

Cllr Kim Forward Video Script 07.08.2020

Hi, Kim again, I hope that you are safe and well, here's my regular update from Hastings Borough Council.

I expect you've heard that the government has changed the guidelines for wearing face coverings so from August 8<sup>th</sup> we have to wear them in more places including in cinemas, libraries and museums. Some people, for medical reasons, don't have to wear them so let's remember that and respect and be kind to each other.

The apparent low infection rate in our town may have been due in part to the way that people responded so positively to the stay home stay safe messaging and the care and concern we have shown for each other.

At the council we must consider the threat of a 'second wave' of the pandemic and plan for that. We are learning lessons from the experience we have been through, but we recognise the challenge could still be enormous, particularly in the winter time.

The last four months have presented us with many difficulties which have been overcome not least because of our work with others. We are still working hard to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on our services and on our partners, communities and businesses. We will keep the welfare and safety of the people of our town at the heart of our thinking as we continue to respond to the impact of the pandemic.

We are also planning how we think both the council and the town can recover. So, for example, we are reviewing our corporate plan to ensure it focusses on our priority themes such as securing the council's finances, supporting the most vulnerable and climate change and the green economy. I am pleased that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their annual meeting decided to focus their work on our town's recovery and their input will be invaluable.

There are a lot of people, businesses and organisations in Hastings who are involved in the arts, culture and heritage sectors and the government has published details of how the Culture Recovery Fund will be distributed to those who are eligible to help them recover from the impact of the pandemic. Our website has a lot of information about what funding there is and who it is available through. Please spread the word.

It's going to be very hot over the weekend so we must remember to be careful if we are out and about and drink plenty of fluids, try to keep out of the sun during the hottest part of the day and especially look after those who may be particularly vulnerable. The NHS has some good advice about how to keep cool and safe in a heatwave on their website.

Speaking of keeping safe the community hub is still here for you if you need it. Call 01424 451019 if you need urgent support or fill out our online form for less urgent requests.

Thanks for carrying on with social distancing, regular handwashing and wearing a face covering when necessary, it is really helping to keep the virus at bay.

I appreciate you listening, thank you.