

Wednesday 25 March



PARISHES UPDATE

From Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils

Help us spread the word about your support for people around Covid-19

[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Covid-19 Co-ordination Hub](#) has had a fantastic response from parishes, voluntary and community groups letting us know about the support they are offering. Thank you!

So we can link you up with volunteers who want to help you, local people needing help, and also get the message out to the public, we ask you to register your group.

Please record details of the help you are offering, the number of volunteers available, and one set of contact details for a co-ordinated response, that people can use to reach you, stating clearly the area (eg ward, village or specific streets) covered.

For [Peterborough Information Network](#) you can find guidance on how to register [here](#). To help people find you in searches please ensure that you include the terms 'Coronavirus' and/or 'Covid-19' when creating your record.

For [Cambridgeshire On-line Directory](#)

Go to the Cambridgeshire Online Directory page -

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/> Click the sign up button and follow these simple steps:

1. Click the 'Create a listing' button
2. Enter your listing name, city/town/village, and reference Covid-19
3. Fill in key information - including street names if you are only covering a specific area, and end with the number of volunteers available (this can be updated later)
4. Tick up to 3 in the Category/subject listing, whichever you feel best suits
5. **Important:** To fill in the 'tags, groups and similar services' section start to type 'Covid-19' and select the tag from the dropdown when it appears
6. Fill in the age bracket
7. Fill in Contact details you want people to use to contact your group with the full address for websites and Facebook, starting with <https://> by copying the link copy the link from the page. This will be displayed to the public.

You do not need to fill in Eligibility, Referral or Facilities and Equipment, unless you have something to share.

If you have any queries about registering, please email communityCV@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Coronavirus — information for parish & town councils

As the coronavirus pandemic continues and the UK enters this new phase of government measures, we wanted to reach out to the local (parish and town) council sector. These are unprecedented and challenging times, and our first thoughts are for the health and welfare of yourselves and your communities.

We are hearing stories from up and down the country of local councils stepping up and supporting their local communities and most vulnerable.

[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils \(CAPALC\)](#) has received have received some fantastic case studies. Find out [here](#) what your neighbouring councils are up to.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has collated further case studies and is keen to find out more from a wide range of local councils — tell us more at www.nalc.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Following the prime minister's announcement, we wanted to reiterate the importance of following the new rules on [staying at home and away from others](#). This guidance impacts on all of us and there are the [additional need to self-isolate or shield from contact](#) depending on your situation. It essential that we all follow these rules to slow the pandemic and to support our NHS.

Both NALC and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) are asking local councils to stop holding any physical meetings or gatherings during this time. This includes full council, committee meetings, annual parish or council meetings. These are extraordinary times, and they call for extraordinary measures. The health and safety of your staff, councillors and local communities should be your first concern. The government is working on a Coronavirus Bill and associated legislation that will allow your council meetings to be held remotely and to make decisions without the need for physically meeting. This will be introduced soon, and so we encourage you to be patient.

We are making representations to ministers, parliamentarians, civil servants and the Local Government Association to ensure our sector's concerns are considered and addressed and will be providing updates to our respective members as soon as further information is forthcoming. NALC and SLCC are in regular contact to share knowledge, understand the sector's concerns and provide mutual support for our members.

This information forms part of a NALC's dedicated webpage on the coronavirus. It should not be used as a substitute for government advice, however, there are some practicalities specific to local (parish and town) councils where we hope this information will help you plan ahead and manage your risks. This is a fast-moving situation and we will be updating the webpage regularly.

If you would like further advice and support on any of these topics for your local council then please contact Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CAPALC <https://www.capalc.org.uk/Home.aspx>

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) are also sending out regular emails to all of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Parish Councils where they have

email addresses for Clerks and Chairs. If you are not receiving those emails and wish to do so please contact office@capalc.org.uk

First day for volunteers

Following our campaign to increase the number of people available to provide care to vulnerable people in their own homes and keep them out of hospital, launched last week, we've had an amazing amount of support with more than 75 new volunteers with suitable skills and backgrounds identified and 12 recruited already.

The new volunteers had their first day of training yesterday (24 March) to help them support vulnerable people in the community. They will be providing personal or health care to vulnerable people in their own homes or in a care setting. This will include showering, giving medication and helping someone use the toilet.

Adrian Chapman, **Service Director for Communities and Safety** for *Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council* said: "We would like to thank the volunteers that have come forward so far to help us provide vital services, their contribution has already been inspiring."

Councillor Steve Criswell, Chairman of the Communities and Partnership Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "We're grateful for the people who are coming forward in these challenging times, if you feel you can contribute, please get in touch and find out who you can help."

Councillor Irene Walsh, cabinet member for communities at Peterborough City Council, said: "These volunteers are bringing in a range of skills and experience that will be essential to keep people safe and keep providing care and support so thank you."

If you have experience of personal or health care, please [contact us](#) to share your contact details, experience and availability so we can find out more about how you could help.

Food and Supplies Donations

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Staff at both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have been delivering emergency supply hampers to vulnerable young residents in need. Last week, our corporate parenting teams delivered 12 hampers, filled with food, toiletries, cleaning products, books and clothing. These went to young people in care and care leavers. Thank you everyone who donated these items. If you or someone you know owns a restaurant, café or pub which is currently closed, we’re urging you not to throw out food or supplies. Instead you can donate it to us so we can deliver more hampers to those in need. Get in touch with joe.gilbert@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

News for businesses in Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire County Council is leading the establishment of an ‘economic recovery sub-group’ that has been set up as part of a Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) looking at the impact of Covid-19. Working with the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Combined Authority the County Council is driving forward the early set-up of this group to ensure businesses across Cambridgeshire are fully aware of the various financial support measures being made available by Government and that as many businesses as possible secure the support they are eligible to receive. Support and advice for businesses can be found on our websites: [Cambridgeshire](#) and [Peterborough](#)

Families follow guidance and help keep children at home

Our schools and early years settings across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough remain open, as they continue to look after those children deemed to be vulnerable, and those of critical workers.

It seems parents across both counties are listening to the advice set out by Government – to keep children at home where safe to do so the number of children in attendance is much lower than originally predicted. There are lots of resources on our ‘learn together’ [website](#) to help parents who are keeping their children at home.

Jonathan Lewis, Service Director for Education in Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Council said: “I want to say thank you to those parents who are following the advice of

Government and keeping their children at home. You are playing a big part in helping relieve the pressures on the system, and allowing us to prioritise our resources where they are needed most. We are seeing children from critical worker families attending, but I want to reiterate that we will also provide for children who are supported by social care and who have safeguarding and welfare needs.

“We continue to work closely with the Department of Health, our teachers, practitioners and childminders, and have put measures in place to ensure the safety of those children and staff who are in attendance. We are in this together.”

The Government’s definition of critical workers and children who are vulnerable is available [here](#).

Be aware of free school meals scam

We have had reports of parents and carers in receipt of free school meals being targeted by fraudsters. They are contacting parents and carers with messages such as ‘if your child is entitled to free school meals send your bank details to the school and they will help with funding while the school is closed.’

The email contains links for the parents to follow, these emails and links are fake. Do not give your bank details. If you think you have been targeted by a fraudster, do not reply to the email. Instead, contact your school directly.

Funerals/Cremations Grounds/Cemeteries in Peterborough

There will be some changes to these services to take into account Government advice around reducing the spread of Covid-19 and the importance of protecting key workers. These are:

Attending funerals – We will be limiting funeral gatherings in chapels to the immediate family only – including spouse/partner, parents/carers, brothers/sisters, children (and partners of children).

Crematorium Grounds/Cemeteries - These are still open, however please be mindful of keeping at least six feet (two metres) away from other visitors.

Bereavement Services Office - This is closed, although we will take appointments from families to collect cremated remains, however please avoid this if you possibly can.

Waiting Room - This will be closed from today (Wednesday, 25 March). Attendees are asked to stay in their cars until the cortege arrives at the crematorium

Book of Remembrance - This will be closed from today (Wednesday, 25 March), however the inscription can be viewed from the outside of the building and there will be vases available for any tributes left.

Scattering/internment of cremated remains - We will not be taking any further bookings. If you have a scattering/internment booked, a member of the Bereavement Team will contact you.

Road signs in Cambridgeshire

Following a request from the Department for Transport, we will be helping to give consistent and widespread messaging about the need for people to stay at home during the Covid-19 crisis by displaying messages on our road signs.

Bulky Waste Collections in Peterborough

The service will be happening as normal, but we will no longer be conducting face-to-face quoted jobs or estimations.

Child care

With children now being asked to stay at home where safe to do so, more and more parents will be turning to childminders and alternative childcare to help out. The government guidance is clear – children should not be cared for by any friends or family who should be stringently social distancing – such as the elderly or those with underlying health problems.

Parents should also be fully confident they are using childminders who are fully registered. The Council provides a list of these here – [Cambridgeshire](#) - [Peterborough](#)

If you are offered any unregistered provision, or you feel someone may be acting illegally, let Ofsted know immediately by contacting enquiries@Ofsted.gov.uk using the subject heading 'Early Years setting – possibly unregistered'. Help us keep our children safe and well.

Play Areas, Outdoor Gyms and Skate Parks in Peterborough

All will be closed to stop people using equipment on which they could potentially pass on the virus with a message put up clearly at the entrance asking residents to continue using the rest of the open space, while adhering to safe social distancing of at least two metres/six feet apart from others.

Toilets in Central Park, Peterborough

These are now closed, according to the Government guidance on shutting park buildings.

Keep up-to-date

You can keep up-to-date with any changes to our services on our websites:

- Peterborough - <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/healthcare/public-health/coronavirus/disruption-to-council-services>
- Cambridgeshire - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/disruption-to-council-services>

Our advice and latest information on Coronavirus can be found on both websites - www.peterborough.gov.uk/coronavirus and www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Coronavirus: what you need to do

- Stay at home
- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (where this absolutely cannot be done from home)
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Anyone can spread the virus.

[Full guidance on staying at home and away from others](#)

Contact:
parishesCV@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

