



6th May 2020

Dear resident

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We are sending emails like this one to residents of the New Forest district 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.

Preparing to ease out of lockdown

The current stay home and social distancing advice still stands, but Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to announce at the weekend how the government plan to start easing those restrictions.

Although we do not expect anything to change immediately in terms of our services, any changes to restrictions are likely to have an impact on our services and we have been planning for

different situations. Please regularly check our website for updates
<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Council Leader, Cllr Barry Rickman said, “Our role in supporting our communities and local economy will stay an important one in the coming weeks and months and we have started our preparations to be ready for the next phase when lockdown restrictions are eased.”

Please continue to follow latest guidance and restrictions, especially for vulnerable groups, at
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Cabinet meeting

Our Cabinet held their first meeting since the beginning of March today (6 May) and reviewed our response to the Coronavirus.

The meeting was held online and each of the eight Portfolio Holders on NFDC’s Cabinet reviewed actions for the areas they are responsible for, such as housing, environment, and the economy.

You can read the summaries at
<http://newforest.gov.uk/article/19450>

Watch the NFDC Cabinet meeting on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/bwdq5DPiYpl>

Waste collections 8 May bank holiday

We will be collecting waste and recycling, including glass and garden waste, as usual on the bank holiday on Friday 8 May.

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

Garden waste collections: Now open to new customers

As well as customers renewing, and payments for additional garden waste sacks, new customers are now able to subscribe to our garden waste collection service. The quickest way to join or renew is online.

Read more and apply at:

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

Bounce Back Loans for small businesses

Small business owners can apply to accredited lenders by filling out a simple online form. Businesses can borrow between £2,000 and £50,000, with the cash arriving within days. An affordable flat rate of 2.5% interest will be charged on these loans.

To enable firms to get back on their feet, no fees, interest or repayments will be due for the first 12 months.

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bounce-back-loans-to-launch-today>

To apply: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan>

Enjoy VE Day

Friday (8 May) is a bank holiday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE day, marking the end of fighting in Europe in WW2.

We'd love to see how our residents across the district are marking the event from home. Tag us in your pictures on Facebook @newforestgov and Twitter @newforestdc or send them to communications@nfdc.gov.uk

We've put together some ideas for how to get involved, from making your own bunting and baking a 1940s afternoon tea, to joining the nation in a rousing singalong and a toast to those who fought for us.

Find out more here: <http://newforest.gov.uk/article/19447/Mark-VE-Day-75-from-home-on-the-bank-holiday-weekend-8---10-May-2020>

Mental health and wellbeing

The Coronavirus outbreak means that life is changing for all of us for a while. That may cause you to feel anxious, stressed, worried, sad, bored, lonely or frustrated. It's important to remember it is okay to feel this way and that everyone reacts differently. Remember, this situation is temporary and, for most of us, these difficult feelings will pass.

- For advice on how to look after your mental health and wellbeing during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak please see this guidance from government

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

- Guidance on supporting children and young people is also available <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>
- You may also find Public Health England's Every Mind Matters website a useful resource <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

For wider guidance on how to protect yourself and others, and actions to take if you think you may have contracted the virus please see <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Isle of Wight testing site for new tracing app

Our neighbours across the Solent are the first to be part of a new test, track and trace programme for the UK.

Isle of Wight residents have access to the official NHS COVID-19 contact tracing app from Thursday.

The app will work together with enhanced contact tracing services and swab testing for those with potential COVID-19 symptoms to help minimise the spread of COVID-19 and move towards safely reducing lockdown measures.

The test, track and trace programme is expected to roll out nationally in mid-May.

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/news/Covid-19-test-track-and-trace-plan>

Latest information from NFDC:

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

Latest information from central government:

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

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