

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update from Cllr Gareth Roberts 21 May 2020**

Hello, it looks as though we're going to have beautiful bright, sunny bank holiday weekend. And of course, when we have these weekends, we always see that there is an upsurge in demand of people wanting to go and use the borough's beautiful parks and open spaces. What we want to avoid this weekend are similar scenes to which we saw on the news in Southend beach the other day where there were huge amounts of people and very little regard given to social distancing. So, if you are going to go to any of the borough parks this weekend, please make sure you are giving everybody plenty of space, two metres minimum between you and other people. And if when you get to the park you find that it is a bit busy, maybe consider going home and coming back again a bit later when it may have died down a bit. Of course, as it is a bank holiday weekend many people will want to use Townmead Household Waste and Recycling Centre, again if you can avoid going it's probably best as we've seen queues of up to two hours over the last week and of course we are asking people if they can store their waste safely at home, to do so. And don't forget as it is a bank holiday weekend, next week your bins will be collected one day later. So, I have to say it gives me no pleasure at all to have to pop every time there is a nice sunny weekend and deliver this sort of message and I look forward to the day when I no longer have to do it but at the moment when the lockdown is still so fragile and we're making sure that we are keeping our rate down as much as possible, it is vital that we all keep to the social distancing protocols and try and limit our movements as much as possible. So, I hope you have a very nice, pleasant and socially distanced weekend. Thank you.