



15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear resident

In this email

- Wheeled bins being considered as part of improved waste service
- Safe events – including Halloween and bonfire night
- Are you prepared for winter?

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.

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Find out the coronavirus restrictions in your local area: <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>

See latest data at <https://coronavirus-staging.data.gov.uk/>

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## **Wheeled bins being considered for New Forest as part of improved waste service**

A meeting of our environment panel today (15 October 2020) has recommended the next stage in a project to look at a new waste and

recycling collection service for the district be put forward to Cabinet on 4 November.

Wheeled bins and weekly food waste collections are two of the changes included in the preferred option being recommended for further work towards a new waste service for the district.

The changes could also include a wider range of materials being collected for recycling, such as plastic pots, tubs and trays.

The meeting was advised how this proposal will:

- help the area have a cost and carbon efficient service
- minimise the amount of waste, and
- improve the quantity and quality of recycling.

Part of the proposal is to move to an alternate weekly collection. This means a weekly collection, with one week being recycling and the next general waste. A system which is used by the majority of councils who are responsible for waste collection in the UK and is known to work well.

Cllr Alison Hoare, our portfolio holder for environment, said of the draft waste strategy, “Wheelie bins are part of a wider approach being considered so we can meet a legal requirement to offer food waste collections, and increase our recycling rate.

“We know that roughly 90% of all local authorities in England now collect waste in wheeled bins. We can learn a lot from the work they have already done. A project team have been looking at what sort of waste and recycling system would be best for the area for nearly two years, including looking at systems already known to work well, and the public feedback from our survey in January.

“There’s a lot of work still to do to get this right, including asking our residents for comments on what we plan, and making sure there is

somewhere appropriate to send the food waste for recycling. Any changes won't come in until 2022 at the earliest.

"We are keen to hear from residents so we can take their views into consideration as we look at how a new system could work. But waste minimisation sits at the heart of all of this and there is no question that change must happen."

If Cabinet approve the recommendation, officers will do more work to assess what exact system would be the best solution for the New Forest. The draft waste strategy will then be open for comments between 12 November and 10 December 2020.

Read the draft waste

strategy <https://democracy.newforest.gov.uk/documents/b22148/Supplemental%20Agenda%20-%20Draft%20Waste%20Strategy%2015th-Oct-2020%2014.00%20Environment%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20P.pdf?T=9>

Watch the environment panel meeting on

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6NcgrPXzGM&feature=youtu.be>

Councillors at the panel meeting asked about properties where wheeled bins would be difficult to store. The project research estimates that 92% of New Forest properties would be suitable, and that alternative systems would be provided for households for who wheeled bins will not work. More work would be done to understand this fully.

With any new system, NFDC would continue to offer assisted collections for people unable to move their own waste to their property boundary.

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# **Safe events – including Halloween and Bonfire night**

We are entering a crucial stage in the pandemic and events and celebrations, such as Halloween and bonfire night, should be a little different this year.

New Forest is currently in the medium alert level <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know> but data for Hampshire shows coronavirus cases are rising sharply.

The Rule of 6 is a law and no more than six people should meet indoors or out.

The Director of Public Health for Hampshire and Isle of Wight has said: Large public events should not take place – Should event organisers choose to continue with events, they will be referred to the Safety Advisory Group to ensure adherence at all times to the strictest public health precautions, and will be required to demonstrate that the necessary COVID-secure measures are in place.

Halloween:

- Door knocking is not recommended due to difficulties in adhering to social distancing, risks associated with potential contact, mixing of multiple households and spread of the virus through contact with shared surfaces, including shared buckets of treats.
- Government guidance applies to any social gatherings of people of all ages both in and outdoors. This includes meeting in groups of six people or less when seeing friends and family and the need to following social distancing rules.
- You are instead encouraged to celebrate within your own household.

See some ideas and tips on enjoying Halloween safely: <https://newforest.gov.uk/1733>

#### Bonfire Night:

- Large events to celebrate Bonfire night are strongly discouraged due to the potential for mixing of large numbers of people, the risk of importation of infection from other areas and potential required support from emergency services.
- Private events must adhere to government guidance around gathering and social distancing, with people encouraged to watch firework displays virtually.
- Information about bonfires: <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/1358/Bonfires-and-Burning-Materials>

#### Remembrance Day:

- Hampshire County Council will work with partners to ensure any events taking place are able to go ahead safely and are planned in accordance with government guidelines through the Safety Advisory Group. Where they take place, strict social distancing must apply with public attendance carefully managed by the event organisers.
- Parades are strongly discouraged due to the potential for mixing of large numbers of people and the risk of importation of infection from other areas.
- Wherever possible private moments of remembrance and reflection are encouraged.

#### Diwali:

- Large events to celebrate Diwali are strongly discouraged due to the potential for mixing of large numbers of people, the risk of importation of infection from other areas.

- Government guidance applies to any social gatherings of people of all ages both in and outdoors. This includes meeting in groups of six people or less when seeing friends and family and the need to follow social distancing rules.

Latest government rules on what you can and cannot do: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Group Manager for Community Safety at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, John Amos said: “Bonfire Night celebrations will be different this year and with many organised events cancelled, emergency services are preparing for a busier night than usual as people celebrate in their own gardens. Remember that fireworks are explosives, so we urge members of the public not to take unnecessary risks and to always follow the manufacturer’s instructions and the Firework Code.

Please help us to protect the community by showing respect this Bonfire Night. Respect the firework, respect the emergency services and respect your neighbours.”

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## **Are you prepared for winter?**

There are some simple ways you can prepare yourself for the winter months.

- Get your flu jab <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>
- Check your vehicle is winter ready <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/travel/6-things-to-do-to-prepare-your-vehicle-for-winter-weather>

- Check your heating and plumbing – your home should be heated to at least 18 °C <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/your-home/keeping-your-home-warm-in-winter>
- Weatherproof your home and garden <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/your-home/protecting-your-property-from-winter-weather>
- Think of vulnerable neighbours – Share this checklist <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/weatherready-winter-poster-2020.pdf> with your neighbours, see if they have any other tips and tell them if you can help in severe weather

Find out what else you can do to prepare yourself and your community for severe weather:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/weatherready>

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at: <https://newforest.gov.uk/article/1610/Residents-email-archive>

- Latest information from NFDC: <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Information on coronavirus from Hampshire County Council: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/coronavirus>

- Latest information from central government: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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