



Uttlesford
District Council

Coronavirus (Covid-19): update from Uttlesford District Council, 17 April

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This is a regular email bulletin aimed at keeping you up-to-date with how Uttlesford District Council and the district is responding to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. It contains other important messages.

You can find details of changes to council services on our website – see www.uttlesford.gov.uk/coronavirus.



HM Government

NHS

Coronavirus

Find out how to
help others safely
at **gov.uk/safehelp**



Latest message from the Leader of UDC

Cllr John Lodge, Leader of Uttlesford District Council, has issued his latest message.

► [Read it here](#)

Business grants funding update

We have handed out £11.5m in cash grants to almost 950 local businesses in the past seven days. The grants are part of the emergency funding from central government to support local businesses.

Businesses who are in receipt of small business or rural rate relief or who are in the retail, leisure or hospitality industry with a rateable value of £51,000 or under are urged to register their details online for their funding to be processed.

Details on the grants, eligibility criteria and an online application form are available at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/covid19-business-grants-fund.

Uttlesford Community Response

The [community response](#) helpline is here to:

- help direct residents who need support, such as picking up shopping or prescription collections, towards services which can help or to someone who can be a telephone or Facebook friend
- provide advice on where to register your offer of help to support your community



Help with your council bills

If you are struggling to pay your council tax at this time due to a change in your income or employment, please remember that we are here to help. Go to our [website](#) to find out what support is available, including advice around rescheduling council tax payments.

Garden waste collection service resumes

We're pleased to announce that the garden waste service will resume from next week (20 April).

Due to the coronavirus situation there has been a short break in collections but thanks to the hard work of the crews and the waste management team, we're now in a position to reinstate the service.

► [Find out more](#)



Please remember that all Essex recycling centres, including the one at Thaxted Road in Saffron Walden, remain closed at this time.

Advice for parents during coronavirus

Whilst it is extremely important to follow government advice to stay at home during this period, it can be confusing to know what to do when your child is unwell or injured.

► [Here is some advice to help](#)

Seven steps to mental wellbeing while at home



These are unprecedented times. Taking care of our own health and wellbeing can be the first thing to slide when we're focused on taking care of patients, friends, family and loved ones.

It's important to remember to take care of your mind as well as your body and to get support if you need it.

► [Read Livewell's 7 steps to mental wellbeing while at home](#)

Sky lanterns warning

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) has warned a campaign encouraging the public to light sky lanterns in a show of solidarity for NHS workers is 'misguided'.

At a time when all emergency services are currently under increased pressure due to Covid-19, the NFCC believes the suggestion that people should set off highly flammable lanterns should be highly discouraged.

You can read the full NFCC statement [here](#).

We support this advice – sky lanterns may look pretty but they are a fire risk to buildings, cause damage to farming machinery and are harmful to livestock and wildlife. They are also a litter nuisance.



Bonfires



At this time we would also urge residents to avoid having bonfires.

The smoke or smell from a bonfire might affect neighbours or aggravate any health conditions.

► [Read the full advice here](#)

How to get in touch with us

The council offices are currently closed to visitors but our service hours remain unchanged.

There are a number of ways in which you can access services or get in touch with us:

- Online (including to pay a bill, report or apply for something): www.uttlesford.gov.uk
- Email: uconnect@uttlesford.gov.uk
- Phone: 01799 510510
- Automated payments by telephone: 01799 510551 or 510552
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- If you are a council tenant and wish to report an emergency repair please call 01799 510510 and press 5 for Housing Services then 2 for Uttlesford Norse



Stay home and save lives



- ▶ [Full guidance on staying at home and away from others \(social distancing\)](#)
- ▶ [NHS advice for everyone](#)
- ▶ [UK Government coronavirus information service on WhatsApp](#) – free to use service aiming to provide official, trustworthy and timely information and advice about coronavirus

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www.uttlesford.gov.uk