

**County Councillor Report- Badsey & Aldington**  
**Month: July 2020**  
**Prepared by Alastair Adams**  
**Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council**

Dear All,

Since my last report, the UK is continuing to get back to normal with pubs and restaurants opening and more people back at work, and traffic back up to 80% of the norm.

I also list the latest news announced in the last few days:-

- A "COVID summer school fund" is being set up by the government to help feed children during the holidays. Children eligible for free school meals in term time in England will get a six-week voucher.
- A total of 9 out of 10 schools in Worcestershire are now open daily to reception, year one, year six and year ten or twelve students, following the wider re-opening of schools throughout June. Attendance across the county's schools has risen to 17.7% of the total proportion of children in school, higher than the national average of 15.6%.
- Positive feedback received from parents, teachers and pupils regarding the experience within schools since the re-opening.
- Pupils in years 10 and 12 in secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges across the county returned last week. A limit of 25% of pupil numbers is in operation to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines.
- Town centres continue to be busy as non-essential shops have begun to open. District Councils (working in partnership with the County Council) have measures in place to enable safe shopping accepting that people need to be responsible for their own actions
- Six of Worcestershire's libraries are currently opened as from Saturday July 4th, in line with phase three of Central Government's relaxing of lockdown restrictions.
- Testing: The Regional Testing Facility at Worcester Warriors can process approx. 600 tests per day. Capacity is managed within the Department for Health and Social Care system, with availability being released to meet demand as required. Review of "pop-up" locations underway as some of the locations re-open, e.g. West Midlands Safari Park.
- Face-to-face birth registrations by appointment resumed last week at four sites across Worcestershire; Worcester (County Hall), Bromsgrove, Redditch and Kidderminster. Over 700 registrations have already taken place and it is expected that the backlog will be cleared by the end of the week.
- 10 of the 11 Household Recycling Centres in Worcestershire are now open. As expected, these are extremely busy and therefore additional traffic management measures have been put in place.
- The level of infections in Care Homes in Worcestershire remains stable and in line with levels across the West Midlands. All staff and residents in Care Homes with positive cases of COVID-19 have been tested.
- Pressure continues to ease on the Acute Trust with the number of active cases and new admissions to hospitals still falling.
- The Test and Trace service is live. A team of Environmental Health Officers and Public Health Practitioners will provide this locally in Worcestershire
- Emergency PPE packs delivered to 190 schools, 135 nurseries and childminders and 14 children's homes

## COVID-19 STATISTICS

Official statistics and information are available on the link below:

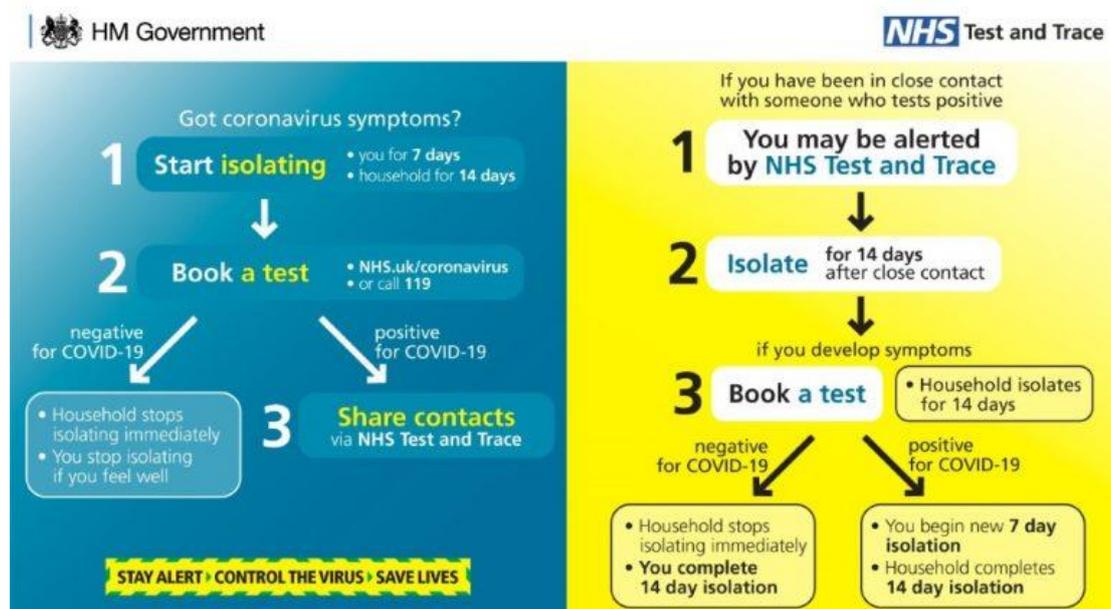
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

The methodology for reporting positive cases changed on 2 July 2020 to remove duplicates within and across pillars 1 and 2, to ensure that a person who tests positive is only counted once. Numbers of lab-confirmed positive cases throughout this website now include those identified by testing in all settings (pillars 1 and 2).

Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 are different kinds of data taken from coronavirus testing. Swab tests for Covid-19 are carried out in hospitals and surgeries as well as in the community all the time. Each pillar comes with specific coverage goals and a set purpose from one or several organisations:

- Pillar 1 data comes solely from the tests carried out in Public Health England (PHE) lab and NHS hospital settings.
- Pillar 2 tests come from out in the community, such as care homes.
- Some key statistics being:

<b>Number Testing Positive in TOTAL in Worcestershire = 0.389% of the population</b>	<b>2334</b>
<b>Number Testing Positive in UK</b>	<b>283757</b>



## WHERE TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE ON COVID-19?

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

or telephone **01905 768053**

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on [www.carersworcs.org.uk](http://www.carersworcs.org.uk) or call their Helpline 0300 012 4272.

### **Financial support for you**

If you are struggling financially then the advice is to make a claim for Universal Credit, Council Tax Support and other benefits you may be eligible for.

There is more information on the [coronavirus employments and benefits page](#).

### **Help paying your Council Tax**

If you are of working age and already receiving Council Tax Support you will get a one off reduction of up to £150. This will be applied automatically to your bill. New bills will be issued in the next few weeks.

You can apply online for [Council Tax Support](#) if you are struggling to pay your bill.

More information is available on our [Benefits and Council Tax page](#).

Even if you are not eligible for Council Tax Support, you still may be able to defer your payments for a short period, or spread them over 12 months instead of ten.

Please contact the Council's team by emailing [Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk](mailto:Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk) or call 03004 560560 to discuss your circumstances and they will do their best to help you.

### **Help to find a job**

If you have been made redundant, are facing redundancy or are looking for work then the [Worcestershire Jobs Match scheme](#) can help. It has been created to help match businesses struggling to fill vacancies with individuals who have lost their jobs as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

We are also supporting the Pick for Britain campaign, to find thousands of workers to help support farmers to harvest fruit and vegetables and help feed the nation.

You can find out more about job opportunities available on our local farms, and other opportunities, on our [Local Job Opportunities page](#).

### **Support for businesses**

We have paid out support payments totalling more than £19million to 1,683 businesses. If you are a business and have yet to apply, find out if you are eligible and more information on our [Business Rates Reliefs page](#).

The Government's furlough scheme is now open meaning businesses can apply for help to pay up to 80% of the wages of staff.

[www.businesssupport.gov.uk](http://www.businesssupport.gov.uk) has details of all the support available to businesses.

### **Digital Libraries**

Nearly fifty thousand e-books, audio books and e-magazines (47,703) have been downloaded from Worcestershire County Council's digital library service in the last three months. This is an increase of 100% on the same period last year. More than a thousand people have joined the library service as digital members since the beginning of the lockdown.

### **Good News for Cycling**

It's just been announced that Worcestershire County Council has been awarded £135,500 to support cycling and walking in the county.

The funding has been allocated from Phase 1 of Central Government's **Emergency Active Travel Fund**, and it will help support increased walking and cycling routes on a number of key commuter routes across the county.

### **Highways:**

Worcestershire's roads were kept safe for those vehicles who needed to travel during the Coronavirus lockdown as the road maintenance team continued to work as shown by the statistics below:-

1. Nearly 365 miles have been surface dressed as part of the yearly programme
2. Over 35,000 square metres of roads have been resurfaced.
3. Over 6,000 carriageway defects dealt with
4. Emptied over 8,000 gullies
5. Cut nearly 5,000 miles of grass verges

### **Highway issues effecting Badsey;-**

To keep up to date on the roads affected see

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20602/roadworks\\_in\\_worcestershire](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20602/roadworks_in_worcestershire)

Or look at the national roadworks website below, and type in Badsey in the top right box to search. [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org)

1. **Speeding on the B4035 near Sladden Close** – Mobile Camera opposite the entrance to Sladden Close – location for van identified – Safer Road Partnership want a Grasscrete platform to be laid so the van won't sink into the mud. Highways agreed to install the platform. It turns out that the grass area where the platform was going to be built for the mobile camera van is not owned by the WCC, but by Rooftop – the Housing Association. So the County Council contacted Rooftop to seek their permission to install it, and after negotiations have got permission. Now it is with the WCC's Legal Team regarding documentation for future maintenance and any indemnity that is required. I spoke to Bob Haynes from West Mercia Police today and he is meeting with Barry Barnes to set out the exact location of the Grasscrete platform in next few weeks – so it is getting closer!

As always, if you have any issues on any Highways matters, please report it on the WCC website [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report\\_it](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it)

Also remember a photo of the Highways problem is as good as “a thousand words” so always take a photo where possible.

### **County Council Divisional Fund**

- Offenhams Cricket Club- grant request for a contribution of £500 towards a new mower – grant approved.

The new financial year has started at the County Council, so new Divisional grants are available. So any community organisation that needs a little support to buy equipment or some essential service can apply by contacting me.

**Your County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on**  
**[adams.pebworth@gmail.com](mailto:adams.pebworth@gmail.com) or mobile 07725 979 277 or [www.alastairadams.org](http://www.alastairadams.org)**