

Friday, 27 March 2020



PARISHES UPDATE

From Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils

Cllr John Holdich Vlog

We're sharing a regular video blog from Peterborough City Council leader Cllr John Holdich, giving guidance to city residents and council updates during the COVID-19 outbreak. Click [here](#) to watch today's video blog.

Cllr Steve Count's Vlog

We're also sharing regular video blogs from Cambridgeshire County Council Leader Cllr Steve Count, watch him thank families who are following guidance and helping keep children at home, plus some helpful signposting for home learning [here](#) and him talk about a group which has been set-up to help businesses across Cambridgeshire [here](#).

Promote your Community Support (Covid-19)

Please list brief details of the voluntary support your community is offering on [the Cambridgeshire Online Directory](#). This will help people within your community find you. Scroll half way down the page and you will see a section titled 'I want to promote the support we offer (COVID-19)'.

Advice on Covid-19 scams

The National Trading Standards Scams Team has produced some materials to promote scams awareness around coronavirus scams. The team has published various tools that will help spread the message that criminals are exploiting fears about coronavirus to be able to prey on members of the public, particularly older and vulnerable people who are isolated from family and friends. Please help us to [share these across your media platforms](#).

Rough Sleepers in Peterborough

It's never been more important for rough sleepers to be safer off the streets than now. The [Safer Off the Streets](#) partnership – of which Peterborough City Council is a member – is working together to help support those sleeping rough during the COVID-19 outbreak, including:

Accommodation

Self-contained accommodation is being provided to vulnerable rough sleepers to self-isolate in. The Peterborough Winter Night Shelter and emergency crash bed facility also closed last night due to the latest Government guidance. Rough sleepers who accessed these services are also being moved into self-contained accommodation.

Outreach services

The council continue to engage with everyone we know who is sleeping out, including handing out a COVID-19 information leaflet. Anyone falling into the vulnerable groups have been provided with accommodation where they're able to self-isolate.

Drop-in services

[Light Project Peterborough](#)'s Garden House drop-in centre currently remains open for rough sleepers to seek help as an emergency service. To minimise numbers coming in the Garden House they are only able to support those sleeping rough. Hygiene and social distancing is being observed.

Food Banks

[Peterborough Food bank](#) continues to provide emergency food parcels at all of its location, however from today (Friday 27 March) it will be moving to one location at Dogsthorpe Methodist Church, six days a week between 11am and 1pm. Referrals will be made via e-vouchers/unique codes. The foodbank is an essential emergency service for people unable to afford food. People self-isolating who can afford to buy food but cannot leave their homes should contact the local council who are setting up a co-ordination hub to help.

Meals

[Peterborough Soup Kitchen](#) unfortunately has had to cease operation today due to issues with social distancing. Discussions are in progress on a solution on how to stop large groups gathering for food and they hope to be up and running again shortly, possibly at a different location. Food stock is also reduced and demand is increasing.

Appeal for public help

Demands on [Food bank](#), [Soup Kitchen](#) and [Light Project Peterborough](#) services have increased and volunteer numbers decreased. Members of the public are encouraged to continue to donate food supplies or money to their local food banks, the Peterborough Soup Kitchen and Light Project Peterborough.

Parking enforcement in Cambridge

From Monday (30 March), we will be suspending parking enforcement in Cambridge, other than using a skeleton staff to deal with dangerous parking, during the COVID-19 crisis.

This is being done in partnership with Cambridge City Council and will complement the measures they are taking, which includes providing free car parking in their car parks for key workers, during these challenging times. Together, this will help key workers access their places of work in order to protect the vital services they provide.

It follows the Government's 'Stay at Home' guidance and will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

Cllr Steve Count, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "We have taken these steps with the City Council to try and help critical workers during this unprecedented time.

"We want to make sure critical services can continue to operate and we hope by suspending parking enforcement, keeping the roads flowing for emergency vehicles and essential deliveries to food shops and pharmacies this will make it easier.

"We want our streets not to be cluttered with badly parked cars and allow customers to park for essential visits e.g. near food shops, the hospital and pharmacies. We also need to consider the safety of the traffic officers based on the latest Government guidance."

Cambridge City Council Leader, Cllr Lewis Herbert, said: "We are in unprecedented times and by making our car parks free for key workers including NHS staff we are helping them to keep the most critical services running.

"All Cambridge residents need to follow strictly the government Stay at Home advice for their and their family's safety. They should also ensure that they and their whole families adhere to essential guidance on social distancing at all times, plus hygiene and hand washing advice.

"People who may be volunteering to help support vulnerable people, along with those working in health services and other public services, need all the support available to do their essential work and we will help them wherever we can."

Our enforcement officers will assess dangerous parking within the area and if they believe it is obstructive or dangerous we will ticket where possible.

Audio clips for communities in Peterborough

We've produced a number of public information audio clips to share important messages about the Coronavirus outbreak with communities. Please [download](#) them and share them as widely as you can.

Libraries in Cambridge

The Library Presents Spring programme has been postponed, this includes all performances and workshops planned until June 2020. We will continue to engage with our audiences and communities using our digital channels to share light-hearted, fun, friendly and exciting arts and ideas for activities that can be done at home. Follow on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) or join the mailing list through the [website](#).

Councillors share thanks to education staff for hard work so far

Councillors have shown their appreciation for the hard work and collective effort shown by those working in education across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:

Cllr Simon Bywater, Chairman of Children & Young People Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "We are in unprecedented times and the ever changing nature of our current situation is testing us all professionally, and personally. The last couple of weeks have been enormously challenging for everyone involved in education.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in schools, early years' practitioners, childminders, partners and local authority officers for the dedication and superhuman effort they have shown so far. I have seen some fantastic examples of people coming together and going above and beyond to ensure those children in attendance are safe, and those who are at home have the resources they need to continue learning and developing.

"I also want to thank our parents for keeping your children at home. It helps ease some of the pressure, and is helping prevent the further spread of the virus.

"This period may run for some time yet, but I am fully confident the Council's education teams and the wider education community will continue pulling together."

Councillor Lynne Ayres, Peterborough City Council's cabinet member for education, said: "The last couple of weeks have been enormously challenging for everyone involved in education. You have all had to deal with an unprecedented and rapidly changing situation.

"So I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved – staff in early years' settings and schools, governors, pupils and parents for your dedication and all-round brilliance. Everyone has worked tirelessly to keep things working as well as possible, it really has been an incredible team effort and I'm very proud of you all.

"Rest assured, our council's education team will continue to work to offer all schools the support and guidance that they need."

No let-up in learning for local school children

Schools and early years settings across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have quickly stepped up to ensure pupils can continue learning whether they are attending school or not.

Marshfields School in Peterborough have set up a [YouTube](#) channel which is proving popular, delivering practical lessons such as cookery and dance and ensuring those at home don't miss out. This is just one example of the many ways schools and early years settings are rising to the challenges, and we will be sharing more of these stories with you.

Finally...

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council communications team would like to thank all the district, parish and town councils for their support and use of these daily update briefings. We hope you find them useful.

You can keep up-to-date with any changes or disruptions to our services via 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 (6.5ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Remember, anyone can spread the virus.

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

Contact:
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