

# SWANAGE AREA FORUM INCLUDING SURROUNDING VILLAGES

# EXTRA

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

We are sending this URGENT advance bulletin ahead of the general circulation of the Swanage Area Forum and Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust's January Newsletter because of the urgency of the Covid-19 Vaccine situation and the deadline for the online Public consultation launched by Dorset Council and the closing date of January 20th to determine its strategy for combatting the Climate and Ecological Emergency it declared last year.

*Mel Norris,*

**Chair Swanage Area Forum and Swanage & Purbeck Development Trustee**



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

# Covid cases soar as Wareham Hospital prepares for first vaccine clinic



Plans are well underway at Wareham Hospital to vaccinate the most vulnerable in Purbeck against Coronavirus. As we write on 10 January, it announced that the first clinic will be from Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th January 2021.

This encouraging news comes as the number of people in hospital in Dorset has dramatically risen, together with a rise in the number of cases across both the Dorset Council area and the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area. As at 10th January, there were 272 Covid-19 patients in hospital beds in Dorset. This compares to 135 patients on 4th January. With the increase in patients at the Dorset County Hospital, Poole Hospital and the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, suitable NHS staff and others, are being trained up to help with the crisis and general wards are being turned into wards for Covid patients.

## Swanage numbers

In Swanage, the number of confirmed cases for the seven days up to 3rd January 2021 was 25, with the 7 day case rates per 100,000 being 254.7, which is the highest rate since the start of the pandemic. **Further information**

• Read the latest update on Covid-19 cases in Dorset on the Public Health Dorset website:

<https://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/your-health/protecting-your-health/latest-updates-on-covid-19-in-dorset.aspx>

## Covid vaccine clinic at Wareham Hospital

The Purbeck Primary Care Network, which consists of Swanage Medical Practice, Corfe Castle Surgery, Wareham Surgery, Bere Regis Surgery, Sandford Surgery and The Wellbridge Practice, is organising the Covid vaccine clinics. It announced the welcome news:

*"We have finally received notification of the delivery of the first vaccines. We will be running a clinic from Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th January 2021. Due to capacity parameters and planning restrictions the vaccine will be offered to patients as directed by your GP practice who are working under strict government guidelines for prioritisation pathways.*

*"Further supplies of the vaccine will be arriving in due course and the vaccination programme will be a lengthy ongoing process. **It is very important that you do not phone your GP surgery to book an appointment, as they will contact you directly when the time comes to arrange a suitable time/date for you.***

*"We are all working around the clock to provide all Purbeck patients with the vaccine as soon as possible so please be patient with us whilst we organise your vaccine pathways."*

*The logistics of rolling out the vaccine has meant that there has been a campaign to recruit volunteers to help run the clinics with admin tasks and helping organise car parking. The Purbeck Primary Care Network says that it will publish a link on its Facebook page for volunteers to sign up for their preferred dates to help out at the clinics."*



## TRANSPORT TO COVID VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS

When you receive the invitation for your virus vaccination, there is now confirmed provision for transport in place **for those who need help travelling to their virus vaccine appointments - (particularly older or people with disabilities).**

But please only contact these organisations listed below, once you have received your vaccine invitation.

All the voluntary organisations listed here will have to make a small charge for the transport directly to you, the user of the service:

### COMMUNICARE

**(voluntary car and befriending service in Purbeck)**  
CONTACT - Jenny Lazenby - Please phone: 01929 426644.

### SWANAGE DISABLED CLUB

CONTACT Robert or Sue Payne - Telephone 01929 423729

### WAREHAM DISABLED CLUB

CONTACT Brian Dashford - Telephone 01929 553419

### WAREHAM LIONS CLUB

CONTACT Colin Appleton - Telephone 01929 552110

### WAREHAM HOPPER - Dial a Ride.

CONTACT: Helen Reed - Telephone 01258 472164



There have now been three COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the UK, the **Pfizer vaccine**, the **Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine** and the **Moderna vaccine**. All vaccines have been authorised by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) after meeting strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness against coronavirus. We have put together a guide to explain in more detail about each of the vaccines.

### How effective are the vaccines?

The results show both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine to be **up to 95%** effective against coronavirus and the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine to be **70% effective overall**. The studies also showed a strong immune response in older people for the Oxford vaccine.

### How are the vaccines given?

All three vaccines require patients to receive two doses by an injection given in the upper arm muscle. The second dose for the Pfizer vaccine was originally suggested to be given three weeks after the first dose, however has now been changed to up to 12 weeks. This is because the Government is prioritising giving the first dose to as many 'at risk' people as possible because having the first vaccine alone does provide some protection against coronavirus. The Oxford University vaccine's second dose is given 12 weeks after the first and the Moderna vaccine is recommended to have the second dose 28 days after the first vaccine.

### Why should I get the vaccine?

COVID-19 can have serious, life threatening complications and there is no way to know how you would be affected if you caught coronavirus. The vaccine is very likely to prevent you from getting COVID-19 symptoms if you are exposed to the virus, and even if you do catch the virus and display symptoms, the vaccine is extremely likely to stop them being so bad that you require a trip to hospital.

### How will the vaccines be rolled out?

The Government has been advised to prioritise those most at risk of catching coronavirus and suffering serious complications, to be vaccinated first. Below lists the eligible groups for the vaccination starting with the highest priority.

- Older adults resident in care homes and care home workers
- All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
- All those 75 years of age and over
- All those 70 years of age and over and those who were classed clinically extremely vulnerable
- All those 65 years of age and over
- People between 16-64 years of age with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk
- All those 60 years of age and over
- All those 55 years of age and over
- All those 50 years of age and over

### How can I get a vaccine?

The NHS will contact you and invite you to book an appointment when it is your turn to have the vaccine. It is important not to contact the NHS for a vaccination before then.

As always, please stay safe, healthy, and protect the NHS.

**Phil Day - Superintendent Pharmacist**

# Planet Purbeck

A NEW eco group formed in Purbeck is urging local residents to have their say in shaping the future of the area. Planet Purbeck has been set up as a hub for groups and individuals who want to protect and improve the peninsula's environment.

It aims to lobby for cleaner air, more green spaces, better public transport, greater use of renewable energy, wildlife conservation – and making Purbeck a leading destination for sustainable tourism.

**One of its first actions is to contribute to the online Public Consultation consultation launched by Dorset Council to determine its strategy for combatting the Climate and Ecological Emergency it declared last year. The new group is keen to point out the consultation is open to everyone – and wants as many people as possible to put forward their views by taking part. THE CONSULTATION ENDS ON 20 JANUARY, SO THERE IS STILL TIME TO INFLUENCE THE DECISIONS MADE FOR ALL OUR FUTURES.**

You can do so by going to Dorset Council's website at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk), then scrolling down to All Services and clicking on Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Planet Purbeck's co-ordinator Rob Waitt said: "A lot of people who care about climate change and threats to the environment feel helpless about doing something about it because it seems such an overpowering issue.

*"It's true most of us can only do something at a local level. But like small acorns growing into big oak trees, local movements can gradually influence what is happening in the world around us. That's what Planet Purbeck seeks to achieve. But it can only do so with the help of those living in the area who want to make it an even more wonderful – and sustainable – place in which to live, work and play.*

*"We are certain Dorset Council wants as big a response as possible to its consultation. And we hope lots of people will give their feedback to help the council prioritise its actions. It only takes a few minutes to do online but could lead to a better future for all of us. Please, please do it now."*

Though it was formed only two months ago, Planet Purbeck already boasts 250 members simply through word of mouth. And Rob, of Swanage, hopes it will grow quickly once it is officially launched in the New Year.

The group is already planning a major family-friendly festival, scheduled for next September, to celebrate Purbeck's coast, countryside and community.

Rob said:

***"The ultimate hope is that Planet Purbeck will become the go-to place for companies, councils and other organisations seeking local opinion on environmental matters. But for the moment we are taking things one step at a time and letting everyone know about the Dorset Council consultation is the top priority."***

[Hope ... Rob Waitt](#)

