

Councillor and Parish Council Update – 29 January 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>

The figures yesterday were:

- For the time period 17/01/2020 to 23/01/2021 the Norfolk seven-day incidence per 100,000 is 377.3, East of England is 385.1 and England is 373.2
- RED incidences are for Breckland with an incidence rate per 100,000 of 380, Broadland 379, Great Yarmouth 440, King's Lynn and West Norfolk 403, North Norfolk 225, Norwich 467 and South Norfolk 325

The figures last week were:

- For the time period 11/01/2020 to 17/01/2021 the Norfolk seven-day incidence per 100,000 is 434.0, East of England is 501.1 and England is 472.9
- RED incidences are for Breckland with an incidence rate per 100,000 of 478.7, Broadland 435.8, Great Yarmouth 527.5, King's Lynn and West Norfolk 404.9, North Norfolk 283.3, Norwich 537.1 and South Norfolk 362.7

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.

National Lockdown – Stay at Home

We remain in lockdown. The government guidance for the national lockdown is available on their website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Prime Minister's statement on schools re-opening

Yesterday (27 January), the Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and that he hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity.

The Prime Minister confirmed:

- Councils, education settings, students, parents and carers will be given at least two weeks' notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education
- Schools and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as they are now
- Early years provision should continue to remain open throughout and should continue to allow all children to attend full time or their usual timetabled hours. This includes early years

registered nurseries and childminders, maintained nursery schools, as well as nursery classes in schools and other pre-reception provision on school sites.

PM statement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-to-the-house-of-commons-on-coronavirus-27-january-2021>

Announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-attendance-restrictions-to-remain-in-place>

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

Vaccinations

The latest information about the government's vaccination programme, which is being led in this area by the Norfolk and Waveney CCG is available on their website <https://www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/>.

Mass vaccination centres

You will no doubt have seen that the Lynn News ran a story about the large-scale vaccination centre in King's Lynn. This announcement has not yet been made by the CCG/NHS, and comments provided by James Wild MP and Cllr Stuart Dark were in response to enquiries. As soon as we receive the official announcement from the CCG we will share this with you.

[King's Lynn theatre 'set for new role as mass vaccination hub' \(lynnnews.co.uk\)](http://lynnnews.co.uk)

Grants for businesses

The final figures for grants paid last week was 1057 grants paid totalling £780,972. This week, up to 27 January, a total of 642 grants have been paid amounting to £508,410.

The total of grants paid is 3042 adding up to an impressive £3,158,579.

The software for the Lockdown grants was released late Monday and is currently being tested. The plan is to pay the Lockdown 3 Grants to 15 February 2021 plus the Closed Business Lockdown Payment in one bulk process. We are also waiting for confirmation on whether we are now expected to pay up to 8 March 2021 – in which case the amounts would be combined and paid in one go.

The team continue to work really hard to ensure the grants reach businesses as soon as they possibly can.

All the information about the grants available and how to access them is available here: https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20148/business_rates_and_bid/819/business_help_due_to_coronavirus_covid-19

Business impact survey

All districts in Norfolk are working together to run a "coronavirus business impact survey" to help inform our respective economic response and recovery work with a range of partners.

There's no "official" end date on the survey and we will be encouraging businesses to respond more than once as circumstances may change, as this provides greater insight.

The survey should take more than 15 minutes to complete and is available online: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2021CouncilSurvey> **Please continue to encourage businesses in your area of the borough to complete the survey.**

Survey response data is non-business-specific and will directly inform both our conversations and our economic response and recovery work with partners from Government, New Anglia LEP, other local authorities and local business groups.

Lateral Flow Testing

The pilot we have been undertaking in partnership with Public Health Norfolk and the DHSC, has continued this week, testing staff from various satellite offices. Letters have this week gone to businesses in a public health identified area, and testing of staff from those businesses coming forward will take place next week. We don't envisage that this additional testing will result in a false spike in numbers of positive cases, but will keep an eye on it, now that a positive lateral flow test immediately triggers the legal obligation to isolate, without the need for a confirmatory test. A further pilot of this scheme is now taking place in Yarmouth.

Norfolk County Council – Every Child Online Campaign

We would like to draw your attention to Norfolk County Council's **Every Child Online** campaign for digital devices for children and families which launched on Friday 22 January via EDP. Since the launch, £170k has been raised and donations continue to be received. After the campaign launched last week, Hethel-based Lotus made a huge donation of 625 brand new Chromebooks which will bring families up to speed with home learning. It is estimated that Norfolk's 430 schools and academies need around 6,000 devices and at least 1,000 households with school-age children are unable to connect to the internet. The campaign gives two ways to step up and help.

- Businesses and organisations can give pre-used corporate devices to the county council for refurbishment and distribution to schools. To donate email devices@norfolk.gov.uk
- Individuals and businesses can give funding to the NCF to be spent on new laptops and tablets and internet connections. To donate visit <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/every-child-online/>

If you know of anyone that might be able to assist, please do pass on this information.

Reporting issues

Since 5 January we have been in National Lockdown: Stay at Home. The rules are very clear but if you are concerned about businesses or individuals not complying you can report them as follows:

To report of business visit west-norfolk.gov.uk/reportabusiness

To report individuals who are not complying with the rules and are putting others at risk you should call the police 101 number. They will of course prioritise the most serious issues first with the resources they have.

Lily

Please promote the asklily.org.uk website to anyone within your community who may need help with getting supplies or deliveries through the Lockdown 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

Over the next few weeks, we will need to continue to thin out our staff in our main offices as we allocate them to other duties including the preventative enhanced contact tracing and other Covid related work, including community testing, and support with vaccination centres. This may mean that there is an increase in the number of service impacts. We will inform you about these, as and when arrangements are agreed. Our core duty must be to do whatever we can to support the response to Covid and to reduce the spread of this virus.

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