

Notes from the District Councillor – May 2020

Ditchingham and Earsham Ward

South Norfolk District Council - keeps you informed

Residents

Working together.

Our Help Hub has received more than 13,000 call for help and our telephone lines have been staffed seven days a week to make sure that no call has gone unanswered

Our staff and volunteers have made 3,500 home visits and we have made 5,000 calls to check that our shielding residents have what they need, to stay safe.

The Councils have continued to collect the bins, making changes, where we could, to ensure our crews can keep to the government's guidelines on social distancing.

The Councils' Benefits Team, Housing Team and Council Tax Team have all gone the extra mile to ensure that during the lockdown families have had a safe place to stay and have received all the financial help available.

Businesses

Business support officers have been proactively contacting businesses across a variety of sectors to ensure they are aware of the support on offer as well as to obtain some business intelligence to further inform our recovery planning work.

Sectors include Tourism and Hospitality, Garden Centres and Nurseries, Manufacturing and our wide network of Social Enterprises.

While trying to stay positive, the majority of the businesses spoken to have concerns over cash flow and depletion of reserves, especially as time goes on and all government funding and bank loans have been exhausted.

All those contacted were grateful for the phone call and the support from the Council and were keen to stay in touch to ensure they receive up-to-date information as the situation continues.

Summary of Business Rate Grants Processed	BDC		SNC	
	Value	No of Grant Payments	Value	No of Grant Payments
Total Processed				
Small Business Rate Relief £10k Grants	15,470,000	1,547	17,350,000	1,735
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure £10k Grants	2,140,000	214	2,260,000	226
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure £25k Grants	3,850,000	154	4,925,000	197
	21,460,000	1,915	24,535,000	2,158
Estimate of Total Potential Claims (this number changes as properties are identified as eligible)				
Small Business Rate Relief £10k Grants	18,190,000	1,819	22,180,000	2,218
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure £10k Grants	2,270,000	227	2,940,000	294
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure £25k Grants	4,000,000	160	5,225,000	209
	24,460,000	2,206	30,345,000	2,721
Number Unpaid				
Small Business Rate Relief £10k Grants		272		483
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure £10k Grants		13		68
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure £25k Grants		6		12
		291		563

Percentage Paid				
Small Business Rate Relief £10k Grants	85%	85%	78%	78%
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure £10k Grants	94%	94%	77%	77%
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure £25k Grants	96%	96%	94%	94%
	88%	87%	81%	79%
Grant Paid on Account	26,242,000		30,838,000	

Business Survey: The team are also busy promoting the business survey, which will help us support businesses in the recovery phase. There are has been a total of 110 for both BDC and SNC currently. We will continue to push this to every business we come into contact with and also through our digital channels. We would Appreciate it if you could encourage those businesses in your town/parish to respond to the survey