**REPORT FOR PEBMARSH – COVID-19 UPDATE – 6th February 2021**

Hello everyone. This lockdown feels like a real slog doesn’t it? However, there are some encouraging signs in terms of the Covid numbers for our County and District.

At week ending 28th January the case rate per 100,000 population for Essex County was 295.4, down from 467 the previous week. For Braintree District the rate is 311.9, down from 487.5. Tendring and Harlow districts remain the highest but are falling significantly. All age groups are showing a decline in positive cases.

As of Tuesday (2nd Feb) there were 1,013 hospital beds occupied by Covid positive patients. This is 29% of trust capacity and is 16% lower than bed occupancy one week earlier (26th Jan). There were 543 deaths from all causes in Essex the week to 22nd Jan; 324 of these were Covid -related. For Braintree District the numbers are 70 deaths overall of which 38 were Covid -related; 29 occurred in hospital, 7 in care homes and 2 in home surroundings.

Our hospitals are coping really well although still under pressure.

Finally, the vaccination roll-out continues apace with the Pump House surgery in Earls Colne doing a fantastic job. Some initial teething problems at St Michaels Hospital in Braintree seem to have been overcome and a mass vaccination centre is now open at Chelmsford Racecourse.

So, we’ve said goodbye to January and there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon. Stay well and safe.

Best wishes

Gabrielle