Jenny Kenton Report Sept 22

You may be aware that the vaccine centre is open again in Chard Guildhall, the next date for making a booking is 7th October, however it is likely to be full as the uptake is very high. From the following week there will be about two clinics a week until early December these are most likely to be flu and Covid clinics where you can get both on the same day but you don’t have to. They are being run by two of Chards GP surgeries and we are vaccinating about 300 local people in a morning session. The service is very popular and the advice currently to local people is if you want to have a Covid vaccination now to use the national booking system but you may have to go outside Chard. You can book an appointment online or by ringing 119. The appointments are being put onto the NHS system periodically so if they do not appear when you look please try again as they are released gradually by the computer system.

I am confident that by the time we get to the middle of October they will be much easier to book. You may also be contacted directly by the Doctors surgery to come to the Guildhall for your vaccinations.

The vaccination rate in the County for young people is as follows,

1st vaccine

Aged 5-11 12-15 16-17

13% 61.9% 74.6%

2nd Vaccine

Aged 5-11 12-15 16-17

6.1% 45.4% 59.4%

Most of these vaccinations have been carried out by teams visiting secondary schools and colleges. Schools are also monitoring the CO2 levels in classrooms as the winter approaches all over the country as windows are shut and more co2 is released into the room. The higher the CO2 the less fresh air and the easier for the virus to spread. Schools have invested in heap filters etc to try and reduce the risk of spread.

We recently visited the site of the new start up business centre in Chard near the recycling site, this is in the process of being built by SCC using grant money and will provide 10 office hubs and 2 or 3 larger units for small businesses to use as a stepping stone. It should be ready for occupation in march next year.

You will have noticed that the County Council has taken the opportunity to take a break clause in the lease of Dillington House in Ilminster. The Council has occupied this property since 1966 but it has been losing money of recent years and has a deficit of £1.8m over the last 11 years. We will cease to run the building after May 2023 but arrangements have been put in place to accommodate some events that have been booked until Sept 2023.