

## Cllr Kim Forward weekly blog 06.11.2020

Hi, Kim here with a short update from Hastings Borough Council.

So, following the government's announcement we are in another period of lockdown with tighter COVID-19 restrictions. All shops selling non-essential goods as well as pubs and restaurants have closed (we can still order takeaways though) and all venues such as museums must close. This is another very difficult time for a lot of businesses. Some of them will be able offer click and collect or delivery services so let's continue to support them whenever we can.

We are still waiting for further guidance from the government about the financial support available for businesses and as soon as we know we will work hard to ensure the money is dispersed to eligible businesses. We are keeping our website updated with the information we have.

The new guidelines say that we must stay at home as much as possible so if we can we should work from home and only go out for exercise or for other essential reasons. Our schools remain open and this is causing some concern for parents and teachers. We can't meet with members of another household indoors but there are exceptions to this rule for example for families with one parent who can form a support bubble with another household.

You can find all the rules about lockdown restrictions on the government website and we will keep our website up to date as well.

We know that the number of cases in Hastings remains low compared to other areas and we want to keep it that way so let's come together and do all we can to understand and follow the new guidance and keep each other and our town safe.

As ever social distancing, wearing a face covering and washing our hands often remain so important. Space, face, hands.

So, for us at the council these restrictions mean that our cliff railways, our sports facilities such as our tennis courts and multi-use games areas and our museum have all closed. Please follow the museum's social media feeds will provide interesting online ideas.

Our Active Hastings team have stopped their in-person classes, but the team will be running lots of online classes via Zoom. You can go to our website, or the Active Hastings social media feeds, to find more details of these.

We are maintaining our 'Everyone In' policy for rough sleepers which has been in place since the last lockdown and we continue to work with partners to engage with all those people who are sleeping outside.

If you are worried about your own housing situation, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Our Community Hub is still here for people who need help during lockdown. If you need any urgent support, please call 01424 451019, or if it's less urgent, you can fill out the online form on our website.

The council will be working with our partners as we move through the next few weeks to continue to provide essential services and support to people and businesses.

Thank you again to all our key workers who keep things going for us.

Let's keep supporting each other and being kind and considerate as we navigate our way through the latest phase of this pandemic.

I hope you stay safe and well and thanks for listening.