



8th July 2020

Dear resident,

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

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

We are contacting all households – electoral registration

We will be contacting all households over the summer to keep the electoral register up to date. We have a legal duty to do this every year.

It's important you respond to these messages from NFDC, so we can make sure we have the right details for your household on the electoral register.

You may be contacted by email or post, or, as a last resort, in person at your door. In the current public health situation please follow the instructions we send for your household, and respond online, so that we can avoid these face to face visits and help keep everyone safe.

There's information about registering to vote on the Electoral Commission website: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter>

If you have any questions, please contact us at ElectoralServices@nfdc.gov.uk

Re-opening more of our Information Offices

Two more of our Information Offices, in New Milton and Fordingbridge, have reopened for customers who cannot access services online.

- New Milton: Monday to Friday, 9am – 12.30pm, and 1.30pm – 4pm
- Fordingbridge: Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm

We are currently only offering limited services so please check what we can and can't do before visiting. <http://newforest.gov.uk/coronaviruscontact>

We have extra cleaning and safety measures in place at all our Information Offices. Please follow the onsite instructions and do not visit if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

Local Plan adopted

Council has approved the planning strategy that will guide development in the New Forest, outside of the National Park.

The Local Plan 2016-2036 Part One is the new planning strategy for New Forest District, outside of the New Forest National Park. It sets out policies for the scale and location of new development needed to 2036, balanced with the long-term protection of the character and sensitive environment of the Plan area including the Green Belt.

This new strategy will now form part of the development plan for the district, within which all planning decisions will be made.

Read more: <http://newforest.gov.uk/article/19502/New-strategy-adopted-to-guide-development-in-the-New-Forest-outside-of-the-National-Park>

Council meeting held

We held our first full Council meeting since lockdown this week.

The meeting was online, and you can watch it back on our YouTube channel

at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIAF9uZcPOE&feature=youtu.be>

One of the topics discussed was the actions we are taking with our partners about the decision by Camping In The Forest not to re-open their campsites this year. You can read the Leader's full statement at <http://newforest.gov.uk/19499>

Government latest advice, rules, and information

There's been a few updates to the Government's advice and rules recently. Here are some you may find useful.

- Staying alert and safe

This guidance explains what will help you to stay alert and stay as safe as possible as we all continue to respond to the challenges of coronavirus <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

- Shielding advice

People who had previously been shielding can now have more social interactions, including creating support bubbles, meeting in groups of up to 6 people outside and no longer having to socially distance from people they live with.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

- Got symptoms? Everyone can get tested

Anyone who has Coronavirus symptoms (new persistent cough, high temperature or, change/loss to taste or smell) can be tested for the virus. Testing either takes place at a designated testing site or with a home self-test kit that is returned by post to a laboratory.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

- Accessing green spaces safely and meeting people from outside the household

The advice for the public in England on using green spaces, and the guidance on seeing people, have been updated to reflect changes that applied from Saturday 4 July.

Guidance on green spaces: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-on-accessing-green-spaces-safely>

Guidance on meeting people: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household-from-4-july>

- Leaving contact details when visiting businesses

Businesses are being asked to collect contact details of their visitors as their venues reopen. This helps the NHS Test and Trace reach anyone who may have been in contact with individuals if they later test positive for

Coronavirus. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-asked-to-leave-a-name-and-number-with-venues-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19>

- Guidance for the safe use of places of worship

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>

All of Government's guidance can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Our website is improving

From Tuesday 14 July, you may notice that our website has improved, is easier to use and has more information.

We know that most people visit our website with a specific task in mind and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to do that.

The address for the website <https://www.newforest.gov.uk> will be the same, but the site will look very different. The changes should mean you can get to what you need much quicker.

One new feature is the refuse collection look-up calendar – type in your postcode to find when your next collection day is. This new feature will be under the ‘rubbish and recycling’ section and called “find my collection day”.

From 14 July, why not go to the homepage <https://www.newforest.gov.uk> use the search, and take a look around.

We would love to hear what you think of the improved website – get in touch at digital@nfdc.gov.uk

Report a problem

As restrictions are relaxed, it's important to make sure we are enjoying summer safely. For the latest guidance about what you can and can't do, visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Keep washing your hands, stay 2m apart from others where possible and respect outdoor spaces by not leaving rubbish.

If you spot a problem when out and about, visit our website to see how to report it: <http://newforest.gov.uk/article/19497/How-to-report-a-problem>

In an emergency, always call 999

Latest information from NFDC:

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

Latest information from central

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

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