

The Parish Council share everyone's valid concerns and disappointment over the distance residents are having to travel to get vaccinations (the majority of which have to go to Uckfield), the lack of vaccinations and the number of people who fall into the first tier and have not yet been called for vaccination. The Parish Council is concerned if our residents are being treated differently to residents in any other area.

We have expressed our concerns to Huw Merriman MP who is actively pursuing for Heathfield residents to be vaccinated locally. He has expressed his concerns in Parliament and is holding meetings with those responsible for leading the roll-out of the vaccine programme in Sussex.

We have suggested that the Community Centre be used as a vaccination centre and it was offered and considered by the Primary Care Network as a potential site for the vaccination roll-out. The NHS has clear criteria for areas to be used as a centre, one of which would be a wipeable floor (all 'clinical' areas should always have a wipeable floor to comply with Infection Control), unfortunately this is not the case at the centre and the centre cannot therefore comply with the current NHS requirements.

The Parish Council has no direct responsibility for the provision of vaccinations, however we are doing what we can to push for vaccinations to be administered in Heathfield as soon as possible. We understand that this currently isn't possible with the vaccine that is available, however hopefully in the future, as the vaccines become more freely available, it can be provided more locally. We have been assured that those falling into the over 80 category should receive an invite for a vaccination within the next 2 weeks.