillor’s Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC January 2021**

**Covid-19 - Grants**

SCDC has opened applications for local businesses affected by the most recent lockdown restrictions - Tier 4 restrictions from 26 December to 4 January, and the current ongoing National Lockdown. For the Tier 4 period, which ran for ten days immediately after Christmas, affected businesses can apply for the LRSG (Closed) Tier 4 grant scheme.

For the current National Lockdown, which started on January 5, three new schemes are now available. The new Local Restrictions Support Grant (5 January onwards covers the current 42-day period for business closures up until 31 March 2021) with one-off payments ranging from £2,001 to £4,500 depending on the rateable value of a business which must have been registered for business rates on 5 January 2021 and required by law to close. Those receiving this grant will also be entitled to an additional one-off Closed Business Lockdown payment for the same 42-day qualifying restriction period which will range from £4,000 to £9,000 and will be paid automatically. If you are aware of any businesses that have been forced to close, please do encourage them to get in touch with the council or myself to access these grants.

**Thakeham Housing proposal**

On 8th December I and other colleagues not in the ruling group found out about the developer’s proposals via Thakeham’s press release. It has become known that the Leader of the council and the Director of Planning met with the developers on 25th September and the Leader met with the developers again on the 7th December. I have expressed my concern that this information was only shared with members of the ruling group’s party, including their party colleagues on other councils, and not to other members such as myself. I have asked that in future I am equally informed given its proximity to our ward and I hope my request is acted on. As this will be deliberated by the local planning authority and most likely to be a consideration in the Local plan, as your councillor and a member of the planning committee, I must be clear that if I were to nail my colours to the mast at this stage, I would have become predetermined and unable to then vote on any applications that come to committee or indeed the local plan itself potentially. What I am able to say at this time is that based on the information provided so far, I fail to be convinced that this proposal is suitable for the district, and that I will not support developments that I consider to be unsuitable or unsustainable across the district.

**Please wash your Bin handles!**

Councillors have been asked to encourage residents to wash their dustbin handles.

**Cllr Heather Williams**

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