



# Summer Update

Find out the latest news from Arundel Town Council

## Keeping Arundel Safe

Arundel residents have coped brilliantly with the Covid-19 pandemic. When we were told to, we stayed indoors. We proved surprisingly adept at social distancing. 'Local heroes' rallied to maintain services or help self-isolating residents.

Now as visitor numbers rise the Council's priority is to help keep our town safe. Working with the Chamber of Commerce we are increasing the social distancing signage in the town and trying to place face mask posters in every shop window.



## Who Are Your Covid-19 Heroes?

Each year we ask for nominations for the Community Awards. This year the spotlight will be on recognising people who have made special contributions during the pandemic. We will be asking for your nominations in the autumn.

## Summer Weekend Road Closure Consultation.....the outcome

71% of the residents who voted supported the closure of the High Street during summer weekends to enhance social distancing and to help the town's economic recovery. However only 43% of businesses were in favour, with some clearly feeling that they would see no benefit.

In addition, Arun District Council concluded that government guidelines did not allow them to use money from their £143,718 'Safe Re-opening of the High Streets' fund to pay for the stewarding of the proposed weekend road closures. This was disappointing, but some very valuable suggestions were made by residents and businesses during the consultation, which will be considered by both the Council and Chamber of Commerce in the future. It is clear that many residents remain concerned about vehicles and 'rat running' dominating our town centre.

Our grateful thanks go to the residents who participated, to Larkins, Hillside Stores and the Post Office for accommodating 'voting boxes' and to Father David Twinley for monitoring the count.

## Getting Involved

In an attempt to work more effectively, the council is establishing specific working groups on a wide range of issues, from Finance to the Farmers Market. We are keen to find new members who can bring time and energy to these voluntary groups. Relevant experience is a bonus but less important than commitment. If you are interested, please contact the Town Clerk for details (TownClerk@arundeltowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Avoiding 760 Car Journeys?

Our Cycle and Footpath working group is trying to develop sustainable, safe routes across and around Arundel. Their top priority is a path to enable secondary school students to cycle safely between Arundel and Ford Station, potentially avoiding up to 760 car journeys a year for every 'parent chauffeur'. By continuing on to Climping, this same route would provide cyclists with a direct connection to National Cycle Network 2, which runs between Dover and Cornwall. We are pursuing this project with West Sussex County Council and Highways England.

## Arundel Farmers Market

**Cllr. Michelle Scott, Farmers Market Working Group:**

“ We all awoke to a beautiful sunny day on the 18th July, some of us earlier than others.



At 6:30am volunteers began erecting market stalls for the first Arundel Farmers Market since lockdown and the first organised by Arundel Town Council since it took responsibility for the market in April. Everyone was a bit nervous, but I am happy to report that the

months of planning paid off. Our new Market Manager, Louise Crush, has many years' experience of running the Steyning Farmers Market and she was brilliant at organising everyone on the day.

So that stalls could be socially distanced we decided to keep the market in the 3 traditional locations and postponed our plans to relaunch it with all stalls in the town centre. We identified that the Town Quay needed a one way system and created hand sanitiser stations at the entrance points. Six volunteer marshals helped to keep everything running safely and smoothly.

Feedback from shoppers was very positive and we would like to thank everyone who shopped local. The stall holders themselves had a great day and were very happy with their takings. You may have noticed that some new traders have been introduced, which is all part of the Council's plan to revitalise the market. Look out for more exciting produce coming in August.

A huge thankyou to Mayor Tony Hunt, Cllr Joe Riley, Cllr Robin Lovell, Cllr Michael Tu, Andy Batty and Sue Roderick. Without the help of these volunteers we could not have put on this market safely for the town.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to help to help 'Marshal the Market' and keep this event running safely and smoothly. If you could spare a few hours on the 3rd Saturday of the month please contact: Louise Crush on 07905 405454 or email marketmanager@arundeltowncouncil.gov.uk ”

## Weddings and Events

**Town Hall Event Manager, Sue Roderick:**

“ It has been a difficult period for those who had weddings booked for the lockdown period.



Most couples who chose Arundel Town Hall for their wedding postponed until next year. As a result we forecast that our income from weddings and events will be at least £30,000 below budget this year.

However, we are happy to report that weddings are now back on, and our first post lockdown couple were

thrilled to tie the knot on the 11th July. If you are looking for a beautiful, affordable, classy wedding venue, we have available dates this year (www.arundeltownhall.com). ”

## Frequently asked questions:

### Why on earth does the Council let campervans park on Mill Road?

**Ans:** Unless there is a specific Traffic Regulation Order ("TRO") banning them, campervans can park anywhere that a car can park.



### So why don't you make a TRO?

**Ans:** West Sussex County Council ("WSCC") are responsible for TROs in Arundel. They have turned down our applications for Mill Road because they do not see them as being a priority and because there are other ways to achieve the objective.

### What other ways?

**Ans:** It is illegal to live in any vehicle parked on the public highway. But neither the police nor WSCC are enforcing this law. WSCC estimate that it would cost them over £800 to get a court order to deal with an individual vehicle.

### What about the drivers who light fires on the verges or foul the adjacent fields?

**Ans:** We can ask our Police Community Support Officer to intervene.

### So have you given up?

**Ans:** We will never give up. We are working with Gary Markwell, Arundel's WSCC Councillor, to try and ban campervans from parking on Mill Road overnight. And we are speaking to our PCSO about the role of Sussex Police. Watch this space.