

Update for borough and parish councillors

Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Save Lives

This week, there were some changes to the lockdown rules:

- Nurseries and other early years settings and reception, year one and year six in primary schools were permitted to reopen in a safe way;
- Outdoor retail and car showrooms, where social distancing is generally easier, were able to reopen, and
- Up to six people are now able to meet outside (in parks, gardens and other private outdoor space) - provided those from different households continue strictly to observe social distancing rules by staying two metres apart.

Key Messages

We are continuing to promote the Government's messaging to 'stay alert, control the virus, save lives'. Locally we are also promoting the message in west Norfolk to '**protect ourselves, protect others.**'

The key messages that we continue to promote are:

- stay at home as much as possible;
- work from home if you can;
- limit contact with other people;
- keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart wherever possible);
- wash your hands regularly;
- self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.



We are sustaining a continuous flow of communications across our channels to emphasise the Government guidance and support people across west Norfolk to stay safe.

The Government's coronavirus FAQs is a useful guide:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

Test and Trace Service

The NHS test and trace service:

- ensures that anyone who develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can quickly be tested to find out if they have the virus; and,
- helps trace close recent contacts of anyone who tests positive for coronavirus and, if necessary, notifies them that they must self-isolate at home to help stop the spread of the virus.

Find out more here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

Latest updates

Here are this week's latest updates:

Business and Consumer Consultation

The Borough Council in partnership with Discover King's Lynn has launched consultation to gain insight from businesses and consumers as King's Lynn town centre gets set to reopen.



- The King's Lynn town centre **Consumer Insight survey** seeks to understand how people feel about coming back into the town, any concerns they might have, and thoughts around measures that could be taken to increase confidence. The survey also aims to gain knowledge about any changes to how people access shopping and services. The consumer insight survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MQM579Y>
- The **Business Insight survey** aims to find out the thoughts of King's Lynn businesses on the existing challenges and the impact that Covid-19 has had, and what support local companies need right now. The survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T7JB2TG>

The consultation aligns with other research taking place to support west Norfolk's recovery from the impact of Covid-19. This includes a recent study of tourism businesses. Further consultation is planned for the wider west Norfolk business community, including in Downham Market and Hunstanton

The insight from both surveys will be used to inform the wider recovery and renewal of the town in response to Covid-19. It will also inform the development of the Town Investment Plan, and more specifically, will help to identify short term investment priorities for the town centre. The Town Investment Plan is currently being developed and will potentially allow King's Lynn to access £25m of Town Deal funding that has been allocated by the Government.

The consultation launched online on 5th June and will run until midnight on Sunday 14th June. More information can be found here: <https://www.visionkingslynn.co.uk/>

Business Grants

Village halls and small sports clubs could be eligible for grant funding of up to £10,000.

In March 2020 the government announced certain businesses, including leisure organisations, would be able to claim a grant of £10,000 from their local council to help with the impact of Covid-19.

The grants were launched on 31 March 2020 and since then the council has paid grants of over £36.725 million to 3,161 organisations.

Anyone wishing to claim the grant can complete the online eligibility checker available on the

borough council's website at www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/covid19grant and follow instructions on how to apply.

Coastal Measures

The Council has taken a number of measures to increase safety at the coast in light of the Government easing restrictions. This has included:

- Borough council officers have been patrolling the coastline from Brancaster, round to Hunstanton, Heacham and Snettisham each weekend to help vendors and ensure social distancing occurs;
- Signage has been placed around Heacham North and South Beaches, as well as Hunstanton, reminding visitors to follow social distancing guidance and to keep two metres apart where possible;
- The path from the Cliff Top car park to the beach in Hunstanton has been widened and external wash basins placed in the resort;
- Car parks are open, so that visitors can get in, get parked and easily get to the beach, promenade and The Green with as little effect as possible on the local community;
- There is also a one-way system on the ramps to and from the beach for pedestrians to use to maintain social distancing.



We are also encouraging people to follow Government guidance, including around travel and the wearing of face coverings, as appropriate.

The Council is not actively encouraging day trippers but the priority has been to make the coast safe for residents and visitors, and minimise the impact on local communities.

Discretionary Grants

The borough council has now launched a limited discretionary grant funding pot for businesses that may not have been eligible, to date, for financial assistance.

On 1 May 2020 the government announced it was allowing local authorities to develop policies to pay discretionary grants to local businesses affected by COVID-19.

While local authorities are able to decide their own policies, government has asked that four specific types of businesses are prioritised for the grant, and has specified three mandatory criteria all applicants must meet in order to receive the grant.

As funding is limited the policy is restricted to those businesses the government has specified are a priority plus businesses the council consider to be local priorities.

The Council has contacted businesses that we know to be eligible and we have already received 53 applications which are being processed for imminent payment. This funding is limited, so it is important that businesses check their eligibility

Full details of eligible businesses and the eligibility criteria are available on the borough council's website www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/discretionarygrant

Markets

This week, markets returned to King's Lynn and Hunstanton.

In King's Lynn traders came back to the Tuesday Market Place on Tuesday whilst traders returned to Hunstanton on Sunday in the usual location in the Southend Car Park, off Le Strange Terrace.

Measures to encourage social distancing, including larger spaces and signage, have been taken to ensure safety.



NHS and Key Workers Display



A floral display has been created in King's Lynn to thank the NHS and key workers. The specially created badge bed has been installed in Tower Gardens by staff from the Borough Council.

Non-Essential Retail

The Government has announced plans for non-essential retail to reopen from Monday 15 June. The Council is preparing some communications materials that will shortly be available for businesses to download and print off to help them to prepare for the 15th.

Any non-essential retail businesses which are planning to reopen are advised to follow the five steps to working safely:

1. Carry out a COVID-19 risk assessment. The Health and Safety Executive provide a guide for this: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/index.htm>
2. Develop cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures.
3. Help people to work from home.
4. Maintain 2m social distancing, where possible.
5. Where people cannot be 2m apart, manage transmission risk.

It is also advised that local business owners speak to neighbouring businesses before reopening to discuss any potential impact on each other's premises, along with any access or queuing concerns.

More details to help businesses can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Play Areas



The council has put out a plea to local residents to not remove signs or tape from play areas as the Government guidance is still that they should remain closed.

The Government has eased restrictions on football pitches, tennis courts and multi-use games areas and this has been extended to up to six people as long as social distancing is maintained.

However, the restrictions on play areas with play equipment, including outdoor gyms and

parkour areas, remain.

Play areas represent a risk that is not easy to mitigate and that is why the Government has not lifted the restriction. If anyone notices that a play area has had signs removed please report it to cleanup@west-norfolk.gov.uk so that signage or locks can be replaced.

Gatherings of people who are not from the same household and not socially distanced should be reported to the police using the 101 non-emergency number.

Borough Council service impacts

All of our service impacts can be found here: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus

Please remember our council offices are no longer accepting visits from the public. People can contact us through Live Chat on our website, or by calling us on 01553 616200. Anyone needing to provide documents can post and drop these into the letterbox which is emptied daily.

If you require specific information about any of the issues raised in this update, please contact communications@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Useful contacts and information

The Recovery Strategy

- The government's Covid-19 Recovery Strategy can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

- Useful Frequently Asked Questions on the new guidance can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do?fbclid=IwAR1wG6xaBd9AB8cxf8IYvL9DcUEQmTqdVZTdZ1rEvYrsC-x_qJv2-yLC3_c#public-spaces--outdoor-activities--exercise
- The Government's coronavirus information: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR2-nPimzTLucjDngnYBMdZwiz1xLtW_kairezYMAZhnA2H-Jgk3TSv2AV4

Bereavement

The government has published a guide on 'What to do when someone dies during the COVID-19 pandemic' which shares important information to help bereaved families, friends or next of kin make important decisions during this national emergency and explains the next steps, answers some of your questions, and guides you to the extra help and support that is available.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887996/What_to_do_when_someone_dies_during_the_COVID_19_pandemic.pdf

Business Support

- The government advice for businesses is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>
- The Growth Hub from the New Anglia LEP offers free, expert advice for any business in Norfolk and Suffolk and the advisers are able to signpost employers and employees to details of the new Government support schemes. They're a valuable additional resource. Please call them on 0300 333 6536 or email growthhub@newanglia.co.uk

In addition, as businesses start to think about returning to work – especially non-essential retail – the following resources may be useful:

- HSE: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/working-safely-during-coronavirus-outbreak.htm>
- Gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- 5 steps to working safely: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/5-steps-to-working-safely>
- More free webinars are planned next week: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy-18685150848>

Education

Guidance on actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider openings from 1st June: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020?fbclid=IwAR1v_1hiMDf_EBeufyZnKeiDiVsdNak3CERgGW-vtwU5DkBXVKukEVxXUa4

Health advice

The best places for health advice are:

- NHS - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Public Health England - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Norfolk County Council

Norfolk County Council has useful information: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus/community-support-for-people-at-home/help-if-you-are-self-isolating>

Risk Assessment

How to carry out a Covid-19 risk assessment: https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/index.htm?fbclid=IwAR0g5D_LFXrLi2dzlzfz2Z8GO5aQ_PdrF0qPQLU0aiI0UxpV2XT6K9pFW_EKQ

Social Distancing

Guidance on staying alert and social distancing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

Social distancing guidance for young people

The Cabinet Office has published guidance for young people in England on social distancing that explains the new measures that will help young people stay safe as rules on being outside, or at school or work, change.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people>

Staying Safe Outside the Home

The Government has issued guidance about staying safe outside the home:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home>

Travel

Guidance on safer travel: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers?utm_source=76e96676-dd58-4538-ab23-551972a77e8d&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Working Safely

Guidance on working safely during coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>