

Cllr Kim Forward Weekly Vlog Transcript

Hi, It's Kim here with this week's update from the council.

We found out yesterday that when we come out of lockdown next week our town, along with the rest of East Sussex, will be in Tier 2 (high alert) of the updated system.

What this means for us is that households can't mix indoors, the rule of six applies outdoors, and pubs and bars must close unless they are operating as restaurants.

You can find all the details about the guidelines on the Government's website.

Our neighbouring county, Kent, is in Tier 3 and we mustn't travel there unless we have exceptional reasons for doing so.

The tiers will be reviewed every two weeks and for East Sussex to move down to Tier 1 with the lowest restrictions, we need to reduce our COVID infection rate.

It has been a feature of this pandemic how well we have come together in our borough to work to keep the infection at bay and how everyone has tried to play their part.

So please let's continue to work together to follow the guidelines and where we can stay at home and minimise the contact we have with others.

When we go out, every time we remember to keep our social distance, cover our faces and wash our hands, we are protecting each other.

Space, Face, Hands-this is our mantra and must continue to guide our actions.

As we head towards Christmas where the restrictions will be lifted for five days, we need to be extremely careful: let's make a vow to do all we can not to give an unwanted present of the virus to any of our friends and family.

Being in Tier 2 means retail will be open again, which is good news for our independent businesses. We can all try to support our businesses by shopping locally in the lead up to Christmas and remember that many of your local shops are offering a delivery or click and collect service as well.

This is another reminder that local restriction grants are still available for businesses who were required to close from November 5th as a result of

Government restrictions. Please go to our website to see if you're eligible for that or for our additional restrictions grant.

Wednesday November 25th marked International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, also known as White Ribbon Day, and the start of 16 Days of Action. Bottle Alley was lit up in orange to show support #orangetheworld.

We are sharing messages on our social media channels and you can find more details at www.whiteribbon.org.uk Please take the pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about domestic abuse.

This year Covid-19 has meant that lots of victims may feel even more isolated. If you have a friend or relative that you think is in an abusive relationship, please try to be there for them when they need you.

Information about support available can be found at <https://theportal.org.uk/>. Remember the current government restrictions do not apply if someone needs to leave their home as a result of abuse.

In recent sad news we were reminded of the power, and danger, of the sea, with the sinking of a fishing boat off Newhaven. Coastguard rescue teams, the RNLi and a dozen fishing boats spent many hours searching, rescuing one person but unable to find the other two crew members.

Subsequently one body has been recovered but the other is still missing. Our thoughts are with their family and friends. Fishing remains one of the most dangerous occupations in the country, and we salute all those who go to sea to help provide our food, and those who get called upon to rescue them.

Finally, as we continue to navigate our way through this pandemic let's continue to be kind and considerate towards each other and follow the guidelines to keep ourselves and others safe.