

Councillor and Parish Council Update – 8 January 2021

Local Coronavirus figures

The current local Coronavirus figures can be found on the Government website:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=ltla&areaName=King%27s%20Lynn%20and%20West%20Norfolk>

The figures yesterday were:

- For the time period 28/12/2020 to 03/01/2021 the Norfolk seven-day incidence per 100,000 is 508.3, East of England is 800.0 and England is 626.2
- RED incidences are for Breckland with an incidence rate per 100,000 of 508, Broadland 555.9, Great Yarmouth 633.2, King's Lynn and West Norfolk 479.6, North Norfolk 399.7, Norwich 494.4 and South Norfolk 501.9.

National Lockdown – Stay at Home

As you are all well aware, the government announced a national lockdown on Monday, 4 January, taking effect on 5 January. Several dates have been indicated for how long this will be, from mid-February, through to end of February half-term and even March. At this stage all we can do, is keep an eye on announcements and strive to get the spread of the virus under control.

The government guidance for the national lockdown is available on their website

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Alive West Norfolk activities for kids

During lockdown it can sometimes be difficult to think of new ways to keep children active and entertained. It's important to still have fun and keep their little minds occupied. We also understand that every child is different and will enjoy different activities. That is why it's great that there is a wide range of activities for you to access on the Alive West Norfolk websites. Whether you have a budding artist, a future historian or maybe the next Joe Wicks there is something for everyone!

- Check out our hive of activity under the "Bee Fit Club" section for word searches, dot-to-dot and colouring sheets for the younger ones. If yours are a little older then go to "Keeping occupied at home" for the Let's All Create activity pack for some out of this world fun – work out like an Egyptian, make a mini museum in a jar or create a bespoke letter for a friend plus so much more!
- There is also a colouring competition featuring buildings around King's Lynn. Prizes include a family pass to the Corn Exchange cinema, a family swimming pass and a family pass to Stories of Lynn, so something to look forward to for the lucky winners once we are allowed to visit these places again.
- With so much on offer there is no need to hear those awful words "I'm bored...." See the below websites for the full range of activities.
- Corn Exchange [Community events | King's Lynn Corn Exchange](#)
- Stories of Lynn <https://www.storiesoflynn.co.uk/learning-during-isolation/>
- Sports - <https://www.alivewestnorfolk.co.uk/active-at-home/#toggle-id-10>

- Good luck with your competition entry and remember to follow government rules and stay safe.

Vaccinations

The latest information about the government's vaccination programme, which is being led in this area by the Norfolk and Waveney CCG is available on their website <https://www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/>.

This includes information about the Swaffham and Snettisham vaccination sites which will go live next week to serve the Downham Market southern areas and the Northern coastal areas, in addition to the two already open at St James in King's Lynn and St John's at Terrington St John. There is also a mythbuster about the vaccinations which you may find useful. We have been assured that for those needing assistance with getting to their appointment arrangements have been made with transport providers. The GP practice should ask the question when booking the appointment, but if not, concerned residents should contact their GP if they need help with transport for their booked vaccination appointment.

Please remember the key message is to be patient. The vaccination programme is being rolled out, more sites will become available as supplied of equipment and the vaccine are provided, and people will be dealt with in accordance with the government's priority list. People should wait until they receive an appointment, rather than contacting the hospital or their GP.

Enhanced contact tracing

We are working proactively with our Public Health colleagues at Norfolk County Council to bring in some enhanced contact tracing that will enable us to provide information and advice about self-isolation to contacts of people who test positive. We will update you further on this in next week's update.

Grants for businesses

These are the latest available figures for the payment of business grants.

Grant Type	Restriction	Number of grants made	Value of payments made to 27/12/2020	Total funding available	Notes
Local restrictions Support Grants (Closed Businesses)	National Lockdown	991	£ 1,497,200	£ 3,709,350	
Local restrictions Support Grants (Open Businesses)	Tier 2 and 4	0	£ -	£ 1,065,878	Payments to start this week
Local restrictions Support Grants (Closed Businesses)	Tier 2 and 4	0	£ -	£ 19,757	Payments to start this week
Additional Restrictions Grants (Discretionary)	All	52	£ 66,352	£ 3,027,660	Policy splits funding across 20/21 and 21/22
Sector Grants	National Lockdown	3	£ 6,000	£ -	Funding included in LRSB Closed
Sector Grants	Tier 2 and 4	0	£ -	£ -	Payments to start this week
Christmas Support Payment for wet-led pubs	NA	0	£ -	£ 64,000	29 applications ready to pay (hopefully next week). 7 queries with customers, plus need clarification from BEIS on Social Clubs
		1046	£ 1,569,552		

Our team is working tirelessly to process these payments as quickly as possible, but there have been a few delays recently. There are currently around 9 different schemes in place. When they are announced publicly it is some time before we receive guidance, and just before Christmas they came in a flurry. Policies need to be written and the suppliers of our business rates system need to develop new software to enable payment to be made. This then needs to be tested before being placed into our live system.

To update you, tier 2 and 3 grants will be paid by the end of this week. Wherever possible, grants will be paid without an application as we can run reports to establish which businesses are entitled to receive the grant. The grant for wet-led pubs, will be paid early next week.

For the new lockdown grant for closed businesses and the LRSB Closed addendum grant, these are to be combined, which requires some changes to the software which our suppliers are working on but again, we will process these as soon as possible.

If businesses to contact you, please assure them that we are working on it, and will get the payments made as soon as we can, as we do understand the financial pressure they are under.

Exercise once a day and stay local

Local authorities and police are under increasing pressure and scrutiny around travel, but it is important to note that our response is balanced and keeps within the legislation and advice. Local and national media are seeing this as an important narrative and the lack of legislation around it has been flagged to central government.

In the meantime, the police are going to issue the following to back up the stay local message.

Two people who travelled from Northamptonshire to visit a Norfolk beauty spot have been fined as officers increase enforcement in a bid to support their NHS colleagues.

The couple were found to have made the 120-mile plus journey from their home in Wellingborough to visit Horsey to see the seals yesterday (Thursday 7 January 2021).

Local officers carrying out patrols approached the couple in the beach car park after vehicle checks revealed it was registered to an address outside of the county.

The man and woman, both aged in their 50s, admitted they had travelled to see the seals and were consequently issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Officers across the county will be carrying out dedicated COVID-19 patrols in areas such as town centres and beauty spots to make sure people are adhering to the lockdown rules. Officers will stop and speak to people and ask about their reasons for being away from their home address.

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Julie Wvendth, said: "The 'stay at home' rule is clear; you should only leave your home for a reasonable excuse such as food shopping, caring for someone who is vulnerable and for one form of exercise a day. If you do need to leave home for any of these reasons, you should stay local.

"The government have outlined that staying local means staying in the village, town or part of the city where you live. It's our responsibility to adhere to this no matter how tempting it is to travel for a change of scene.

"Contrary to reports on social media, we are not carrying out roadblocks to check the reasons for people travelling. Officers will use their discretion, as they routinely do in the course of their duties, when dealing with people who have travelled away from their home. We will be proportionate in our approach but if we find people are blatantly breaking the rules, we will issue fines.

"We are almost a year into this pandemic; people know the rules and the risks associated with breaking them, so people do not have any excuse for not knowing what is expected."

If you do have any concerns about individuals not following the guidance, then you should report these via the police 101 number.

Homelessness

The moratorium on landlords evicting tenants from their properties ended in September, however, when serving an eviction notice they had to give tenants 6 months' notice and no evictions could take place. From the 11 January bailiff action can be resumed, meaning that renters can be evicted where appropriate notices have been served. We have been monitoring these changes throughout and will be working with families, individuals and landlords to prevent evictions where possible. We have sought additional funding to help with this prevention work.

We would urge anyone who is experiencing difficulties to get in touch as soon as possible, using the following contact details:

Advice services

If someone is worried about becoming homeless, the following organisations might also be able to help:

- [Shelter](#) - free housing advice service
- [The Money Advice Hub](#) - free debt and specialist insolvency advice
- [Citizens Advice Bureau](#) - free confidential advice on a range of topics

If someone is threatened with homelessness, contact us as soon as possible:

- phone us on 01553 616200
- email us at housingoptions@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Please do pass these contact details to anyone in your area who might need support

Letters to residents

In the next week or two we will be sending a letter to every household in Norfolk reminding them about the rules they need to be following, providing information about how to get help and support and also updating on testing and vaccinations as we receive information from the NHS. Once these letters are finalised, we email you a copy in advance so that you are all informed about what we are sending.

Communications

New materials have been issued by central government and by NCC which we have localised. These are being scheduled into our social media channels and we are updating bus stop posters with the new information regarding national Lockdown.

Self-isolation assistance scheme

If anyone in your patch has tested positive for Covid-19 or has been told to self-isolate, they may be entitled to a support payment. There is an NHS Test and Trace Payment and a Local Council Discretionary Payment, each of £500. If they can't work from home and would lose income due to self-isolation, these payments are intended to help them stay at home by reducing money worries. This has the added benefit of ensuring the self-isolation is happening and people aren't finding a way to go back to work.

For more information search Test and Trace Support Payment on the Norfolk County Council website: www.norfolk.gov.uk.

For local council discretionary payment information, please contact west-norfolk.gov.uk.

There is additional support available through the Norfolk Winter Covid Support scheme, including access to free school meal vouchers, for families in need. To find out more visit <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/winter-covid-support-scheme>

For anyone with no access to the internet, please call the Norfolk-wide help line **0344 800 8020**.

Reporting issues

Since 5 January we have been in National Lockdown: Stay at Home. The rules are very clear but if you are concerned about businesses or individuals not complying you can report them as follows:

To report of business visit west-norfolk.gov.uk/reportabusiness

To report individuals who are not complying with the rules and are putting others at risk you should call the police 101 number. They will of course prioritise the most serious issues first with the resources they have.

Lily

Please promote the asklily.org.uk website to anyone within your community who may need help with getting supplies or deliveries through the Lockdown period as well as highlighting support and activities that may reduce social isolation.

Borough Council service impacts

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

Over the next few weeks, we will need to thin out our staff in our main offices as we allocate them to other duties including the preventative enhanced contact tracing and other Covid related work. This may mean that there is an increase in the number of service impacts. We will inform you about these, as and when arrangements are agreed.

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