

Councillor and Parish Council Update – 24 May 2021

Local Coronavirus figures

The current local Coronavirus figures can be found on the Government website:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=ltla&areaName=King%27s%20Lynn%20and%20West%20Norfolk>

These figures are for the week ending 18/05/2021, and comparisons are with the week ending 11/05/2021:

- The case rate per 100,000 for all ages is: Norfolk 9 (16.1 previous week), East of England 16.9 (17.4 previous week) and England 21.3 (21.9 previous week). Overall, this represents a decrease in Norfolk of 43.8%.
- In King's Lynn and West Norfolk, the case rate per 100,000 of all ages is 11.9 compared to 22.5 the previous week – a decrease of 47.1%
- This compares to figures for the rest of Norfolk this week: Breckland 9.3; Broadland 6.9; Great Yarmouth 7; North Norfolk 4.8; Norwich 12.1 ; and South Norfolk 9.2.
- The total number of people tested for Covid-19 in the last 7 days is 22952, compared to 23650 for the previous 7 days (-3%).

While low, the figures in west Norfolk are still higher than most of Norfolk. Please continue to follow and promote the basic messages of hands, face, space and fresh air as we start to enjoy the additional freedoms we will get from Monday.

Here are some additional government links you may find useful:

[Cases | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](#) - This site can be filtered to show information for each district

[Interactive Map | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](#) - Can focus in on the map to district level and ultimately ward/street view.

Vaccination update (From N&WCCG)

The latest national vaccination data was published today and it shows that we are continuing to make strong progress with both first and second doses. The data shows that up to Sunday, 16 May 2021:

- **74% of adults in Norfolk and Waveney had received their first dose**, compared to 67% of adults in England. This puts us third out of the 42 health and care systems in England.
- **45% of adults in Norfolk and Waveney had also received their second dose**, compared to 38% of adults in England. This puts us fifth out of the 42 health and care systems.
- **96% of over 70s had received their second dose.**
- **In the week to 16 May**, 59,261 doses were given of which 22,804 were first doses and 36,457 were second doses.
- A total of **1,007,691 doses of vaccine had been given locally** since the start of the vaccination programme.

There's further information in this [press release](#). I'll continue to keep you updated on developments with the programme.

Message from Melanie Craig, chief Executive of NHS Norfolk & Waveney clinical Commissioning Group

Dear all,

Many of you will have seen the national and local media coverage about the perception that patients are finding it difficult to obtain face to face appointments with their GPs. I felt that I needed to address this issue, before a perception becomes a truth.

We need to be very clear that GP practices have continued to see patients in person during the pandemic, but as with many other NHS services, the number of face-to-face appointments has understandably had to reduce to protect patients - particularly those at higher risk if exposed to such a potentially lethal virus – and to protect our staff. In the face of social distancing and infection control restrictions, practices should be commended for providing more than half of their appointments face-to-face.

Even as restrictions ease, COVID-19 is still circulating and new variants remain a concern, so to continue protecting patients, we have to limit how many can be in the surgery at any one time – something NHS England notes in its guidance. Sometimes this means a surgery waiting room with space for 40 patients can now hold only six, affecting the number of patients that can be physically seen each day.

As COVID-19 becomes less of a threat, phone and online consultations will continue to play an important role for many, but patients should also be reassured that face-to-face appointments will increase as it becomes safe to offer them and where local capacity allows. The key thing here is that we will need to continue to offer our patients choice – many have welcomed the idea of telephone, online and video consultations but we know some do not. In line with the national directive, all patients will continue to be triaged so they can be directed to the most appropriate practitioner. I'm sure you will agree that it is vital we continue to make best use of the wider primary care workforce to ensure that patients are triaged and signposted, in many cases to the most appropriate health care professional for their issue or query.

Practices in England are delivering more than a million appointments each day, as well as now beginning to manage the huge backlog of patients who may not have received the care they needed because of the pandemic. This 'invisible' primary care waiting list is just as real as the record number of patients waiting for hospital treatment – many of whom will also return to their GP for ongoing care. Locally, the emerging picture is of a primary care system that has continued to engage with and support its local community. While January and February face to face appointments were down on the same time last year it's important to remember we were in lockdown and activity was impacted as a result. This enabled PCNs to really focus on the vaccination programme, which is not recorded in this data.

The latest published data available for the number of appointments at GP practices is March 2021. Despite the vaccination programme continuing, the numbers of appointments overall exceed last year:

- 513,556 in March 2020 and
- 576,549 in March 2021.

The proportion of different appointments shows the transformation of more remote appointments and delivery of services in a different way. For instance, in March 2020, there were 381,928 face to face appointments, as opposed to 370,599 in March 21, only a very small drop. Telephone appointments for the same months stood at 106,739 and 176,305, with the shortfall made up of home visits and video conferencing. That means that in Norfolk and Waveney there were around 25,000 appointments being delivered each day in general practice, of which more than 16,000 were face to face. These figures represent the true picture in primary care in Norfolk and Waveney and we will continue to use this data to evidence just how much primary care activity is taking place and challenge patient / media perceptions.

We will continue to monitor activity as part of our recovery and hope to see the picture continue to improve.

Finally, as you would expect with such a huge volume of patient activity, there will be some instances where an individual practice may need some support to address an issue; we will continue to work closely with and support all our practices to ensure that where any direct issues are raised, we will liaise with them accordingly.

I hope this information is helpful and provides reassurance that our GP practices and their teams continue to work exceptionally hard, on top of playing a lead role in delivering the biggest vaccination programme in the history of the NHS.

With very best wishes.

Melanie

Face-to-Face meetings

With Government confirming that from 7 May all council meetings should again be held face-to-face, Norfolk county Council has issued some guidance which you may wish to consider sharing with your parish council to consider who you will manage members at your next face-to-face meetings. One of the most important actions that meeting attendees could take is to ensure they take a lateral flow test prior to any meetings.

Details of how to get a lateral flow test are as follows:

Lateral Flow Tests and Vaccines

In addition to the above, and to ensure we are all doing all we can to support the Government's roadmap for the easing of restrictions, we would strongly encourage all employees who are attending their work base to undertake voluntary lateral flow testing at least twice per week.

As a reminder, you can get a lateral flow test in one of three ways:

- By booking a test at a testing site use the link www.norfolk.gov.uk/rapidtesting
- By registering register to receive a test at home order test kits via <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

- By finding a pharmacy or test site from where test kits can be collected at <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> or <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

We know many of you are already receiving the test kits at home and are undertaking your testing that way, which is quick and easy. Please keep up the good work and keep taking the tests (even if you have had a vaccine) over the coming weeks.

Grants for business

Since November last year over £23,037,275 has been paid in business support grants. This is in addition to nearly £40M paid during lockdown 1.

Applications for LRSB grants to 31 March close on 31 May 2021.

Restart Grants are being paid automatically, and we have now paid out £12.35m so far.

Our business grant webpage is a helpful source of information <https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/businessgrants>.

Small Business Grant Scheme for west Norfolk business

As part of our wider business support package from the Additional Restrictions Grant from government, we have been working in partnership with the New Anglia LEP Growth Hub to deliver a Small Business Grant scheme for West Norfolk Businesses, where businesses can apply for grant up to £25k for 75% of project costs. Details of the scheme criteria and eligibility is attached.

A requirement of the funding is that it must be claimed by 30th June 2021 so there is a short time frame for businesses to apply – we would therefore appreciate your support to promote the grant opportunity with businesses you think would be eligible/interested. The attached FAQs of the scheme can be circulated. Businesses should contact the Growth Hub to apply on the following:

Email growthhub@newangliagrowthhub.co.uk

Phone number: 0300 333 6536

Closing date for applications is 24 May, with final submissions going in on 28 May.

This scheme is in addition to the [Refresh Reopen Grant](#) launched by the Borough Council last week which aims to support outdoor/indoor adaptations and shop front improvements and the [Go Digital](#) programme with Norfolk County Council. Businesses can apply for all, as long as they are not seeking grant support for the same item/project cost.

Details of all grants available from the Borough Council can be found on our [Business support webpage](#).

Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities

Monday (17 May), MHCLG updated the guidance for those managing community centres, village halls and other community facilities on safely re-opening to reflect the further easing of national restrictions which came into effect yesterday.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

Temporary Event Notices (update)

We've received a few enquiries from parish council's about Temporary Event Notices (TEN) recently. Below, the information sent earlier this month is repeated, along with clarification about what notification we can give parish councils.

Within the framework of The Licensing Act 2003, the system of permitting temporary event activities is intended as a light touch process, and as such, the carrying on of licensable activity does not have to be authorised by the licensing authority on an application.

Part 5 of The Licensing Act 2003 provides the framework for Permitted temporary activity, under which the TEN process falls. The TEN must be given to the licensing authority on a prescribed form and also provided to 'relevant persons' which are the Police and Environmental Health.

The Police or Environmental Health may intervene to prevent such an event taking place by sending an objection to the licensing authority, which the licensing authority must consider on the basis of the statutory licensing objectives and decide whether the event should go ahead.

The four licensing objectives are –

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public Safety
- The prevention of public nuisance; and
- The protection of children from harm

A register containing records of all TENs, so that Members, parishes and residents have access to the information, is available online to view on our website at the following link -

<https://online.west-norfolk.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=LicencingApplication>

We are now informing parish councils of TENs within their area, so that they can go online and see if there are any objections within 72 hours. Parish councils are not consultees and can only make representations by contacting the police or the community safety team at the council to raise their concerns. It is not practicably possible to notify parishes whether the TEN has granted or not, so the advice is that parish council's check the online register.

Borough Council service impacts

All of our service impacts can be found here: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus

If you require specific information about any of the issues raised in this update, please contact communications@west-norfolk.gov.uk