

## **Council leader Kim Forward's video update script 17.07.20**

Hi, it's Kim here, with this week's Hastings Borough Council update. I hope you are safe and well.

Some of the things I will be talking about today are face coverings, summer holidays plans, service updates and some good news about Active Hastings.

The council has been busy working on what the government announcements this week about further easing of lockdown measures mean for our town and we are reviewing some of our services and how they are provided. You can find out the latest information on our website.

From July 25th face coverings will be mandatory in shops, as well as on public transport and we have already been encouraging people to wear these wherever possible, to try and limit the spread of COVID-19 in Hastings. We can all help to keep each other safe by doing so.

Free school meals will be available during the summer through the COVID summer food fund. If you are a parent who believes your child will be eligible then please contact your child's school to find out more.

The Hastings Community Hub is still here if you need it: call 01424 451019 if you need urgent help and please go to our website to find out more.

The town's leisure centres will be reopening on July 25<sup>th</sup> and Freedom Leisure who run them are now busy putting in place all the necessary measures to reopen safely.

As ever advice for businesses is available on our website, including information on how to keep customers and employees safe when they reopen which is everyone's priority. Whatever your business- pub, hairdresser or something else you should be able to find the information you need there.

We've still got eligible businesses in Hastings who haven't claimed their small business and retail, leisure and hospitality grants. Don't miss out on this money, please check our website for more information.

Your council is continuing to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the town, supporting residents and businesses, and doing what we can to help plan and support our town's recovery. We are also planning for a potential second wave of COVID-19 later this year. We hope this won't happen of course, but we must be prepared if it does.

With the summer holidays coming up soon this is a reminder that our Active Hastings team are running fun regular activities and challenges to help keep children active. The Active Hastings team have made it to the finals of the National Community Fitness Awards. This is a great achievement and we are proud of them. Please visit their Facebook page for more information about the awards and a link to vote for them.

The digital museum provides daily resources and activities, which are a great way to educate and entertain at the same time! Well done to Hastings Museum and Art Gallery for keeping this up.

With no key decisions due to be made at the full council meeting this week, it's been postponed, which gives us the chance to make sure the procedures and technology can be trialled properly. Don't forget that you can watch all the public meetings such as Planning and Cabinet as they happen or later if you prefer on our website. That's where you'll find news about service changes and updates as well and don't forget our weekly residents' newsletter.

Please remember to keep social distancing, wash your hands regularly and wear a face covering when social distancing is difficult. Until next week please stay safe and thanks for listening.