



June 2020
LGBT+ Pride Month



MDC COVID-19 Briefing

Issue 6

15th June, 2020

Latest News

Help for the high streets as Mendip reopens

Non-essential shops are now open, but they must follow government guidelines to keep staff and customers as safe as possible.

If you go shopping, here's what you can do:

- Plan your journey and cycle or walk if you can.
- Social-distance (2m apart) and wear a face covering when inside if possible.
- Give yourself time – there will be limits on numbers in shops and queues.
- Shop with patience and follow the guidance in shops.
- Only touch the items you are going to buy where possible.
- If you can, make payments with cards or contactless payment.
- Carry a hand sanitiser with you, and wash your hands when you get home.
- Dispose of your rubbish carefully (especially any gloves or masks, if you choose to wear these - they should not be placed in recycling bins as they cannot be recycled through conventional facilities).

What your Council is doing:

- Making it easier for the public to use active travel to move around Mendip.
- Spacing out market stalls to ensure social distancing.
- Suspending car parking fees.
- Encouraging the public to think about how they travel to shops and the way they shop, to reduce the spread of coronavirus.
- Installing social distancing signage, posters and barriers around retail areas.
- Providing guidance to businesses – including free safety posters and complete online advice service to support reopening. You'll find it here:

www.mendip.gov.uk/reopenhighstreet

Poster is attached to this email (Document 1)



Face coverings for passengers

Face coverings must worn when using public transport. A face covering should cover your mouth and nose while allowing you to breathe comfortably.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/face-coverings-to-become-mandatory-on-public-transport>

Make your own mask

Find out more about wearing a face covering and how to make your own on the government's website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

Safer travel guidance for passengers

Walking, cycling, and travelling in vehicles or on public transport during the coronavirus outbreak. You'll find all the latest information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers/>

Working safely during coronavirus

Guidance to help employers, employees and the self-employed understand how to work safely during the coronavirus pandemic can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/>

New guidance on meeting others

Adults living alone, or single parents with children under 18, can now form a 'support bubble' with one other household. You can spend time in each other's' homes, including overnight. You must not change your support bubble. If anyone in the bubble develops symptoms of coronavirus you must all self-isolate for 14 days.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household/>

Guidance on staying safe and alert:

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

Coronavirus FAQ on what the public can and can't do

An FAQ document on what the public can and can't do during the coronavirus outbreak reflects the latest announcements.

Here is the FAQ document:

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

Beware of test and trace scam

If you're contacted by someone claiming to be from NHS Test and Trace and told you need to pay for a test, this is a scam. **These tests are free.** Don't provide your bank or card details.

Find out about other coronavirus scams and how to protect yourself. Check out the Action Fraud website. Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cybercrime.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Outdoor attractions

Outdoor attractions where people can stay in their cars, such as safari parks and drive-in cinemas, are allowed to open.

Zoos reopen this week too, provided visitor numbers are managed and safeguards put in place.

You can read the PM's statement here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-the-coronavirus-press-conference-10-june-2020>

Managing public parks

A range of organisations have come together to publish a document on managing public parks. The document includes government guidance as well as examples of good practice to help with the re-opening public parks and urban green spaces.

<https://www.cfpuk.co.uk/response-to-covid-19/>

At home shouldn't mean at risk

We know these are challenging times for anyone living with domestic abuse. Help is out there if you need it. If you or someone you know is living with domestic abuse, take action and seek help. Call the National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247. You'll find information here: <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk>

In an emergency call 999.

Coronavirus helpline still available: 0300 790 6275

People can ring this number for help with personal care and support including food and delivery of prescriptions, support for the homeless, emotional support if you're feeling worried or anxious, financial assistance, transport to medical appointments and waste collection and disposal.

NEW! Briefings available as pdfs, Word documents, and online

We want to make spreading the word risk-free and fuss-free, so we've given you a 'For publication' version, available as a pdf, a Word document, and a web link. Share this content in whatever way that suits you.

Your briefings are delivered direct to your inbox, and they can also be found here: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/mdcbriefings>

Surveys

Residents' Survey

We want residents to help us shape our services, focus our efforts and priorities, post pandemic.

Our survey takes 15-minutes to complete. Please spread the word and get involved.

The online survey is here: www.mendip.gov.uk/survey

Alternatively, call customer services 0300 303 8588 and the Council can arrange for the survey to be completed over the phone, or will issue a paper copy by post.

Somerset's Electric Vehicle Survey

Linked to Somerset's Climate Emergency work, this survey will give an understanding of Somerset residents' environmental behaviours and attitudes towards electric vehicles. All survey respondents will be entered into a prize draw to win a £25 Amazon voucher. The survey closes on **Monday 22 June**.

Visit: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/evsurvey>

In focus: Reopening our High Streets

Mendip District Council has been supporting local businesses as high streets open this week. Residents are being encouraged back too, with the promise of safe town centres – and no car parking charges.

In its commitment to supporting the recovery of the local economy, all Mendip-operated pay and display car parks will remain free for the foreseeable future. (Somerset County Council's civil enforcement officers returned to work on June 1st – residents please note when parking on roads, highways and pavements).

Mendip has also announced that market stallholders will pay no rent throughout June and July. And the Council was delighted to see Wells Market re-open on Wednesday 10th June, with some really positive feedback about the methods deployed to ensure staff, trader and public safety. There were 40+ traders in the city, able to provide goods to the public, mostly with a food theme. Although it was a quiet day of trading, the return was very well received. Both Frome and Wells operated on Saturday, June 13th too.

In the run-up to reopening, the Council has been busy offering businesses advice on safety issues, social distancing and signage, using monies provided by the European Regional Development Fund for Reopening High Streets Safely.

Don't forget, you'll find everything you need about all aspects of opening up the high street, including an extensive list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) here:

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/reopenhighstreet>

Changes to travel have been implemented for this week's opening of non-essential traders, to allow for the widening of pavements outside shops and to promote more walking and cycling commutes. The Council made these arrangements working with Somerset County Council using emergency funding from the Government's Active Travel Fund.

Reopening: Changes to travel

Some of the key travel measures which will be prioritised for delivery over the next fortnight include:

Mendip	Frome	Providing access only to the Market Place from 22 June to enable Market Place improvement works with car parks remaining open.
Mendip	Street	Temporarily pedestrianise (with delivery vehicle access only) High Street from Leigh Road to Vestry Road (where market normally takes place).
Mendip	Wells	Wells City Council requested no changes to highways - to be reviewed next week.
Mendip	Glastonbury	Temporarily pedestrianise (with delivery and bus access only) High Street, Magdalene Street and Benedict Street.
Mendip	Shepton Mallet	Consideration being given to the temporary pedestrianisation (with delivery access only) of High Street from Market Cross (where the market usually takes place) to Park Road Roundabout from 18 June.
Mendip	Wells to Glastonbury lane	Temporary closure (with residential / farm access only) of Long Drove following existing cycle route to facilitate safer cycling between the towns and support social distancing on public transport (Glastonbury – Wells bus service).

Drivers are reminded of the need to remain alert for more cyclists and pedestrians in all areas but particularly near shops as the lockdown continues to ease.

Recovery: Grants, funding and freebies

Mendip businesses receive £27 million from Council as region reopens

The District Council has issued £27 million to more than 2,274 eligible local businesses in a bid to get Mendip moving again after lockdown.

Business Grants are not loans – firms will not be asked to pay this funding back. And forms are easy to navigate. Register here today: www.mendip.gov.uk/businessrates

Local Authority Discretionary Grants 'closed' and payments starting

We are now prioritising and checking these applications and we are starting to process payments this week. These will be processed in batches, so businesses will not receive the payments at the same time. We are working through all applications as quickly as possible therefore please avoid emailing or telephoning the team as this will delay the processing of payments over the next couple of weeks.

If your query is urgent: Mendipgrants@mendip.gov.uk

Dairy response fund

A new dairy response fund will open for applications on 18th June. Qualifying farmers can apply for support to cover up to 70% of their losses due to coronavirus disruption across April and May, up to a total amount of £10,000 each. The funding will be paid out from 6 July.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dairy-response-fund-set-to-open-for-applications>

Free webinars to help businesses to reopen workplaces safely

The government is hosting free webinars for businesses on how to make their workplace coronavirus secure.

You can register to join for free:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy-18685150848>

Some webinars have already happened, but can be viewed as recordings on the Government's You Tube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/BusinessisGREAT/playlists>

Free webinars for Community Buildings

The Community Buildings Team at CCS (Community Council for Somerset) are running free weekly webinars for community buildings throughout Somerset.

These cover a wide range of topics including managing COVID-19, trustee roles and responsibilities and fundraising.

They are suitable for all forms and sizes of community buildings including village halls, community centres and church halls.

These webinars have been funded through the Somerset Community Foundation's Coronavirus Fund.

For the full list of webinars, and to sign up visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/community-buildings-advisory-team-ccs-30284407230>

For more information about these webinars, or the community buildings service from CCS, contact Sally Sargent, Community Buildings Adviser, on sallys@somersetccc.org.uk

Broadband upgrade opportunity for Mendip

CDS (Connecting Devon and Somerset) in cooperation with Mendip District Council are looking for rural communities of 50 to 100 properties in the district with poor internet connectivity to upgrade their broadband using the Government voucher scheme. There will be support from CDS to enable this. For more information contact Cllr Peter Goater.

Email: cllr.Goater@mendip.gov.uk or see <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

Route Map to Recovery

The Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership's 'Route Map to Recovery' outlines measures to help stimulate our local economy.

You'll find details here: <https://heartofswlep.co.uk/news/15395/>

NEW! Sport England Inequalities Fund

Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP), have received funding from Sport England to help keep people most affected during this pandemic physically active, or ready to get or resume activity.

The Inequalities Funding aims to support targeted groups across Somerset with a simple and quick expression of interest. These groups are:

- People from Lower Socio Economic Groups
- Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic Communities
- Disabled People
- People with Long Term Health Conditions

They anticipate projects to be valued between £200 and £2,000. Larger projects will be considered where the impact justifies it. Expressions of Interest will be reviewed within a two week period.

Full details can be found on their website here:

<https://www.sasp.co.uk/news/2020/06/sport-england-inequalities-fund>

Expression of Interest Form can be completed here:

<https://www.sasp.co.uk/forms/view/inequalities-fund>

News from our partners

Thank you for not idling at recycling tips

We've been hearing reports that visitors to Somerset's recycling centres have been switching off their engines while queuing. This is great news for the environment, our health and cuts fuel costs. Thank you for not idling.

Mendip have produced a 'no idling please' poster. If you'd like to display one at your village hall, community centre or school, please feel free to print it off and display as a reminder to those visiting your venue to switch off their engines while waiting.

Poster attached (Document 2)

Campaigns and events

LGBT+ helpline

June is LGBT+ Pride Month. It's an opportunity to celebrate LGBTQ+ people across the world, campaign for equal opportunity and highlight the issues facing this community. Colleagues at the **Switchboard LGBT+ helpline** (0300 330 0630) have asked us to raise awareness that their helpline is still open and they're continuing to support those in need during this time. <https://switchboard.lgbt/>

Mental health weekly radio slot

Mindline. The charity has teamed up with BBC Somerset and Spark to broadcast a weekly slot with Charlie Taylor on Wednesday evenings 7-8pm. They are available on 01823 276 892.

Useful numbers and links

Mendip District Council: www.mendip.gov.uk/coronavirus

Government information on coronavirus: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

NHS information: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

The latest travel advice can be found here:

www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus

Q&A from Public Health England on coronavirus:

publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/

The LGA have issued some general guidance specific to elected councillors that you may find useful: www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-outbreak-councillor-guidance

LGBT services helpline and counselling service.

<https://www.intercomtrust.org.uk/item/214-we-are-here-for-you>

Somerset Waste Partnership

Website: <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SomersetWaste/>

Twitter: <https://www.facebook.com/SomersetWaste/>

You can also sign up to SWP's e-newsletter [here](#).

Keep connected

These briefings are produced by Mendip's Marketing and Media Team. We're doing everything we can to make sure we're directing you to the most up-to-date information and advice regarding COVID-19.

Mendip District Council's corporate Facebook page www.facebook.com/mendipcouncil

We are also on Twitter twitter.com/MendipCouncil

And LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/company/mendip-district-council

Finally, here's our official website: www.mendip.gov.uk
