

## Daily COVID-19 update

### **Parish Councils**

You may be concerned that you are currently unable to hold meetings including upcoming Annual Parish Meetings / Annual Council Meetings. Clearly the national focus is now on providing vital support for vulnerable people in our communities. Government advice is you simply rearrange these Meetings for when the country is over this public health crisis. The District Council is taking a similar approach with all meetings, with the exception of Planning and Policy & Finance Committee meetings, being cancelled. The limited meetings which will go ahead will be done on a remote basis to enable Councillors to remain at home.

As a Parish, you may wish to still consult with your Councillors to form views on planning applications or to seek consent for some financial expenditure etc. Our advice is that you undertake such consultations by phone and/or email and use any existing delegation arrangements and urgency provisions you may have adopted within your Parish.

### **NSDC Services**

In line with the latest Government advice, NSDC is regrettably closing more of its buildings and facilities to help people keep a safe distance and reduce the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19). From Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, the following facilities will be closed to members of the public:

- All play parks
- Castle House, Newark (DWP will continue to provide a limited service at Castle House for their most vulnerable customers)
- Hawtonville Local Office, Newark
- Ollerton Local Office, Ollerton
- Ollerton Advice and Jobs Centre, Ollerton Town Hall
- Southwell Advice Centre, Southwell Library
- The Buttermarket, Newark
- Sherwood Forest Arts & Craft Centre, Edwinstowe
- Newark Beacon Business Centre, Newark
- Public conveniences at The Gilstrap, Newark

However, NSDC Customer Services will remain open as normal to help residents with enquiries, prioritising critical enquiries, via phone: 01636 650 000 or email: [customerservices@nsdc.info](mailto:customerservices@nsdc.info) For customers with complex needs who are unable to use these contact methods, we will have procedures in place to provide services to them via their carer/ nominated representative on a case by case basis.

New bookings for bulky waste collection are also being suspended although existing bookings will continue to be collected. Green, silver and brown bins will still be emptied as normal.

NSDC car parks and Newark lorry park will remain open as normal.

Building Control (which is a shared service) will now only visit dangerous structures or other extreme situations and all site inspections have been suspended.

For more information: <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/>

### **Business**

#### Business Grants

By the end of this week, NSDC will be issuing £10,000 and £25,000 grants to eligible businesses as part of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) support package as follows:

- £10k grant per business in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief and Rural Rates Relief

- £10k grant per business (if they do not qualify for the £10k above) in the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Sector with rateable value of £15k or less as of 11 March 2020
- £25k grant per business in the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Sector with a rateable value of more than £15k but under £51k at 11 March 2020

Businesses with a rateable value of £51k or over are not eligible for this scheme but may be eligible for assistance via the [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan](#) fund.

#### Deferring VAT and Income Tax Payments

We will support businesses by deferring Valued Added Tax (VAT) payments for three months. If you're self-employed, Income Tax payments due in July 2020 under the Self-Assessment system will be deferred to January 2021.

For VAT, the deferral will apply from 20 March 2020 until 30 June 2020.

For more information about Business Support:

<https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/emergency/coronavirus/financialsupportforbusinesses/>

#### **NSDC staff working arrangements**

Following the Prime Minister's briefing last night which included guidance about only attending work if "absolutely necessary", we have now developed the following working from home arrangements for all staff.

With effect from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, **all NSDC staff** will be working from home (on a rota basis) with the exception of a limited number who will be required to form a core team of essential workers in office. This team will comprise a very limited number of the Senior Leadership Team, Business Managers and employees who have been identified by their business managers.