

Dear resident

We are resending this email as we incorrectly stated in the email sent earlier today that Christmas tree recycling starts from 2 December. This should have read 2 January 2021. Our apologies.

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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 Coronavirus (COVID-19). You can unsubscribe at any time – see the end of this email.

Change to the COVID-19 self-isolation period

From today (Monday 14 December) the self-isolation period has reduced from 14 to 10 days.

The change was announced by the Chief Medical Officer after reviewing the scientific evidence <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-chief-medical-officers-statement-on-the-self-isolation-period-11-december-2020>

Self-isolation is essential to reducing the spread of COVID as it breaks the chains of transmission.

Read about self-isolating from the NHS at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>

Comments on draft waste strategy extended to Sunday 20 December

If you have not yet done so, please take a look at our draft waste strategy, which describes ways we are aiming to increase what can be recycled, and then tell us what you think at <https://newforest.gov.uk/wastestrategy> by 20 December.

Please do share this information with your family and friends if they live in the New Forest.

We are keen to hear from local people how our proposals will work for them so that we can develop a service that works best for the local area, and for our environment.

For people who cannot access the website, printed packs are available from our information offices or by calling customer services on 023 8028 5000. And there is a printable version to download if you are able to share safely with friends or family who do not have access to the internet <https://newforest.gov.uk/wastestrategy>

Local elections 2021

The next elections in the New Forest are on 6 May 2021.

These elections are for Hampshire County Council councillors, some New Forest by-elections, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire.

If you would like to vote by post rather than visit a polling station, and aren't already registered for postal voting, you can print and complete a form at

<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/votebypost#postal> and send it to us in the post, or you can complete and scan the form and email it to electoralservices@nfdc.gov.uk

Anyone can request to vote by post, you do not need to give a reason.

Domestic wood burning

We are asking residents who burn wood to think whether they can burn less, burn cleaner, burn better, and burn different.

Wood burning causes harmful particulate air pollution in your home and neighbourhood. Breathing in particulate matter pollution negatively impacts the health of your family and community, affecting your lungs and heart.

- Burn less: Reduce burning where possible, keep stoves and fires for particularly cold weather unless they are your only heating source.
- Burn cleaner: Burn cleaner fuels such as smokeless, authorised fuels or dry, well-seasoned wood with low moisture content.
- Burn better: Use efficient appliances, don't shut off air or allow the temperature to drop, and service and clean them regularly.
- Burn different: If possible, switch heating source to no or low emission fuels, such as renewable, electric or gas alternatives.

If you are having a bonfire, please follow Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service bonfire safety advice <https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/keeping-safe/atleisure/bonfire-safety/> Be aware of the impacts of air pollution and be considerate to neighbours, your community and wildlife. Only burn dry, untreated wood and no other household or garden waste, in particular avoid burning firelighters, oil rubber, plastics or any wood with varnish, paint or creosote.

For more information and advice on wood burning, see the Environment Centre website <https://environmentcentre.com/wood-burning/> or contact cleanair@environmentcentre.com.

Advice for the clinically extremely vulnerable

The following advice is important for anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable. People aged over 60 or who have a health condition that makes them vulnerable may also find this information helpful:

- Social contact – Keep your contact with others beyond your household or support bubble to a minimum and this must be outside in groups fewer than 6 people. Try to stay 2 metres apart from everyone including anyone in your household or support bubble
- Shopping – Use online deliveries, click and collect, or reduce the number of shopping trips. If you do shop, try to go at quieter times
- Travel – Avoid all non-essential journeys except for work, school or essential trips – try to avoid busy times and routes – walk or cycle if you can
- Work – Work from home if possible but if not, you can still attend your workplace as it should be COVID-secure – if you are concerned speak to your employer
- Staying active – It is important to continue to take regular exercise outdoors, taking care to stay safe
- Accessing care and support – The NHS is open – continue to access any medical services and essential or urgent care
- Mental health – take steps to look after your mental wellbeing and seek help from a health professional if needed. Advice and resources for health and wellbeing are available at <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

<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>

Christmas guidance and bubbles

You can make a Christmas bubble with loved ones during the five-day festive window, 23 to 27 December, whilst making sure you continue to take steps to stay safe.

The New Forest is currently in Tier 2 (High) and you must keep following the guidance <http://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

Christmas Bubbles government guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family>

- You can form an exclusive 'Christmas Bubble' composed of people from no more than three households. Try to keep it as small as possible.
- You can only be in one Christmas Bubble – once formed, you can't change this.
- Only meet your Christmas Bubble at home, or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces.
- You must not form a Christmas Bubble if you are self-isolating.

See more information from Hampshire County Council on support bubbles: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus-support-bubbles>

Read latest government guidance for the Christmas period

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period>

Recycle your real Christmas tree

From Saturday 2 January to Sunday 17 January 2021 real Christmas trees can be dropped off for recycling at some of our car parks across the district.

- Blackfield, Gang Warily community centre car park SO45 1GA
- Burley, Coach park BH24 4AP
- Fordingbridge, A338 slip road car park SP6 5JA

- Hythe, New Road car park SO45 6AQ
- Lymington, Bath Road car park SO41 3SE
- Lyndhurst, Village centre car park SO43 7BF
- Milford, Hurst Road East overflow car park (by Sturt Pond) SO41 0PY
- New Milton, Crossmead Avenue car park BH25 6NF
- Ringwood, The Furlong long stay car park (follow signs to the designated area) BH24 1AT
- Totton, Rumbidge Street car park SO40 9EA

The trees will be chipped and used as mulch.

All decorations must be removed from the tree before taking it to a drop-off point.

Trees must be left in the designated fenced bays only, and placed at the back to avoid blocking the entrance for others.

Please note that in a change from previous years the following car parks will not be used for as Christmas tree drop off points this year:

Brockenhurst, Brookley Road

Lymington, St Thomas Street

Totton, Westfield

Read more and see Christmas refuse collection dates at

<https://newforest.gov.uk/christmasrefuse>

Financial support for businesses affected by coronavirus:

Apply for funding if your local business was legally forced to close from 5 November 2020 to 2 December 2020 due to the national restrictions put in place to manage coronavirus. <https://newforest.gov.uk/article/1274/Financial-support-for-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus>

Sign up to get business updates via email:

<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/businessnewsletter>

Missed an email? Read previous residents emails 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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<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/emails>

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