

County Councillor Report- Badsey & Aldington
Month: November 2020
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Dear All,

Since my last report, the big news is the Government has announced a new national lockdown. This second national lockdown in England will be in force until 2 December.

What are the key provisions?

At home

You must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes. You can leave home to buy things at shops which are open, for instance for food and medicine, or to collect any items – including food or drink – ordered through click-and-collect or as a takeaway, to obtain or deposit money, or to access critical public services

You can leave home to visit people in your [support bubble](#), or to provide informal childcare for children 13 and under as part of a childcare bubble, to provide care for vulnerable people, to provide emergency assistance, attend a support group (of up to 15 people), or receive respite care. People can also exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place.

You can leave home for any medical reason, including to get a Covid-19 test, appointments and emergencies, to visit someone who is giving birth or dying, to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm (such as domestic abuse), to visit someone in a care home (if permitted under care home guidance), hospice, hospital, to accompany them to a medical appointment, or to go to the vets (or other animal welfare services).

You can leave home to attend a place of worship for individual prayer, a funeral or a related event for someone who has died, to visit a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a deathbed wedding. A full list of what is allowed can be found in the [regulations](#).

Work

The regulations list the businesses and venues that can remain open.

The definition of 'key workers' will be the same as it was in the first lockdown.

Everyone who can work effectively from home must do so. Where it's not reasonably possible, people should continue to travel to work/attend their workplace, which is allowed under part 6, clause 4 of the regulations.

Where people cannot do so – including but not limited to people who work in critical national infrastructure, construction, or manufacturing – they should continue to travel to their workplace.

Where it is necessary to work in other people's homes – for example, for cleaners or tradespeople – you can do so.

The Chancellor has just announced that the furlough scheme will now be extended until March 2021. This means the government pay 80 per cent of wages for temporarily laid-off workers, up to a maximum of £2,500. Employers will be expected to cover national insurance and pension contributions.

For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

Download the NHS COVID-19 app today

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

Self-isolation support payment

From Monday, 28 September 2020, you are required by law to self-isolate if you are told to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

The Government has introduced a £500 support payment to help people on low incomes who have to self-isolate. The scheme will run until 31 January 2021 but is being kept under review by the Government. See for more details;

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/coronavirus-covid-19-update/self-isolation-support-payment>

How to get a COVID-19 test

Currently there is good testing capacity in Worcestershire. Supply is meeting demand in the county. To organise a test go to

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19/2247/coronavirus_covid-19_testing

Local Testing Centres:

- Redditch Trescott Road Car Park
- University of Worcester, Arena Car Park
- Pershore Civic Centre Car Park
- Bromsgrove Stourbridge Road Car Park: to open 9th Nov
- Kidderminster Harriers Stadium Close Car Park: to open 9th Nov
- Malvern Victoria Rd Car Park: estimated to open 23rd Nov (no dates confirmed yet though)

Wear face coverings outside schools

Collecting and dropping off children at the start and end of the school day can mean keeping a safe distance is hard. Worcestershire Public Health is now asking parents and carers to wear a face mask when dropping off children if it not possible to social distance.

Why self-isolating is important

If you have symptoms of coronavirus you must self-isolate immediately and get a test.

By self-isolating, you are not only protecting your community, you are also helping all those who may become very sick if they become infected and those key workers who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. It's an incredibly important and effective way of slowing the spread of a disease like covid-19.

We now know that people can pass the virus on even when they don't have symptoms. If you leave home while you could be infectious, even if you feel fine, you could pass the virus onto other people, including people who are vulnerable to very serious illness.

[Read more about why self-isolating is important to protect your loved ones and your community.](#)

COVID-19 STATISTICS IN WORCESTERSHIRE (as of 16th November)

- The number of cases in Worcestershire stands at 243 cases per 100,000. The England rate is 247 per 100,000. The Midlands rate is 344 per 100,000. There were 65 people in total in Worcestershire's hospitals with Covid-19, and 8 people in intensive care (ITU).
- In the last 7 days there have been 1460 confirmed cases of coronavirus recorded in Worcestershire.
- Every publicly funded school in Worcestershire is open and 83.5% of pupils in Worcestershire are in school which is much better than the national average.

Official statistics and information are available on the links below:

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports#history>

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?

Reminder that the Here2Help website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-6pm 6 days a week – 01905 768053.

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on www.carersworcs.org.uk or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

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

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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 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.

Also, an '**Entry to Employment Services**' guide has been launched to help those who have been made redundant or un-employed during the Coronavirus pandemic. The guide aims to showcase the support that is available across the county for those who have experienced a major career change over the last few months.

To find out more and to download the guide, please visit the [Local Support Section of the COVID-19 Business Support section of the One Worcestershire website](#).

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

The Council's new business support programme, **Here2Help Business** is live http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help_business

It is a £3m programme designed to assist local Worcestershire Businesses to recover, adapt, develop and support future resilience as lockdown measures reduce

Also see the Government website www.businesssupport.gov.uk which has details of all the support available to businesses.

And the latest information on the extension to the Furlough scheme and the self-employed support announced on 5th November can be found on this link:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-extends-furlough-to-march-and-increases-self-employed-support>

[Register for grant support now for businesses forced to close from 5 November 2020](#)

If you have a business rates account, and your business has been forced to close apply for the Local Restrictions Support Grant click [HERE](#).

There is more information about the qualifying criteria at our [business rates page](#).

The Government is giving councils in England funding to provide grant support payments to businesses with a business rates account forced to close due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

If you are required to close in England because of national restrictions being introduced on 5 November 2020, you may qualify for the following:

- For properties with a rateable value of £15,000 or under, grants to be £1,334 per four weeks
- For properties with a rateable value of over £15,000 and below £51,000, grants to be £2,000 per four weeks
- For properties with a rateable value of £51,000 or over grants to be £3,000 per four weeks

Please check our [business pages](#) for information about which business must close, and those that may remain open, and what other business support is available.

Highways

To keep up to date on the roads affected see, <https://one.network/>
This is the new website and is very good to see all the roadworks locally and across the UK. It also updates Google maps and Tom Tom sat navs.

1. **Loose road drain cover** adjacent to 49 Bretforton Road Badsey WR11 7XQ.
Highways have visited and reported there is still a slight deflection at the gully cover. The engineer who organised the work initially has been contacted to see if he can resolve the issue by raising the gully cover slightly and laying a further patch.
2. **Speeding on the B4035 near Sladden Close** – Mobile Camera van has been agreed to be visit on a regular basis opposite the entrance to Sladden Close. Safer Road Partnership wanted a Grasscrete platform to be laid so the van won't sink into the mud. Highways agreed to install the platform. It was installed on 11th November.
3. **B4085 - Dangerous pavement from junction Village St to Horsebridge Avenue** – following a resident's complaint, Highways visited Badsey and look at this pavement. It was widened a few years ago in an attempt to make it safer. It was agreed the lengthsman would be asked to clear overgrown grass and earth from pavement
4. **Damage to carriageway off Pear Tree Lane , Badsey reported by resident** – passed to Highways
5. **HGV's using Willersey Rd** – there have been a lot of emails concerning lorries using this road visiting a business based along this road. Liz Eyre (County Councillor for Wickenhamford) is working with Gloucestershire County Council planning enforcement department as the business is in Gloucestershire.
6. **Drop Kerbs installed on Badsey Fields Lane**
7. **REMINDER to clear all brooks, gullies and ditches and gullies before winter flood season** – a reminder to all land owners and Parish councils to check all ditches, gullies and brooks NOW to ensure no obstructions that could make things worse in flood situations.

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

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

GOOD NEWS - A £4 million centre of engineering has just been completed in Worcestershire

The Duckworth Centre of Engineering has just opened to help meet the local need for engineers with a focus on automotive, plumbing and heating engineering students; with dedicated workshops and classrooms on site.

Cecil Duckworth was the founder of [Worcester Bosch](#), which has grown into one of the city's most successful businesses. He is also Life President of Worcester Warriors.

The Duckworth Centre of Engineering is one of the [Worcestershire LEP](#)'s Local Growth Fund projects receiving a total investment of £4.01 million.

County Council Divisional Fund

- Honeybourne News – HPC Chair has asked for a grant to launch the service
- Bretforton Allotments – grant requested for a strimmer.
- Honeybourne Harriers – grant for portable flood lights so the youngsters can continue training on the Honeybourne Sports Field during the dark evenings.
- Pebworth In Bloom have applied for a grant to help cover the cost of the bedding plants and hanging baskets planted around the village.

If you run a community organisation that needs a little support to buy equipment or some essential service, then please apply for a Divisional Fund by contacting me.

Your County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on adams.pebworth@gmail.com or mobile 07725 979 277 or www.alastairadams.org