

District Councillor's Report update 14th July

Below you will see information from the Help Hub showing that the weekly number of community deployments has fallen from a peak of 967 at the end of March to 17 during the last week of June.



It was good to welcome back cafes, restaurants, bars, hairdressers and barbers to our high streets last weekend. The reopening of the hospitality sector marks another important step in the opening up of all businesses in our districts.

We continue to support businesses with a range advice and telephone consultations, documentation, online training and, of course, business grants. We are also working directly with those who may need extra help with licensing applications to get further tables and chairs etc. outside their premises when the relevant legislation is passed.

Some businesses, including spas, gyms, tattoo parlours and nail bars will begin to open from Monday. We will look to support them in the same way. We also continue to offer help to those in the hospitality trade who, for a variety of reasons, have yet to reopen.

It has now been almost a month since the re-opening of non-essential retail and throughout this time we have had a visible presence in our market towns in the form of our Confidence Teams. With the majority of the high street now open, and the revised changes we made to traffic flows having bedded in, the time has now come for this presence to end. As of Monday (13 July) the members of our Confidence Teams will be redeployed to other work. We are working with Town Councils and others to ensure hand sanitiser units remain filled and the planters are watered appropriately.

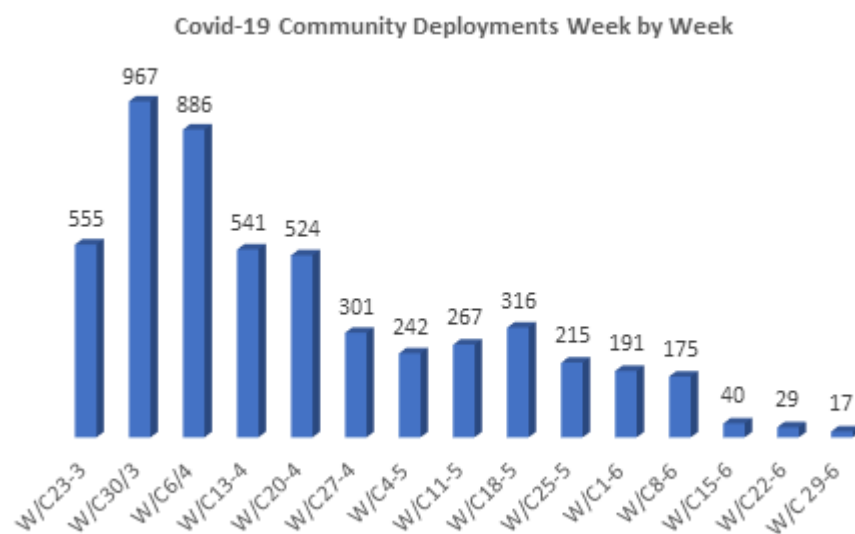
Just a reminder that businesses can find out more about the support on offer by visiting the Do Business With Confidence section of our websites or by contacting our dedicated support teams.

Broadland: 01603 980441 or email business@broadland.gov.uk.

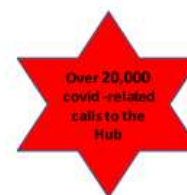
South Norfolk: 0300 7906290 or email businesssupport@s-norfolk.gov.uk

Community response

The Covid Community Response operation has now been wound down. We are moving from the emergency response phase into the recovery phase. It is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in the work of the Help Hub, Community Connectors and the Housing and Benefits team as residents struggle to cope with the effects of the coming recession.

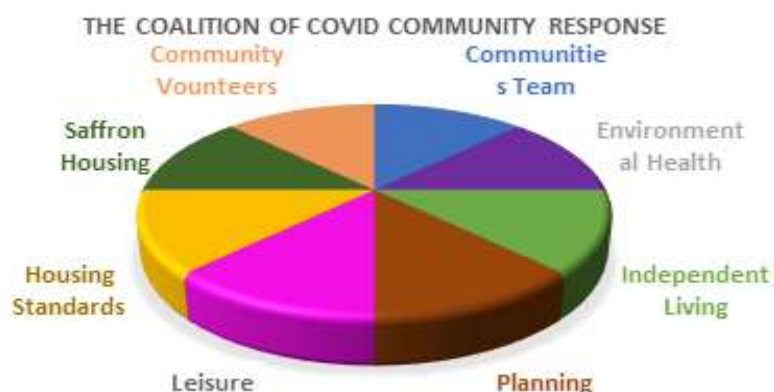


The Community Response team has been operational for three months, operating a seven day a week service. Over 50 staff have been continuously involved.



The crisis period has thrown up some stupendous statistics:

Last week's briefing mentioned the coalition of staff and departments who have been instrumental in ensuring that our Community Response in Broadland and South Norfolk was second to none.



Community Volunteer groups have been absolutely vital to the success of the operation. 4000 volunteers have come forward across the Districts to work with the Hub ensuring the welfare of the most vulnerable. Town, Parish and District Councillors have, in many cases, been instrumental in

organizing and sustaining these groups. The Communities Team continue to work with these groups, many of whom are keen to continue their good work going forward.

A special thank you!

The Team worthy of a special mention who are not represented above are our IT Team. The ladies and gentlemen in IT have worked tirelessly and with endless good humour to keep the whole show on the road, making sure that everyone was able to co-operate remotely and working weekends to ensure that our on-call teams had all the support required to ensure that our service was consistently available to residents. A huge thank you to them.

Central government updates:

1) Next phase of reopening

The government has outlined the measures that will allow outdoor pools to reopen from Saturday 11 July and indoor gyms, swimming pools and sports facilities to reopen from Saturday 25 July, ensuring millions of people can get back into more sport and fitness activities.

Further guidance on grassroots sport and gym/leisure facilities reopening can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/GymsLeisureReopening>.

Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden, also outlined that beauticians, tattooists, spas, tanning salons and other close-contact services can also reopen from Monday 13th July.

Existing guidance on close contact services will be updated here:

<https://bit.ly/CV19CloseContactGuidance>.

Finally, the Culture Secretary highlighted that performing arts can now take place outdoors from Saturday 11 July with a socially distanced audience present. The government will also work with the sector to pilot a number of small indoor performances with a social distanced audience to help inform plans about how best to get indoor venues back up and running.

Further guidance on performing arts reopening can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/CV19PerformingArts>.

Full details of the statement can be found here: <https://bit.ly/CSStatement>

2) Free advice to small firms

The Recovery Advice for Business scheme, supported by the government and hosted on the Enterprise Nation website, will give small firms access to free, one-to-one advice with an expert adviser to help them through the coronavirus pandemic and to prepare for long-term recovery.

The platform is now live: <https://bit.ly/EnterpriseNationSupport>.

Advice offered will include bespoke, specialist assistance from accountancy, legal, and advertising to marketing, recruitment and digital to help businesses adapt to difficult circumstances and to bounce back as the UK economy recovers.

Brendon Bernard

District Councillor For Ditchingham and Earsham Ward.

T. 01986 893240 E. brendonbernard@me.com <http://southnorfolk4villages.co.uk>
www.libdemswaveneyvalley.org