

## Councillor and Parish Council Update –16 April 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 11/04/2021, and comparisons are with the week ending 04/04/21:

- The case rate per 100,000 for all ages is: Norfolk 13.1 (18 previous week), East of England 22.8 (23.6 previous week) and England 28.4 (32.1 previous week). Overall, this represents a decrease in Norfolk of -27.0
- In King's Lynn and West Norfolk, the case rate per 100,000 of all ages is 23.1 compared to 26.4 the previous week – a decrease of 12.5%
- This compares to figures for the rest of Norfolk this week: Breckland 17.1; Broadland 4.6; Great Yarmouth 7.0; North Norfolk 4.8; Norwich 13.5; and South Norfolk 16.3.
- The total number of people tested for Covid-19 in the last 7 days is 21785, compared to 20,654 for the previous 7 days (4.8% increase).

The figures show a decrease in west Norfolk. But with some restrictions lifting on Monday it is vital that we continue to be vigilant and communicate the need to minimise travel, continue to work from home where possible and to follow the hands, face space advice. This applies whether you have had your vaccine or not, please encourage everyone to continue to follow the guidance in place to control the virus and save lives. We want the figures to continue to go down as we move towards the next trigger date in the Government's roadmap out of lockdown of 17 May.

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(see attached stakeholder briefing)

People over the age of 45 are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine as the NHS vaccination programme continues to make strong progress.

Thanks to the thousands of people involved, the NHS has now offered vaccines to everyone aged 50 and over as well as millions of health and social care workers, unpaid carers and people at higher clinical risk across the country, and delivered over 27 million first doses.

Take-up of the vaccine has been exceptionally strong; five out of six people in the first nine priority groups have already chosen to take up the offer. This offer remains on the table, so if you are in these groups and haven't take it up yet, there is still time.

Now this important milestone has been reached, alongside making sure those who are due it can receive their second dose, the NHS is able to start offering first doses to people in the next eligible group.

Those over the age of 45 can book via the national booking system at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by ringing 119 free of charge. Appointment availability can vary, depending on demand and vaccine supply, so please keep checking as appointments are regularly added. Alternatively, eligible patients can contact their GP practice to ask for an appointment.

In Norfolk and Waveney we continue to offer vaccinations to people who haven't yet received a first dose from cohorts 1-9 which includes:

- people aged 50 and over
- people at high risk from coronavirus (clinically extremely vulnerable)
- people who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable/immunosuppressed (confirmation needed from GP and ID to show linked address)
- people who live or work in care homes
- health and social care workers
- people with a condition that puts them at higher risk (clinically vulnerable)
- people with a learning disability
- people who are a main carer for someone at high risk from coronavirus

The news came as health leaders reassured patients that the risk of any serious side effects is incredibly rare and urged anyone eligible who has not yet received their first dose of vaccine to come forward to be vaccinated.

Latest published figures (up to Sunday 4 April 2021) show that 66% of people aged over 16 in Norfolk and Waveney have received their first dose, compared to 59% of adults in England. This puts us fourth out of the 42 health and care systems in England.

Whilst 66% of people aged over 16 in Norfolk and Waveney have already received the vaccine, it is vital that those who are eligible for a vaccine and have not already booked an appointment are reminded and encouraged to do so.

### **Test Kits - New collection service for small businesses – NCC Library Collect**

Because of new channels and supply of test kits from DHSC, NCC are now pleased to offer home test kits for small businesses and their employees. It will enable your staff to conduct twice-weekly testing in a manner more appropriate to your business and working practices. NCC have set up collection points at 33 libraries across the county (this will rise to all 47 in the next couple of weeks). You can simply collect home test kits from them for you and your employees.

### What do you need to do next?

Please complete the form at this link below with your business details. This will be uploaded automatically to our database and the libraries informed – you won't receive further emails from us at this stage, you can then simply go and collect your test kits.

## [NCC Library Collect - collection service of LFD home testing kits for small businesses](#)

### Where can you get test kits?

Look on SiteFinder in the link below to find the nearest library that is currently providing test kits, as well as its opening hours. The staff at the library will just ask which business you are from and give you test kits commensurate to your staff numbers on your return. If those numbers have changed since submission not to worry – they will simply amend our database and give you the required number.

### [Find a test centre \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](#)

### What will we get?

Due to current supply chain demands (constrained by the national DHSC roll-out of home testing to schools bubbles), you will be given 1 x box of home test kits per person. As supply improves we may be able to give 2 boxes at a time. Each box contains 7 x tests – enough for 3 ½ weeks of twice-weekly testing for an individual. We therefore currently ask you return in 3 weeks to ensure you do not run out. There are instructions included in the box as to how to administer a self-test at home. We recommend that if possible (and where you have not already done so) individuals attend a DATS testing site to be tested by a trained testing operative and to see how a test is correctly administered – this will increase the effectiveness of your home testing regime. These sites can be found and booked here:

### [Symptom-free coronavirus testing - Norfolk County Council](#)

New channels and ways to get tested are opening up all the time, indeed many of your staff may already be eligible for these home kits via Community Collect as they are part of the School Bubble cohort.

### **Symptom-free Community testing**

Community testing is available next week at Fairstead Community Centre for all residents and workers in King's Lynn. Symptom-free testing is available from 8am-6pm.

These quick tests can be taken whenever residents are out and will help break the chain of transmission of Covid-19. It's recommended that you take these tests if you are going out to work or even heading to the supermarket. It's quick to do and, even if you've had the vaccine, it's recommended that we all do it.

Book a test here: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/rapidtesting](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/rapidtesting) or just turn up.

### **Grants for business**

Since November last year almost £22M has been paid in business support grants. This is in addition to nearly £40M paid during lockdown 1.

**Applications for grants from 16 February 2021 to 31 March 2021 will remain open until 31 May 2021.**

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

The web page has information about the Restart Grants as well. These grants of up to £6,000 per premises for non-essential retail businesses, and up to £18,000 per premises for hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses will be payable from April 2021. We're now paying the Restart Grants automatically for businesses where we can confirm they qualify. In addition to the £62m in business support grants already paid out we have this week processed £9.2m of Restart Grants to 1,075 businesses and these monies will be in bank accounts early next week.

Business grants FAQs can be found here: [Business grants FAQs | Business grants FAQs | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Business Support**

We have put together a range of resources for businesses, these include promotional materials in our towns, a handy guide for businesses, tables and chairs in King's Lynn and plans for more in Hunstanton, and a book bench trail across the three towns to encourage people to visit. Signage, floor stickers, sanitising stations, are all in place encouraging people to shop safely and to observe the guidance on social distancing, wearing face coverings and washing or sanitising hands. Bus Stop posters and vinyl artwork will also be installed. On social media there will be a new animation providing safety advice and today we aired our first West Norfolk Welcomes video on social media.

Read the [press release](#). This includes links to the Business and Tourism Toolkit, and the pack of signage that is free to download and we are also offering to print materials for free, through the council's print room.

The Go Digital support for businesses was launched in West Norfolk on Monday this week. You can read more in the [press release](#). Please do share this particularly with retail and hospitality/tourism businesses.

### **Car Parking issues in coastal areas**

The Covid-19 pandemic travel restrictions may mean that there is an increase in holidays being taken along the Norfolk coast.

Pressure on the highway network was reported last summer (2020) and is likely to be the same in 2021.

Issues connected with visitor parking were raised with NCC, District Councils and the Police last summer. They were dealt with at a local level on a reactive ad-hoc basis.

The predominant issues raised were linked to parking in communities that normally do not experience that level of traffic on a regular basis.

This resulted in inappropriate parking by visitors which blocked access for buses, local residents and emergency services.

In many areas parking is managed by waiting restrictions (yellow lines etc) and NCC has Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers, at these locations. A map showing the location and details of these restrictions can be viewed at <http://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/cpe/> . The CPE service is not set up to be reactive like the police. However local feedback can help inform enforcement patterns if repeated parking issues are noted.

In general, the Police do not enforce waiting restrictions but may intervene if a dangerous highway situation is evident. Many more rural locations do not have waiting restrictions in place. Given the timescales involved, there are no plans for NCC to implement permanent or temporary TROs.

NCC can place no waiting cones on the highway in an advisory capacity to better inform visitors that parking is to be avoided these are however not enforceable by the Police or borough council.

Requests for deployment will be overseen by the North and West Area Highway Teams. These cones will be placed on the highway at likely and known parking related congestion points by Norse Highways in the first instance and then managed and moved by volunteers from Parish Councils. This will however be under the direction of the Area Highways Team applying NCC guidance. The process will require Area Engineers to be kept up to date with details of when and where the Parish Teams have redeployed or moved the cones including locations and dates etc.

The Highways Network Management team will support this role by liaising with Civil Enforcement Parking teams as well as Bus Operators.

Reports and cone requirements from Parish Councils should be made via the NCC Customer Services Centre on 0344 800 8020 specifically as a Parish Request. This will be logged accordingly on the enquiry system, which will enable these calls to be prioritised.

### **Borough Council service impacts**

**All of our service impacts can be found here: [www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://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](mailto:communications@west-norfolk.gov.uk)