

Covid and Council Newsletter update – April 1st 2021

From Ursula Dowd – Census Engagement Officer for the IW

Sent 31/03/2021

“I have received a notification from IWASP, of a scam text, purporting to be from the census saying that there is incorrect information on the form and to avoid a £1000 fine visit censu.unpaid-feesgov.com/ “

The following are all from the IW Council

Community Collect is now available from our community testing sites across the Island.

Anyone aged 16 and over can collect free COVID-19 home testing kits.

As restrictions ease and we're out and about more, get tested to keep yourself, your friends, family, colleagues and customers safe. Tests are easy to take and you get the result in 30 minutes.

[Pick up your test kits and start testing to help keep the Island safe.](#)

Please [keep an eye on our Keep The Island Safe website](#) - it's where we'll post the latest information about test sites and kits.

High Friction Surfacing Works

Please be aware, these works are weather dependent, therefore, the date and duration may change if the conditions are not suitable.

Location of works:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Merstone Lane, Merstone – approach to speed limit change
Start date:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20th April – 22nd April 2021
Estimated duration:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 nights
Time of works:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18:00 – 06:00
Safety measures during works:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There will be a road closure in place throughout the works between Sandown Road and Chapel Lane.• A signed diversion will be in place.

In an emergency

We work closely with the emergency services to inform them of works taking place across the Island and will assist the emergency services to safely pass through the site, should they need to access the works area in the event of an emergency.

Bus services

During the surfacing works, bus stops located within the area of the road closure will not be in operation. Please use an alternative bus stop outside of the road closure area. If you are not sure which stop to use, contact Southern Vectis on 01983 827000.

Alterations/Updates

Please bear in mind that our programme can be affected by various external influences such as weather. The timeframe provided in this letter is as accurate as possible at the time of writing. **Advanced signage which will be erected a day prior to the scheme commencing and updated in the case of a change to dates.**



Safety net of support will stay in place for vulnerable Islanders

Vulnerable Islanders are being reassured that the safety net of support will stay in place when shielding is paused from Wednesday (31 March). Support put in place by the Isle of

Wight Council at the start of the first lockdown last March and which has continued ever since, will carry on for months ahead, even after the current national lockdown is lifted.

The authority has written to thousands of clinically extremely vulnerable people to remind them of what that includes. The council's helpline — (01983) 823600 — is available for anyone who feels vulnerable, needs help because of lockdown or self-isolation, or who is alone with no local network of friends, family or neighbours and needs support.

See the council's [website](#) for details of opening times.

The council has also launched a new Telecheck service as part of its Wightcare offer, providing friendly chat and catch-up social calls as well as welfare calls to check people are safe and well. For more information, please call the team on (01983) 821105 or email: wightcare@iow.gov.uk

Additional information is also available on the [Keep the Island Safe](#) website, with sections on support and guidance, vaccinations, testing, self-isolation and prevention guidance.

This includes links to many local organisations and businesses offering support such as [Age UK Isle of Wight](#) and [Citizens Advice Isle of Wight](#), as well as practical support like ['out and about' cards](#) to help people feel more confident as national pandemic restrictions ease.

If you are clinically extremely vulnerable and have not already done so you can request priority access to supermarket delivery slots, you have until 31 March to register by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-shielding-support>.

The government has confirmed the participating supermarkets will continue to offer priority access until at least 21 June 2021. Some supermarkets may extend your priority access beyond this date.

Simon Bryant, the council's director of public health, said: "While advice to shield is ending on 31st March, we do understand it may take some time for people to adjust.

"We know that shielding has not been easy, and we would like to thank you for your efforts during this challenging time.

"We still recommend that you take precautions to protect yourself while the virus is still spreading in our communities. Continue to maintain social distancing, wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face. Remember, hands-face-space.

"Also, continue to minimise the number of social interactions that you have. The fewer social interactions you have, the lower your risk of catching COVID-19.

"We want to reassure people who have been shielding for the last three months and those who are self-isolating that our support for people who do not have anyone else to call on will continue.

"We hope that in time the demand will reduce and that infection rates continue to fall, but while there is a need we will be there with partners to help."

Rediscover the Island this Easter — but in a safe way

Find your own Wight space this Easter. That's the message from Isle of Wight health chiefs ahead of the Easter weekend with residents urged to enjoy the great outdoors — and hopefully some sunshine — in a sensible and cautious way. With more than 60 miles of beaches and 520 miles of rights of way, Simon Bryant, the council's director of public health, urged people to avoid the most crowded places and to find their own space to help keep the Island safe.

He said: "The Island is blessed with the most beautiful countryside and miles of wonderful beaches offering plenty of space for residents to get out and about without the need to crowd busy spots.

"I want all of us to make the most of fresh air and exercise. It's important for your mental and physical health that you stay active. Meet other people outdoors by all means, but please

keep to the rule of six, or two household, and keep social distancing. Stay local, discover the quiet places, and avoid crowded ones. If it's busy, move on.

"Everyone needs to take personal responsibility to stop the spread of COVID-19. Our actions make a big difference. The good behaviours associated with hands, face, space should continue to be central to all of the plans we make."

While the stay at home rule was lifted on Monday, people are still being asked to minimise travel. Mr Bryant warned that those who break or bend the 'roadmap' rules risked allowing COVID-19 to creep back into our communities. This would not only put the lives of our most vulnerable residents at risk, it would also jeopardise our route out of lockdown and back to doing the things we love, he said.

In brief, the recent rule changes are:

- People can meet outside, including in private gardens, either with one other household or as a group of six.
- The 'stay at home' rule has been replaced with 'stay local' and to keep travel to a minimum.
- Outdoor sports facilities such as golf courses and tennis courts can reopen, and organised outdoor sport can take place.
- Outdoor parent and child groups are allowed with up to 15 parents.

It is important to note that the rules do not allow people to mix indoors, and there should be no long-distance travelling or overnight stays, which includes single households staying in a second home. People are also being reminded that although the vaccine programme on the Island is on track and working well, having the jab does not give people a green light to ignore the rules.

Maggie Oldham, chief executive of the Isle of Wight NHS Trust, said: "It is wonderful that new guidance allows loved ones to reunite in a safe way, after so many months apart. "However, we must continue to do all the important steps that are leading us out of lockdown, such as wearing a mask, washing and sanitising our hands frequently and keeping a distance from others when we are out and about.

"Our hospital continues to support the local community and Island visitors, and should you need advice or urgent, non-life threatening support, please call 111 before coming into A&E or our urgent treatment centre. Our 111 team will be able to provide the quickest route for treatment."

Testing remains vital in ongoing efforts to identify, track down and control any remaining pockets of the virus and prevent it spreading into the wider community. People can pick up a free home testing kit (rapid lateral flow) from one of the council's sites in Ryde, Sandown, Newport, Yarmouth and Cowes, or from the Newclose County Cricket Ground testing site. Some community testing sites are only open Easter Saturday, 7am until 1 pm — more information can be found at www.keeptheislandsafe.org/communitytesting

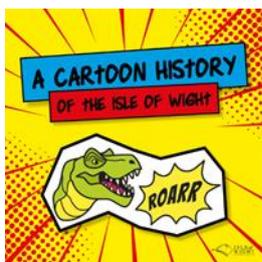
These kits are for testing when you do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Twice weekly (rapid lateral flow) testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus from spreading. People with any [symptoms of COVID-19](#) should immediately self-isolate and book a test at Newclose County Cricket Ground by calling 119 or via the [government website](#). Newclose is open seven days a week for symptomatic testing (am) and collecting home testing (pm).

For all the most up to date information and advice about coronavirus and all of the support on offer, visit: www.keeptheislandsafe.org

Finally, this is nothing whatsoever to do with COVID 19 but it does come from the IW Council ...

Easter cartoon capers

Budding young artists are being called on to use their talent to illustrate a rather special poem this Easter.



'A Cartoon History of the Isle of Wight', written by Martin and Michelle Crowther, uses rhyming couplets to take readers on an incredible journey through time. As the school holidays get underway, creative kids are being urged to [download the template](#), illustrate and add to the poem with their own compositions. Hard copies are also available.

Corina Westwood, from the Isle of Wight Heritage Service, said: "While we wait for the Island's museums to open from 17 May, this poem is a great way to remind ourselves of the Island's amazing history.

"We would love to see what you can create — if you would like to share your creative compositions then get in touch, we may use your masterpieces to inspire others!"

The Isle of Wight Heritage Service is the lead partner in the museums and schools programme which aims to ensure all children and young people have the chance to visit and be inspired by museums. The programme is supported by Arts Council England and funded by the Department of Education.

To find out more about the museums and schools programme and the workshops and resources available for schools and students, visit [here](#).

The heritage service can be contacted via email: museums@iow.gov.uk or visit www.iowight.com/museums

And really finally ...

I've just received the following links from PCSO Keefe, who is our neighbourhood Police contact:-

COUNTRY WATCH EMAIL: countrywatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

STATION EMAIL: west.wight.police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Link to victim care information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime>

Link to making a Victim Personal Statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/victim-personal-statement>

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: Cllr Martin Kimber – martinkimberapc@gmail.com

Clerk: Mrs Sheila Caws - arretonpc@outlook.com 07587 008183

Website: arreton.org.uk