



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor Briefing - Friday 5 June 2020

This briefing is issued to

- Cotswold District Councillors
- Gloucestershire County Councillors who represent areas in the District but who are not also district councillors
- Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP
- Town and Parish Councils/Meetings in the District

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Service Update

Revenues and Benefits: We have processed 2,701 Small Business and Retail, Leisure and Hospitality grants with a total value of £33,475,000.

Discretionary Business Grants: As explained last week, there is a new Business Grant Scheme for those that did not qualify under the original scheme (mentioned above). We opened a two week application window on Monday 1 June, targeting the following types of business:

- a) Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces, who do not have their own Business Rates assessment,
- b) Regular market traders with fixed building costs, such as rent, who do not have their own Business Rates assessment,
- c) Bed & Breakfasts which pay Council Tax instead of Business Rates,
- d) Charity properties in receipt of Charitable Business Rates Relief which would otherwise have been eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief, and
- e) Businesses that are not themselves in Retail, Leisure or Hospitality (the focus of the previous scheme) but are part of the supply chain to businesses in those areas.

To date we have had 165 applications. The levels of grant will be determined after the application window closes on Sunday 14 June. The digital eligibility criteria and application form can be found on the [Council's website](#).

Customer Services: Customer contact is now back to normal levels and Customer Service advisors are assisting with Covid community support tasks (making welfare calls to vulnerable residents) on top of their normal duties.

ERS: With more food and retail outlets starting to open, the demand on ERS Teams is now increasing. This means that some redeployed officers are being returned to their substantive roles. We reported a number of non-compliant businesses last week, and this week a hairdressing salon re-opened and was dealt with without the need for formal action.

Development Management: We continue to operate the service and the number of applications continues to slowly rise.

Housing: We have been allocated some grant funding to assist in securing permanent (move-on) accommodation for those currently in emergency accommodation. The Housing Team is working closely with Registered Providers and the Private Sector to source permanent homes.

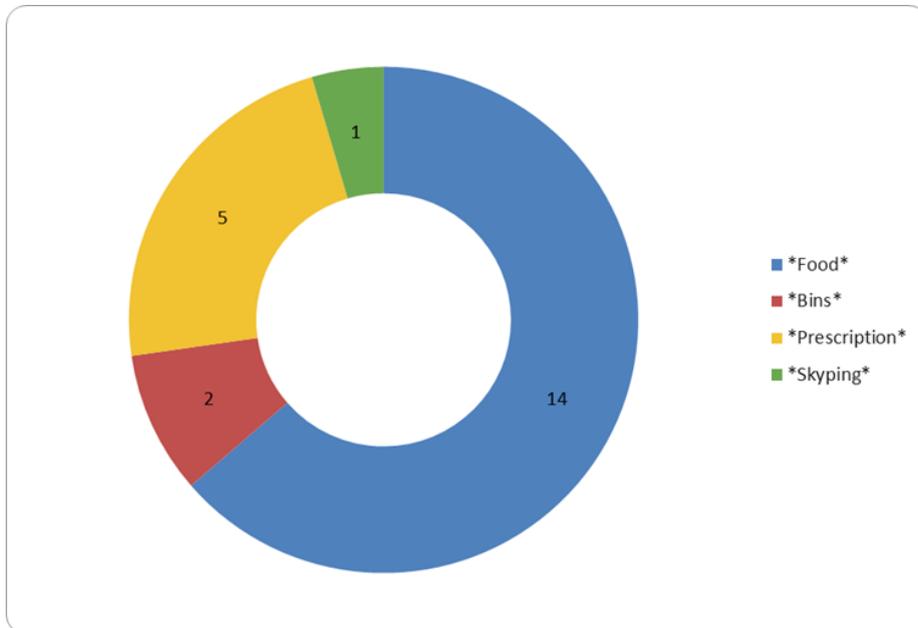
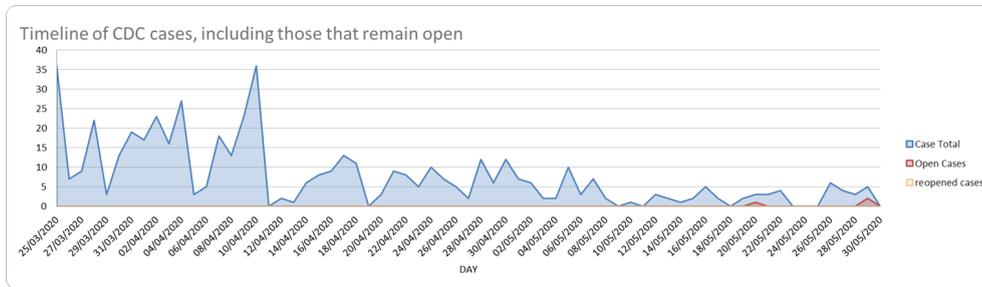
Waste: Garden waste collections have been reinstated as per the scheduled collection rounds. All recycling crews are operating, each with additional vehicles to collect cardboard and mixed plastics.

There is one additional refuse round in place to support crews with the higher amounts of waste. Parish cleaning is still scaled back with resources being used to support the waste and recycling teams. 14 staff currently self-isolating (same as last week).

Community Support/Resilience

The number and timeline of cases since 25 March is shown in the first graphic. The breakdown of cases over the last 7 days is shown in the second graphic.

The number of new referrals is low, and many of these relate to issues with the food box deliveries for shielded communities. While CDC does not deliver these, issues with the process come through the Help Hub, which means those who may have missed deliveries are able to access the range of community support available.



Garden Waste Licences

Garden waste licences run annually from April to March, but this year residents' 2019-20 licences were extended to 30 June 2020, allowing council officers to concentrate on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new licence costs £30 and covers the period to 31 March 2021.

Information will be sent to residents with existing Garden Waste Licences and those who have expressed an interest in having one.

Since last year there have been some important changes to the service:

- Food waste CANNOT be placed in your garden waste bin
- Food waste is collected separately, and weekly, from your new (dark grey coloured) outside food bin - you can keep using your small green food caddy indoors
- Garden waste collections are now made fortnightly.

The charge for this year would have been £35 but, due to the temporary suspension of the garden waste service in April and May, the price has been reduced to £30. A suspension was needed so that resources could be concentrated on providing those waste and recycling collections that are used by **all** households. Residents will be encouraged to sign up before 30 June 2020. This will ensure existing customers receive no break in their service.

More details can be found here:

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/what-to-put-in-your-bin/garden-waste-green-wheeler-bin-and-brown-sacks/>

Changes to the Coronavirus Job retention scheme and Self-employment income support scheme

Changes to the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) will be introduced in the coming months.

From 1 July the furlough scheme will enable employers to decide the right arrangements for them and their furloughed staff, meaning furloughed staff could return on a part-time basis. From August, HMRC will not reimburse any pension or national insurance costs. From September, employers will start being required to pay a proportion of furloughed workers' wages (10 per cent) and this proportion will increase in October (to 20 per cent). It has been confirmed that the scheme will continue to operate until the end of October.

The [Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will also be extended](#). As many as 2.3 million people in self-employment have already benefited from the scheme, and applicants will receive 70 per cent of the average monthly trading profits from their business – paid out in a single instalment covering three months' worth of profits.

Dentistry

At the end of last week [NHS England and Improvement wrote to dental practices](#) setting out the next steps for delivery of NHS dental services in England, as the NHS moves into the second phase of the COVID-19 response. The letter asks all dental practices to commence opening from Monday 8 June for all face-to-face care, where practices assess that they have the necessary infection prevention and control and PPE requirements in place.

Public spaces and exercise

The guidance on accessing green spaces safely has been updated.

In England, the public can leave their home to exercise and spend time outdoors for recreation with their household or in groups of up to six people from outside their household.

To stay safe, the public must:

- take hygiene precautions when they are outside
- wash their hands as soon as they are back indoors
- keep at least two metres apart from anyone outside their household at all times
- take hand sanitiser with them when they set off in case there are no handwashing facilities.

The guidance includes an updated list of what the public can now do, advice for land managers and landowners, as well as a reminder to respect other people and protect the natural environment.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-on-accessing-green-spaces-safely>

The guidance for the public on the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation in England has also been updated.

People who play team sports can meet to train together, although anything involving physical contact is not allowed. It will also allow parents to accompany their children to coaching sessions carried out on a one-to-one basis or in small groups.

The guidance reiterates that people should wash their hands frequently and keep equipment sharing to a minimum. Outdoor and indoor gyms and swimming pools, playgrounds, fitness studios and other indoor leisure centres remain closed, except for facilities for training elite athletes. Indoor facilities such as clubhouses should be kept closed, apart from toilets and throughways.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groups-of-up-to-six-from-different-households-can-exercise-outside-under-new-rules>

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-phased-return-of-outdoor-sport-and-recreation>

The Cabinet Office's FAQ document on what the public can and cannot do, and the guidance on staying alert and safe, have been updated accordingly.

FAQ:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

Shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable

At the government's press conference on 31 May, the Communities Secretary announced that those advised to shield can take initial steps to safely spend time outdoors. The guidance on shielding has been updated to reflect this announcement.

The statement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/communities-secretarys-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-31-may-2020>

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-hails-resilience-of-shielders-as-restrictions-set-to-ease>

The updated advisory guidance now states that a shielded person can go outside once a day with members of their household or, for those shielding alone, with one other person from a different household, if they wish to do so. This is in accordance with evidence that the rate of transmission is much lower outside.

Some important aspects of the guidance remain the same. Apart from going outside once per day, a shielded person should continue to avoid all non-essential face to face contact. This means they should not go to places like supermarkets or to pharmacies. The support for shielded people remains in place and unchanged.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Renting

MHCLG has updated the non-statutory guidance for landlords, tenants and councils in the private and social rented sectors on renting during the coronavirus pandemic. This reflects the latest position on social distancing and working safely.

The 'Guidance for landlords and tenants' document has been updated to include:

- Revisions to reflect the recently-amended coronavirus regulations that make clear that people who wish to move home can do so providing that they follow the latest public health advice
- Revisions to reflect the revised guidance on working safely in other people's homes, including where essential works and repairs may take place subject to observing social distancing and public health advice
- Clarification for landlords that, if they agree to a reduction in rent, this will not breach the deposit cap as stipulated by the Tenant Fees Act
- Revised advice for those living in shared accommodation and houses of multiple occupation reflecting the latest public health guidance.

The 'Guidance for local authorities' document has been amended primarily to clarify the existing guidance on discretionary licensing schemes.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities>

Visitor destinations

The Ordnance Survey has been working with Natural England to allow the public to find out 'What to do and where to go' as the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions start to ease. [The site](#) shows a summary of Government advice for different activities, by county (across the UK), supplemented with practical advice from landowners/activity providers.

At the moment they are focusing on key messages (stay away, or we are generally open) and/or a summary of the practicalities involved in getting outside (car parks open/closed, no access to popular beauty spots, toilets open/closed, social distancing practices in place, etc.), with a link back to their own website for further information.

Councils are being invited to include their own local destinations on the website to assist with managing the number of visitors to sites that may not be fully open and helping to disperse manageable visitor numbers across all our destinations. Please email Fatema Lookmanjee at Fatema.Lookmanjee@naturalengland.org.uk if your council would be interested in contributing.

Second Homes & Holiday Lets/Air BnBs

Day trips to outdoor open space are permitted as long as you can return the same day/evening - although we are still encouraging people from outside of the District to come back later.

You are not permitted to stay overnight away from the place where you are living, for a holiday or similar purpose. **This includes staying overnight in a second home.** If your work requires you to stay away from home you can do so, but should continue to practise social distancing.

Premises such as hotels and bed and breakfasts will remain closed, except where providing accommodation for specific reasons set out in law, such as for critical workers where required for a reason relating to their work. Hotels are also available to host those self-isolating after arriving in the UK (where no other accommodation is available).

Residents can report potential breaches here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/c19/tell-us-about-possible-breach-coronavirus-measures/>

Dementia

The [IDEAL project at the University of Exeter](#) has produced a [leaflet for carers of people living with dementia](#), as well as for people living with dementia. This contains five key messages about how people with dementia can stay well during the coronavirus epidemic.

End-of-life care

The Palliative Care Institute Liverpool [is inviting responses from relatives, friends or professionals who have experienced a death](#) during the COVID-19 crisis. The information provided will help inform service delivery for people in the final stages of their life in the future, during periods of heightened pressure on health and social care services.

Funding for charities

Charities can now apply for [funding from the Government and National Lottery's Coronavirus Community Support Fund](#). This funding will support charities working with vulnerable people. Funding will be prioritised for organisations supporting people and communities who experience disproportionate challenge and difficulty as a result of the COVID-19 crisis; and organisations providing services and support for vulnerable people, for which there will be increased demand as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

The [Government's Food Charities Grant Fund](#) is available to support front-line not-for-profit organisations or charities that provide food to those who need it. The grant aims to provide immediate support for a limited period of time to help to feed those most vulnerable due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. The deadline for applications is 6 July 2020. If you have any questions, please get in touch with foodgrant@defra.gov.uk

New Covid-19 leaflet on its way to every household in Gloucestershire

More than 240,000 copies of a new Covid-19 leaflet are being delivered to all homes in the county, with distribution starting this week.

The leaflet has been created with a range of partners to help those without easy access to the web and to ensure all Gloucestershire residents are aware of the support available to them.

Although the number of recorded cases is dropping, Covid-19 hasn't gone away, so it's important to remind people of what is available to help and support them.

The leaflet includes information on how to:

- Stay safe with the latest NHS advice;
- Stay well by following the five ways to wellbeing or accessing free, confidential mental health support;
- Report concerns about the welfare of vulnerable children, young people or adults; and
- Get support and offer support to others through the Community Help Hub and other networks.

You can find a copy of the leaflet to download and an accessible web page below here:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/covid-19-a-guide-to-what-s-available-to-help-you-and-others

Trial sites announced for better social distancing

Four locations in Gloucestershire, including Bourton-on-the-Water, have been chosen as initial sites to improve walking and cycling routes to help social distancing. More information is available on the [County Council website](#)

New regional COVID-19 testing centre

A regional testing centre will operate at Hempsted Meadow in Gloucester from 5 June. The [NHS website](#) has more information on how and when to get a test.

Website Information

Our website and social media channels have all the latest information concerning how we are operating in the midst of this emergency situation. We encourage you to follow them and check the website regularly.

Website: www.cotswold.gov.uk

Twitter: [@CotswoldDC](https://twitter.com/CotswoldDC)

Facebook: [@CotswoldDC](https://www.facebook.com/CotswoldDC)

LinkedIn: [@CotswoldDC](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CotswoldDC)

Contact Reminder For Councillors

If you need to contact the Council we have set up two ways to do this and this will ensure your request is managed appropriately. Obviously we are dealing with a major global emergency so we will prioritise service requests.

Tel: 01285 623005

Email: councillor.contact@cotswold.gov.uk

PLEASE STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY AND LOOK AFTER YOURSELVES, YOUR LOVED ONES AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS.



The banner features the HM Government logo on the left and the NHS logo on the right. It contains four circular icons: a thermometer, a person coughing, a mouth with a slash, and a nose with a slash. The text reads: 'CORONAVIRUS STAY ALERT TO THE SYMPTOMS', 'HIGH TEMPERATURE OR NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH OR LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL?', 'Find out how to get a test, and how long to isolate, at nhs.uk/coronavirus', and 'STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES'.

HM Government

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