

Councillor and Parish Council Update – 27 November 2020

Tiering announcement

On Thursday, 26 November, the government announced which tiers would apply to which parts of the country. Norfolk was placed in Tier 2 – High Alert Tier. A disappointing but not unexpected result.

The restrictions that apply in Tier 2 are available on the [Government website](#).

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

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

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>

Preparing for the lifting of lockdown

New regulations under Tier 2 come into effect at 00:01 on 2 December 2020. With the lifting of lockdown restrictions on shops and hospitality in the lead up to Christmas it is felt that additional resource will be required to ensure people are following the guidance and doing everything they can to protect ourselves, protect others and protect west Norfolk.

Additional staff are being asked to support the work of the marshalls as local authority liaison officers. A further 10 CWA students are also being trained to support the marshalls and will be deployed shortly.

A team of officers have been working on the installation of hand sanitiser stations in locations across the borough, lamppost collars reminding people to keep left, wash their hands, cover their face and make space, have been produced and signage and floor markers will also be utilised again, encouraging people to do the right thing. Social distancing measures have also been installed. This is all part of our campaign to protect west Norfolk.



Communications over the next few weeks

A county-wide campaign will be launched next week encouraging people to shop safely (and locally), socialise safely, and celebrate safely. The campaign materials will be localised for west Norfolk. More information on this next week.

Additional Restrictions Grants Scheme

On 31 October 2020 the government announced it intended to support Local Authorities to administer the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). The ARG aims to:

- support businesses in their local economies
- provide additional support to grant funding under the Local Restrictions Support Grant

It allows local authorities to develop policies to pay discretionary grants to local businesses affected by Covid-19. These grants will be paid from the limited amount of funding made available by central government.

Local authorities can:

- use this funding for business support activities
- determine how much funding to provide to businesses from the ARG funding provided, and exactly which businesses to target

Details of the scheme, along with an eligibility tracker are available on [our website](#). Please do share details with any businesses you may be aware of who could benefit and encourage them to check their eligibility.

Local Restrictions Grants Scheme

The application process for the Government's new Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme to support businesses, registered for business rates, that have been forced to close as a result of the second coronavirus lockdown is open.

Eligible businesses include those who were trading on 4 November 2020 and have been told they must shut by law under the national lockdown rules such as non-essential retail shops, cafes, restaurants and bars as well as hairdressers and beauty salons. Certain businesses remaining open for Click and Collect or Takeaway services may also be eligible if they have had to close their in-store services.

Businesses can apply online at west-norfolk.gov.uk/businessrateshelp and will need their business rates account number and an up to date bank statement. Depending on whether a business meets the eligibility criteria set by the Government and their rateable value, grants range from £1,334 to £3,000 for the 28-day lockdown period.

We have shared this information with all our contacts, but if you know of any businesses that may be eligible please do share the information with them and encourage them to apply.

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

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](#).

Lily

This week, Lily issued a plea to ask communities to let them know of any activities or services that would be available to vulnerable people over the Christmas period. They are putting together a special section on the asklily.org.uk website, and once the directory is ready will be promoting these services and activities to clients who will benefit from them. Whether it's mince pie or Christmas dinner deliveries, or just a contact for someone who would be prepared to chat, we would like to know. You can upload your details to the asklily.org.uk website yourself or contact the team and they will upload the information for you.

Self-Isolating

Self-isolating is crucial in helping to stop the spread of coronavirus. The guidance is:

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive test result you must stay at home and begin to self-isolate for 10 days from when your symptoms start.
- If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 you must stay at home for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day the first person in your house developed symptoms or, if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken.

In practice, self-isolating requires people to:

- stay at home
- not go to work, school or to public areas
- not use public transport like buses, trains, tubes or taxis
- avoid visitors to your home
- ask friends, local family members or delivery services to carry out errands for you - such as getting groceries, medications or other shopping.

You can find more stay at home guidance here, including how to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in households: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Thinking ahead

As we mentioned last week, Christmas will be a period when many people are more isolated than ever. We are working with Norfolk County Council on messaging around this, and Lily are already exploring with partners what measures they can put in place to help people feel less isolated and to make sure people who might ordinarily go to an organised Christmas Day lunch or even travel to family over Christmas are able to have a meal, or a least a call so that they just feel a little less alone. We would love to know if you have any ideas as to what staff or other members of the public could do to help, in addition to what charities and government organisations can do. If you have any thoughts or would like to volunteer, let communications@west-norfolk.gov.uk know, putting the words Christmas Help in your subject line.

An early heads up on 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. 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 will go to all households week commencing 7 December.

Borough Council service impacts

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

Please remember our council offices are not currently accepting visits from the public. People can contact us through Live Chat on our website, or by calling us on 01553 616200. Anyone needing to provide documents can post and drop these into the letterbox which is emptied daily.

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

Norfolk-wide helpline - call 0344 800 8020