

Community News

Issue 125 March 2020

an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Group

You are receiving this email because you asked to receive the Community News and be kept informed about PAC activities. If at any time you decide not to receive further PAC emails, just contact us on pacdg@icloud.com with REMOVE in the subject line and we'll immediately take you off the mailing list.

Editor's Note...

- **So much has changed in just the last 24 hours and is still changing as everyone adjusts ! Please contact us if you see or hear of anything that will be of help to other residents - better we receive it twice or three times than not at all ! email pacdg@icloud.com**
- **and if you're self-isolating or need assistance in any way, you can also email pacdg@icloud.com and we'll pass on your message to people who can help.**

Message from the Mayor of Presteigne and Norton Town Council

"We are in unprecedented times and it's understandable there should be concern and worry. Already, though, we have seen the community pulling together and supporting each other and it's just as we would have expected. There are countless examples of individuals and social media groups springing up offering help to those forced to self-isolate and it's vital that, as far as is possible, we all keep doing this although the Prime Minister's most recent announcement means this will become increasingly difficult. Home Support, working out of East Radnorshire Day Centre, has an established service supporting the elderly and vulnerable in their homes and they would be the best point of contact for anyone who feels alone or who needs help. It's the Town Council's view that, while we should all do our bit to help out friends and neighbours, we would be wise to follow the lead of Home Support as they are the professionals and have vital caring experience. They have been left in no doubt that, should they find themselves needing help, they have only to ask and the Town Council will then start coordinating that support. But, at the moment, they tell us they are coping well.

Should you need to contact Home Support they are on: 01544 260360.

Please spare a thought for those working in retail in the town - almost all shops, as well as pubs and restaurants have had to close and it will be tough times for them. Also, please be considerate to those working in those shops that remain open - it is a very stressful time for them and they deserve our full support.

What we don't need are martyrs. If you are volunteering or helping out an elderly neighbour or relative and you feel ill yourself then the message could not be more clear - Stay at Home. Of course, you can phone people and stay in touch that way but, if you do start developing symptoms, please avoid any direct contact.

If you need help then contact the Town Clerk Tracey Price on: 01547 528575 while my number is: 0791 007 2825. While we won't necessarily be able to answer every query immediately, there's a good chance we'll be able to find someone to help out.

The Town Council has set up the Presteigne and Norton Community Covid-19 Support page on Facebook so, if you have internet access, this will help keep you updated.

Please stay safe, obey the government advice and don't take unnecessary risks. All the evidence suggests we are in for the long haul but if we all stick to those principles together we will come through this". Trevor.

...from the Town Clerk. Given the announcement by the Prime Minister at 8.30pm on 23rd March the Town Council has made the decision to close the Hereford Street public toilets for the foreseeable future from tomorrow (24th). This decision has been made in order to protect both members of the public and contractor staff working on the premises from the risk of infection.

Went's Meadow will, in line with Government advice, remain open to allow residents to take exercise. Please do keep at least the required minimum distance of 2m apart.

Do not meet friends there - it should be used for exercise only.

Note the Multi Use Games Area and Outdoor Gym should not be used.

Tracey

...from the Town Council Facebook page. 23rd March, 2020 - 8.30pm.

Latest Government Advice (in case you didn't see the announcements on TV).

NEW RULES ON STAYING AT HOME AND AWAY FROM OTHERS

The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives.

When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection. That is why the government is now (23 March 2020) introducing three new measures.

1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for very limited purposes
2. Closing non-essential shops and community spaces
3. Stopping all gatherings of more than two people in public

Every citizen must comply with these new measures. The relevant authorities, including the police, will be given the powers to enforce them – including through fines and dispersing gatherings.

These measures are effective immediately. The Government will look again at these measures in three weeks, and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible.

1. STAYING AT HOME

You should only leave the house for one of four reasons.

- Shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
- One form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
- Any medical need, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- Travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.

These four reasons are exceptions - even when doing these activities, you should be minimising time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household.

These measures must be followed by everyone. Separate advice is available for individuals or households who are isolating, and for the most vulnerable who need to be shielded.

If you work in a critical sector outlined in this guidance, or your child has been identified as vulnerable, you can continue to take your children to school.

2. CLOSING NON-ESSENTIAL SHOPS AND PUBLIC SPACES

Last week, the Government ordered certain businesses - including pubs, cinemas and theatres - to close.

The Government is now extending this requirement to a further set of businesses and other venues, including:

- all non-essential retail stores - this will include clothing and electronics stores; hair, beauty and nail salons; and outdoor and indoor markets, excluding food markets.

- libraries, community centres, and youth centres.
- indoor and outdoor leisure facilities such as bowling alleys, arcades and soft play facilities.
- communal places within parks, such as playgrounds, sports courts and outdoor gyms.
- places of worship, except for funerals attended by immediate families.
- hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, caravan parks, and boarding houses for commercial/leisure use (excluding permanent residents and key workers).

3. STOPPING PUBLIC GATHERINGS

To make sure people are staying at home and apart from each other, the Government is also stopping all public gatherings of more than two people.

There are only two exceptions to this rule:

- where the gathering is of a group of people who live together - this means that a parent can, for example, take their children to the shops if there is no option to leave them at home.
- where the gathering is essential for work purposes - but workers should be trying to minimise all meetings and other gatherings in the workplace.

In addition, the Government is stopping social events, including weddings, baptisms and other religious ceremonies. This will exclude funerals, which can be attended by immediate family.

DELIVERING THESE NEW MEASURES

These measures will reduce our day to day contact with other people. They are a vital part of our efforts to reduce the rate of transmission of coronavirus.

Every citizen is instructed to comply with these new measures.

The Government will therefore be ensuring the police and other relevant authorities have the powers to enforce them, including through fines and dispersing gatherings where people do not comply.

They will initially last for the three weeks from 23 March, at which point the Government will look at them again and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible.

If you have any questions on what's happening - or not happening - in our community, do let us know and we'll do our best to provide an answer, or at least point you in the right direction - simply email pacdg@icloud.com.

We're happy to help publicise community and charity activities and events (but only for events in the immediate Presteigne area) - email text (not poster images please) at least 3 weeks in advance to pacdg@icloud.com.

The Community News is published twice per month. Feel free to tweet or forward this issue to others. If you have any questions on what's happening - or not happening - in our community, do let us know and we'll do our best to provide an answer, or at least point you in the right direction - simply email pacdg@icloud.com.