



Household Waste disposal

Following signs that the government is going to relax some of the lockdown restrictions, some Council services will gradually become active again. Regarding waste disposal, KCC says that **from Friday 15th, Kent County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will open to the public for essential use.** People can book a slot either online or by phone from 13th – the quickest way to book is online, and only one trip in any four-week period can be booked. Among other points, KCC say you will need to observe the social distancing measures when visiting the sites. Site staff will not be able to offer their usual assistance to help unload and dispose of waste. A maximum of two people can leave each vehicle to dispose of bulky items without site staff help. If you booked online you must bring your proof of booking email, either a printed copy or displayed on your phone. If you booked over the phone, bring the booking reference number. To reduce infection risk all car windows should remain closed when showing proof to staff. If you fail to attend within your booking slot you will lose the slot. Site guidance may include wearing gloves and masks. If you wear either gloves or masks, you'll need to take them home for disposal to avoid the risk of cross contamination. More details and instructions on how to book a slot will become available on the KCC website shortly.

At the time of writing, the easing of the current lockdown rules will likely only apply to certain occupations and to outdoor relaxation in parks, countryside and beaches. The risk of person-to-person infection is still high, and social distancing will need to stay in place. However, we shall likely see an increase in car traffic (hence a rise in noise and air pollution). Enjoy the present peace and quiet while you can.

Planning update: OHSCA is formally objecting to the proposal by Wickes to cut down the 14 healthy mature trees at the former Homebase site. Besides being contrary to Canterbury Council's own Climate Emergency policy, there are no serious justifications (such as danger or disease) for removal of these trees. Several OHSCA residents have individually put in their considered objections to the proposal. Personal views and objections concerning this application (CA/20/00698) can still be made to the Council until 22 May (full web address was given in the last Bulletin).

Bumblebees

In the UK we have 24 different species of bumblebee. Some are more common than others, like the Buff-tailed bumblebee which is the most common bumblebee found in Kent. The Shrill Carder is the rarest bumblebee in the UK and Kent is arguably one of the most important places for this species. This rare bee is usually seen in large areas of flower-rich grassland along the North Kent coastline. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust's 'Making a Buzz for the Coast' is now working online to train up young people to be conservationists. If you wish to volunteer or know more, please contact the team at mab@bumblebeeconservation.org

Spring walks

Now that Spring is lucky enough to have a along quiet lanes with noticing all the new Carlyle's photo of one or (if the imagination



definitely here, those of us who are garden, or who can walk every day trees, shrubs and flowers, might be buds on the horse chestnut trees. Tim such bud makes it look almost human, goes wild) like a tiny Spring fairy.