

Councillor and Parish Council Update – 18 December 2020

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>

The figures yesterday were:

- For the time period 06/12/2020 to 12/12/2020 the Norfolk seven-day incidence per 100,000 is 122.6, East of England is 240.5 and England is 206.6
- RED incidences are for Breckland with an incidence rate per 100,000 of 101.5, Broadland 146.8, Great Yarmouth 152.0, King's Lynn and West Norfolk 151.3, North Norfolk 61.1, Norwich 140.1 and South Norfolk 98.0.

The figures last week were:

- For the time period 29/11/2020 to 05/12/2020 the Norfolk seven-day incidence per 100,000 is 102.3, East of England is 141.8 and England is 153
- RED incidences are for Breckland with an incidence rate per 100,000 of 74.3, Broadland 107.8, Great Yarmouth 138.9, King's Lynn and West Norfolk 95.8, North Norfolk 72.5, Norwich 122.4 and South Norfolk 108.6.

Tiering

It was confirmed this week that Norfolk remains in Tier 2 – High Alert. The restrictions that apply in Tier 2 are available on the [Government website](#). It is vital that we all continue to follow the guidelines to help protect each other and protect west Norfolk. As you can see from the figures above, the number of cases is increasing.

A [poster with a handy guide](#) to what you can and can't do is also available for your reference.

The Government's [Winter Plan](#) in full is available on the Gov.uk website.

Christmas guidance from the Government

The Government announced that there would be special arrangements from 23 December until 27 December to allow people to see their family. However, there is still guidance on what is allowed at this time. Read the Government's guidance on [making Christmas bubbles with friends and family](#).

In light of the relaxation of rules over the period and the fact that numbers are rising, we are asking people not to base their decisions on what they can do, but on what might be the best thing to do in the circumstances. If you can help share this sentiment that would be very much appreciated

View the Prime Minister's statement from 16 December

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-16-december-2020>

Christmas Opening hours

King's Court will be open between Christmas and New Year, as the Department for Work and Pensions / Job Centre and West Norfolk Health will be working as normal over the period (with the exception of 24 December and the Bank Holidays). Borough council departments will be closed, although out of hours services will be operating and regular monitoring of Covid case numbers and associated actions will be taking place and our marshals will still be working through this period.

For emergencies, such as homelessness, during the closure please call 01553 616601.

The Norfolk-wide helpline number is open until midday on 24 December and will be open between 9am and 5pm on Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 December. It will be closed on New Year's Day and reopen at 9am on Monday 4 January 2021.

In some areas of west Norfolk, a leaflet has erroneously been sent by North Norfolk District Council providing contact details. Please see attached release explaining what has happened. This includes an apology from them for any confusion.

Mintlyn Crematorium

The crematorium office will close at 5pm on Christmas Eve and reopen at 9am on Tuesday 29 December. It will also be closed on New Year's Day 2021. On all other days it will be open as normal (weekdays 9:00am until 5:00pm).

On the days the office is closed, the crematorium grounds are open.

The Gardens at Mintlyn will open as follows:

Christmas Day 10am to 4.30

Boxing Day 10am to 4.30

Sunday 27 Dec 9am to 5pm

Monday 28 Dec 9am to 5pm

29-31 Dec 9am to 5pm

New Year's Day 10am to 4.30

Saturday 2 January 9am to 5pm

Sunday 3 January 9am to 5pm

Funeral directors can continue to book funerals online, and members of the public can email Mintlyn@west-norfolk.gov.uk whilst we are closed.

Walk-in test centre at Lynnsport

Hopefully you are all aware of the walk-in test centre at Lynnsport. It has come to our attention that people have still been travelling to Peterborough for tests when they could have gone to King's Lynn. If you or a member of your family need to book a test and you want to use King's Lynn, you need to select walk in on the booking portal, rather than drive in, then Lynnsport, King's Lynn will come up as an option. We will be including this in our external messaging about the test centre.

Support for business

Over £1.4m has been paid out to west Norfolk businesses since November 2020

Nearly 1,000 businesses have benefitted from the Local Restrictions & Additional Restrictions Grants

west-norfolk.gov.uk/businessrateshelp



Please find attached the updated grant figures. **We have now paid 988 grants totalling £1,486,526** and are continuing to process the outstanding applications.

An update on the different grants is shown below:

- **Local Restrictions Support Grant – National Lockdown**
The application form is available and we are continuing to pay the grants. There will be a closing date but government has not announced when this will be.
- **Additional Restrictions Grant (Discretionary Grant)**
Phase One has now closed. Phase two will be considered in the new year.
- **Local Restrictions Support Grant – for Open Businesses in Tier 2 or Tier 3 Restrictions**
The policy needs to be drawn up. Software was received on 15/12/2020 and set-up and testing is underway. We anticipate this will be available after the Christmas break.
- **Local Restrictions Support Grant - for Closed Businesses in Tier 2 or Tier 3 Restrictions**
The policy has been drawn up and will be added to the website this week. Software was received on 15/12/2020 and set-up and testing is underway. We anticipate this will be available after the Christmas break.
- **Christmas Support Payment for wet-led Pubs**
This grant is for pubs who make less than 50% of their income from food sales, i.e., the majority of their income is from alcohol sales. The application form is now live and closes on 29 December 2020. Applications will be processed in the New Year. Please share this with any pubs you think may benefit.
https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20148/business_rates_and_bid/869/christmas_support_payment_for_wet-led_pubs

.Communications

Christmas campaign materials have been circulated. We are awaiting guidance from government regarding New Year messages and will circulate these as soon as we receive them. Communications will check in with county colleagues regularly to ensure these are disseminated locally.

We are encouraging people to travel less, to stay within tier, and to shop local to help reduce the spread, in addition to advising people to shop at less busy times.

We would also draw your attention to the attached release from the CCG regarding thinking carefully about Christmas plans.

Carol services

A reminder of the information we sent last week about carol services/concerts:

- Indoors - only choir allowed to sing, congregation in family groups or socially distanced.
- Outdoors - choir and other participants can sing but must be in household groups (+Christmas bubbles between 23-27 December) or socially distanced as per current restrictions.

Guidance notes below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-2-december>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period#visiting-churches-and-other-places-of-worship>

Norfolk Assistance Scheme

This week saw the launch of the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, or Winter Covid Support scheme. The press release can be viewed on [our website](#). This is a Norfolk County Council led scheme, but in west Norfolk, Lily will circulate information to all their partners to ensure they are aware of the scheme and can refer people on for assistance. Lily will also make referrals direct to the scheme. A poster and social media will also be used to direct people to the helpline number to access the scheme direct. The helpline number is 0344 800 80 20, and although the scheme is particularly aimed at families with children, it is open to anyone. If you know of anyone who may need support, please let them know about this scheme.

Vaccination programme

You will have seen that some surgeries are now offering vaccinations for over 80s. Attached is a vaccination appointment flow chart which may be of interest in ensuring that those that need transport to receive their vaccination will be supported.

If you need any more information about the vaccination programme, please visit the CCG website <https://www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-programme>

Some reminders:

Christmas waste collections

With Christmas Day falling on a Friday this year, there are some unavoidable delays for certain rounds. We are urging residents to try to plan ahead for how they will manage their waste and recycling over the holiday period.

Things to consider:

- Additional recycling can be placed in any clear bag and put out with your green recycling bin for collection. (As council offices have not yet re-opened to the public, unfortunately we cannot provide bags this year.)
- Additional black bin waste must be placed in a bin bag and secured with an official **red tag**. These can be purchased at west-norfolk.gov.uk/redtag for £1.90 each plus £2.00 postage per order. Please allow enough time for delivery bearing in mind Christmas mail deadlines. Tags ordered after 20 December may not be delivered in time. Additional untagged waste will not be collected.
- Dispose of any excess waste before Christmas by taking it to household waste recycling centres – check norfolk.gov.uk for opening times and locations.

The collection crews have done a great job throughout this difficult year, and they have really appreciated the support that residents have shown them. We want to maintain this, by not having lots of side waste being left out, that the crew will not be able to collect, so any help you can give in getting the above messages out will be appreciated. Calendars with this information on were circulated to all households earlier this month.

Report a business

If, when you are out and about, you think a business has gone out of its way to make people safe and feel safe, please report them to us as we are looking for positive case studies to share. If on the other hand you are concerned that a business isn't following the guidance, you can report them too – this will trigger a visit from a marshal, local authority liaison office or Environmental Health Officer. The link is west-norfolk.gov.uk/reportabusiness

Lily

Please promote the asklily.org.uk website to anyone within your community who may need help with getting supplies or deliveries through the Christmas period as well as highlighting support and activities that may reduce social isolation.

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