

## Coronavirus

### A briefing note for parish and town councils in Northamptonshire

#### Issue No.7: Tuesday 3 November 2020

This briefing rounds up all the latest information of interest to parish and town councils on Coronavirus, the impact on council business, and the community response.

- 1. Play Areas** – The government’s general guidance on the new national restrictions from 5 November 2020 published at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november> clearly states that “*Playgrounds can remain open*” and that people can “*visit outdoor public places [including parks, public gardens and playgrounds] with the people you live with, your support bubble, or 1 person from another household (children under school age, as well as those dependent on round-the-clock care, such as those with severe disabilities, who are with their parents will not count towards the limit on two people meeting outside).*”
- 2. Remembrance Sunday** – Outdoor services at war memorials can still take place, but they should be reduced in size and observe strict social distancing. Communal services of remembrance inside places of worship will not be possible. The government guidance for Remembrance Sunday is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday>.
- 3. Council Meetings** – No new guidance on local authority meetings has been issued, so the position remains as before, which is that councils should continue to meet virtually wherever possible. Some councils were considering a return to in-person meetings based on preference. Our strong advice is that such considerations should be put off and councils should continue to meet virtually.
- 4. Food Boxes** – Local charity SOFEA ([www.sofea.uk.com](http://www.sofea.uk.com)) is exploring the opportunity to reinstate the food boxes into villages in South Northants and Daventry for people who are unable to access sufficient food during lockdown whether it is for health or economic reasons. If this would be of interest in your community please contact Miranda Wixon on [miranda@sofea.uk.com](mailto:miranda@sofea.uk.com) or 07974 919221. Details of any similar schemes in the rest of Northamptonshire will be circulated in due course.
- 5. Grant Support** – Western Power Distribution (WPD), is extending its ‘*In This Together – Community Matters Fund*’ to offer help to the most vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 and in need of additional support at this time. WPD is inviting charities, community groups and local authorities to apply for awards of up to £1,500 to support initiatives such as those offering food and clothing parcels and hot meals, as well as gifts and support to vulnerable children, adults and the elderly over the winter holidays. The application form is available from the [www.westernpower.co.uk/ITT-festive-fund](http://www.westernpower.co.uk/ITT-festive-fund) and the closing date for submissions is Sunday 15 November 2020, so act quickly. Please feel free to share this within your community.
- 6. Local Information** – The county council web site is the place to go for information on infection rates in Northamptonshire, how to book a test for Coronavirus, details of support for individuals and businesses, and more. See [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates).
- 7. Northants CALC Briefings** – This briefing continues the series of briefings published in March and April 2020, which are available at [www.northantscalc.com/coronavirus](http://www.northantscalc.com/coronavirus). This briefing addresses the urgent requirement to disseminate information, particularly regarding play areas and Remembrance Sunday. Further dedicated briefings will be issued as appropriate, but the main method for keeping parish and town councils updated will continue to be the Friday mini eUpdates, which are published every Friday afternoon and sent to all member councils.