

Report for Clifton upon Teme meeting – Thursday 7th May 2020

Dear Councillors,

I do hope everyone is keeping safe and well? I have copied a few details for your perusal:

Residents urged to celebrate VE Day at home: Residents across Malvern Hills District are being urged to join together from the safety of their doorsteps to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

The special anniversary is reached on Friday, 8 May and although local and national commemorative events have been cancelled due to the covid-19 outbreak, people are still being encouraged to mark the occasion.

At 3pm households across the country are being encouraged to join in a national toast to those who 'gave so much' to defend freedom and bring an end to Nazi tyranny.

Cllr Dean Clarke, Chairman of Malvern Hills District Council, has recorded a special message for the day which urges people to use VE Day as a source of hope to help them through the current crisis and inspiration for the future.

In his message, Cllr Clarke will tell residents: *“Hopefully, as those in 1945 did, we as a country will once again begin working towards an inclusive, kinder and more responsible society so that we can leave our children and grandchildren a future, not of fear, but of hope.”*

There will also be a two-minute silence at 11am to the fallen and at 9pm people will be urged to join in a national sing-a-long to a version of Dame Vera Lynn's *'We'll meet again'*.

Malvern Hills District Council has also put useful links to resources on its website to help people hold their own VE Day celebration at home. They can be found at www.malvern hills.gov.uk/VEDay75

Small Business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Update: As of last night more than £14.35million in grant money has been given to businesses across the Malvern Hills District to support them through the coronavirus outbreak. Grants of either £10,000 or £25,000 have been sent to almost 1300 eligible businesses across the District in the past month.

We are still urging eligible businesses affected by the pandemic, if they haven't already, to register online <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/business-rates-in-malvern-hills/reductions> so grants can be paid quickly.

A range of business support measures have been made available to UK businesses and employees. To see the latest updates on Government support, visit their dedicated Coronavirus Business Support Hub. <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/>

Visit the Malvern Hills website <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/> to sign up for the latest email alerts for business during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Business Support Finder: Coronavirus (COVID-19) support is available to employers and the self-employed. You may be eligible for loans, tax relief and cash grants. To help you find out what may be available to you, use the Government based business support finder. <https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder/y>

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