

MDC Parish Briefing

Issue 18

3rd November, 2020

Mendip news

Lockdown lowdown

This weekend, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the need for another national lockdown to control the COVID virus.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-31-october-2020>

If passed by Parliament tomorrow (Wednesday), they will come into force on Thursday, November 5th, and remain in place until at least December 2nd.

These measures are felt to be necessary to reduce the COVID virus and the number of admissions to our NHS.

They will see pubs, bars, restaurants and non-essential retail closed for four weeks, but schools, colleges and nurseries will remain open.

People will also be allowed to exercise and socialise in outdoor public spaces with their household or one other person.

Further information, including what they mean for working from home and business closures, why they are being introduced and the financial support available can be found on the Government's website.

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

At Mendip, we are waiting to receive detailed guidance from Government. We will publish information for our residents and local businesses on our website as soon as we get it.

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/coronavirus>

There is support available. Call the **Somerset Coronavirus Helpline** on **0300 790 6275** if you need any assistance during the coming weeks.

News from MDC Cabinet last night

Social housing scheme could bring 160 new affordable homes to Mendip

An ambitious scheme to provide much-needed affordable houses across five Council-owned sites in Frome, Glastonbury and Street, was backed by councillors at last night's Cabinet.

Read more here: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/9593/Social-housing-scheme-could-bring-160-new-affordable-homes-to-Mendip-with-a-promise-of-more-to-follow>

Listen to Cllr Leyshon on BBC Radio Somerset talking about the scheme:

BBC Radio Somerset 02.11.2020

Listen from: 2 hrs 24 mins 44 seconds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08vsrr9>

Warmer homes this winter as Mendip tackles fuel poverty problem

An initiative to address fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency in homes and cut carbon emissions is to be launched by Mendip District Council.

The fuel poverty awareness push, approved by Cabinet on Monday (November 2nd), will be intensive, personalised and will stretch across an 18-month period to include the winter months, and beyond.

Read more here: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/9594/Warmer-homes-this-winter-as-Mendip-tackles-fuel-poverty-problem>

Other news

Mendip Markets – a message from Cllr Josh Burr, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services

Mendip markets will be running normally this week, however, we will be supporting the Government guidelines with the sale of essential items from Thursday onwards.

We continue to consult with the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) and the National Markets Federation (NFMT) to seek more robust Government guidance associated with market provisions.

MDC will endeavour to keep our markets running for as long as practicable, as we recognise that they are a valuable community asset, however, equally, we need to be able to deliver them safely for the public, traders and our staff.

As such, we will look to review guidance provided by Government as soon as it is received and adapt our offering accordingly.

Bonfire events dampened

Please urge residents to follow any new national restrictions, and the Fire Safety Code, if you are planning a back-garden bonfire evening at your home. Stay safe, and please avoid putting extra pressure on our police, fire and ambulance services.

If you have concerns that an individual or a business is breaching Government restrictions you can report it to our partners at Avon and Somerset Police.

Fill in their online form here: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/breach-of-covid-19-restrictions/

Alternatively, call 101 (for non-emergencies) or 999 (for emergencies).

Service Updates

Planning

Planning Training Session – 17th Nov

Mendip Planning managers will deliver a training session relating to the considerations for parish and town councillors when reviewing Planning Applications. This will be held on 17th November, 5.30pm-7pm. A link will be sent out shortly for the event.

Please contact the Planning Policy Team if you would like any further information or have questions at this stage. Email planningpolicy@mendip.gov.uk

Partnership Updates

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP)

Please find below a message from our partners at SWP, which councillors should have already received. Please share with your communities.

COVID lockdown: Recycling sites stay open

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) plans to keep the county's recycling sites open during the second COVID national lockdown announced at the weekend.

All 16 sites are expected to stay open on standard winter hours during the month-long restrictions, and current safety measures will remain in place.

With infections rising nationally and locally, SWP is also reminding people of Government guidance on how to dispose of personal waste if you have COVID symptoms or live in a household with someone who does.

Waste like tissues, facemasks and disposable cleaning cloths should be double-bagged in disposable rubbish bags and kept separate from other waste in the home for 72 hours.

It should then go into your rubbish bin outside your home and will be picked up in the usual rubbish collections.

All residents are asked to maintain a social distance from collection crews and wash and disinfect container handles before and after putting out recycling boxes and bins. Near the end of the lockdown earlier this year, Government guidance clarified that visits to recycling sites are considered 'permitted journeys.'

These will continue and include:

- no one with COVID symptoms or those asked to shield should visit sites
- strict social distancing must be followed
- visitors are asked to wear gloves
- visitors limited to a maximum of two per vehicle from the same household

Masks are discretionary and site staff are not able to give their usual assistance in lifting heavy or large items.

For more information visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus and follow @somersetwaste on Twitter and Facebook.

Communities - updates and assistance

Somerset Coronavirus Helpline: 0300 790 6275

Please remind residents to contact the helpline if they should need any assistance during the coming weeks.

Business updates

Mendip business

The national lockdown announcement came with no prior information for local authorities, so we are currently awaiting further updates from Government on the supporting technical guidance and answers to clarification questions for new funding arrangements.

This will determine full eligibility criteria for the scheme and how the application process will work.

At present the preliminary official guidance is here:

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

We will be adding further information at www.mendip.gov.uk/businessgrants as it becomes available. We recommend businesses bookmark this page for now and checking back regularly for updates.

Other business news

Are you ready?

The UK transition time is running out. There are new rules for businesses and citizens from 1 January 2021. Getting ready may take longer than you may think. You need to take action if you are:

- importing into the UK
- exporting from the UK
- travelling to the EU
- living and working in the EU
- staying in the UK if you are an EU citizen

Changes in rules for travel, hiring staff, service industries, data regulations, importing and tariffs are just some of the topics businesses need to review and act on before 1st January, 2021.

Even if you don't think this applies to you, have you checked your suppliers are prepared? New paperwork may require new ways of working.

Visit [Gov UK - UK Transition](#) where you can answer a simple set of questions to help you cut to the chase. Find out the information relevant to your circumstances.

EU Exit Webinar

The Department for International Trade is holding a webinar on **Wednesday 4th November** focusing on the action businesses need to take to prepare for changes and new rules from January 2021. The webinar will cover changes that businesses need to be aware of when trading with EU and non-EU countries, and will include a moderated Q&A. Sign up here: [PREPARE FOR CHANGE](#)

Tackling cyber security

Cyber security needn't be a daunting challenge for small business owners. Following five quick and easy steps from the National Cyber Security Centre could save time, money and even your business' reputation. Download the NCSC's handy guide to reduce the chances of your business becoming a victim of cyber-crime.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/small-business-guide>

Small Business Saturday - The Tour 2020

A major new package of free support and mentoring for small businesses will be hitting the virtual road. Kicking off on 2nd November with daily 'virtual visits', Small Business Saturday will be meeting small businesses in over thirty locations across the UK and beaming them out via social channels. **Small Business Saturday is on 5th Dec.** <https://smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com/bus-tour#workshops>

Small Business Britain Podcast

You can now tune into series 2 of the Small Business Britain podcast. This series will be covering topics to support small businesses with a host of inspirational people.

[Find inspiration here.](#)

COVID-19 health updates

Please get your flu jab

The free flu vaccine is more important than ever to help protect people in the Mendip area this winter and ease pressure on the NHS.

Find out more here: www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/

Public Health Blog – please read

This blog focusses on why self-isolation is still vitally important to stop COVID from spreading in our community, particularly to people who could become very sick if they catch the virus.

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/09/28/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating-protects-your-friends-family-and-community/>

COVID data for each local authority

As of Monday, November 2nd, some 1,053,864 people tested positive for coronavirus in the UK and there have been 46,853 deaths. Further information on the date can be found here: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Events and Campaigns

Remembrance events

The Government has stressed that Remembrance Day commemorations can go ahead, despite the latest lockdown measures. However, outdoor-only events are allowed, and participants must observe strict social distancing rules.

Mendip councillors will lay eco-wreaths across the district remember those who died in the two World Wars and other conflicts.

Full details and a press release here:

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/9595/Woollen-poppy-eco-wreaths-will-mark-Remembrance-Sunday-across-Mendip>

Free online workshops

Below is a list of free online National Careers Service (NCS) workshops for those over 18. If there is anyone interested they just need to follow the link and book a ticket. There are 50 places for each workshop.

How to improve your interview skills workshop – Wednesday 4th November @ 10:00 until 11:30

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126570881915>

Creating a Winning CV Workshop – Tuesday 10th November @ 10:00 until 11:30

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126560290235>

How to improve your interview skills workshop – Wednesday 11th November @ 10:00 until 11:30

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126571758537>

Creating a Winning CV Workshop – Thursday 12th November @ 10:00 until 11:30

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126563263127>

Useful numbers, links and helplines

Mendip District Council: www.mendip.gov.uk/coronavirus

Stronger Somerset: www.strongersomerset.co.uk/

Government information on coronavirus: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Coronavirus cases: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Local lockdowns guidance: www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-restrictions-areas-with-an-outbreak-of-coronavirus-covid-19

NHS information: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

LGBTQ+ services helpline and counselling service:

www.intercomtrust.org.uk/item/214-we-are-here-for-you

Mind in Somerset, available on 01823 276 892:

www.mindinsomerset.org.uk/our-services/adult-one-to-one-support/mindline/

Citizens Advice:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/how-we-provide-advice/advice-partnerships/money-advice-services/

Next Edition: Monday, 9th November

Submissions to: media@mendip.gov.uk

Keep connected

These briefings are produced by Mendip's Marketing and Media Team. We're doing everything we can to make sure we're directing you to the most up-to-date information and advice. A version of these, suitable for publication, is available as a pdf, a Word document, and a web link. The shareable version can always be found here: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/mdcbriefings>

Mendip District Council's corporate Facebook page

www.facebook.com/mendipcouncil

We are also on Twitter twitter.com/MendipCouncil

And LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/company/mendip-district-council

Finally, here's our official website: www.mendip.gov.uk
