



12th May 2020

Dear resident

In this email:

- New Government guidance
- Changes to NFDC services
- Household Waste and Recycling Centres
- Shared ownership homes
- VE Day celebrations

We are sending emails like this one to residents of the New Forest with information about our services as we respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

You can unsubscribe at any time – see the end of this email.

NEW: Latest Government guidance

The government has set out its plan for how and when the UK will adjust its response to the COVID-19 crisis.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

We can all help control the virus if we all stay alert. This means you must:

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 where possible)

Wash your hands regularly

Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We are looking carefully at what this new guidance means for NFDC and our services to our community. Initial changes to our services are included below. Any further changes are likely to be in stages, and only after we are satisfied we can do so safely for our customers and staff.

Changes to NFDC services

Having reviewed the new Government guidance this week we are making some changes to our services.

- Coastal /seafront car parks
From tomorrow (Wednesday 13 May) NFDC coastal (amenity) car parks will re-open for use, with cashless payment only.

Only Parking Clocks and Ringo payment will be accepted. This is to remove the need to come into physical contact with pay machines.

We remind anyone using our car parks to consider carefully the need for their journey and to continue social distancing and good hand washing.

Parking clocks can be bought online at <http://newforest.gov.uk/parkingclocks> (Current customers: refunds will not be given on the £120 clocks but this will be taken into consideration at the renewal date.)

This decision to reopen seafront car parks has been taken in light of latest government advice and to support the wellbeing of our residents who wish to exercise and visit outdoor spaces, however we will review this decision to re-open car parks if it is felt that people are not following the latest guidance. Staying at home as much as possible remains the key advice.

Please note: Government latest information states that you can travel to outdoor open spaces irrespective of distance, but to stay at another home is not allowed. Hospitality and leisure businesses are unlikely to open before July. Attractions, pubs, restaurants and hotels are closed, along with public toilets.

Town and village car parks remain open and charging will not be reintroduced to continue to support volunteers being able to shop for the vulnerable.

- Public toilets

All NFDC public toilets will remain closed to support the aim of reducing the spread of the disease. We will regularly review this decision.

- NFDC Information Offices

All information offices, including Appletree Court, will remain closed. Our services can be accessed by website, email or telephone.

We will be reviewing re-opening as the situation evolves and new guidance from government is issued, and when we are sure our customer sites can re-open safely.

- Housing

We are continuing to house people who are homeless and concentrating on essential moves only, those in inappropriate or temporary accommodation, but we are waiting for more detail over the coming days and will update as soon as we can.

- Playgrounds

Government have stated that playgrounds should remain closed.

- Beach huts

Beach hut owners will be able to access their huts from Wednesday 13 May and are asked to maintain the social distancing and good hygiene advice.

At this time, all other services remain unchanged, but we are expecting further guidance in the coming days. Please regularly check www.newforest.gov.uk/coronavirus for updates

News item: <http://newforest.gov.uk/article/19458/NFDC-Service-Update>

Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

The County Council has reopened their HWRCs (tips) for those who cannot continue to safely store their waste at home. If you can hold on to your waste a little longer, please do.

There are important changes to be aware of:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/060502020HWRC>

Please only leave your home to visit if it is absolutely essential and only go if you can't store waste safely at home at this time. If you do have to visit, be aware there are new safety measures in place including less vehicles being allowed on site at any one time so please be patient

Shared ownership homes

We are introducing a shared ownership scheme, to support people who may not otherwise be able to afford to buy a home on the open market. Shared ownership means people buy a share of their home, with a smaller deposit and smaller mortgage, and pay rent on the remaining share.

Read more at <http://newforest.gov.uk/article/19451/Shared-ownership-scheme-introduced-to-help-New-Forest-locals-get-on-the-property-ladder>

VE Day 75

Thank you to everyone who shared photos of your VE Day 75 celebrations across the district. We have saved them in an album on our Facebook page, take a look at https://www.facebook.com/pg/newforestgov/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10158644695969551

Latest information from NFDC:

<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Latest information from central government:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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