



Dear Wavendon residents

We've now nearly completed two months of lockdown. Everyone's experience of this will vary and many I know are finding it tough in very different ways. Whilst we have seen some easing of the restrictions this weekend, we're unlikely to return fully to our old lifestyles for some time to come.

We should all take pride though in the falling numbers of those who so tragically have been losing their lives to the virus. Every individual sacrifice we make helps to save lives, so thanks to each and every one of you for playing your part.

The lockdown has been particularly tough for those who are vulnerable and who don't have anyone to help them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need help in any way.

01908 582632 or email at David.hopkins@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Emergency food parcels are potentially available and are enough food to see someone through a few days whilst we work with the various voluntary organisations in our Parishes (and our neighbouring parishes) to arrange ongoing support for either weekly food shopping, collecting prescriptions or check-in chats to see how you or your neighbours are coping.

It is extremely encouraging to see such a fantastic community response across Wavendon; we have seen many residents either registering their interest in volunteering in various ways or simply supporting their neighbours with telephone calls and shopping.

As well as receiving reports of vulnerable people from the public, we have proactively contacted every household in the Parish – this has helped identify those most vulnerable residents either because they are either shielding or because they have health conditions that make them clinically vulnerable to the virus or they are known to Milton Keynes Council through its social care teams.

If you are worried about someone who is vulnerable and doesn't have anyone to help them, let us know. You can do this online at the web site, via email or by calling me on 01908 582632.

Please continue to keep safe and well.

Cllr David Hopkins

Chairman – Wavendon Parish Council

Update - HEADLINES

Re-starting this week are the MK green bin collections <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/pressreleases/2020/may/food-and-garden-waste-weekly-collections-to-restart-monday-11-may>

The MK Community Foundation's Mighty May Match Fund has started <https://www.mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk/donations/mighty-may-match/>

Prince Charles has written to Britain's postal workers to thank them for all they're doing during the present crisis.

IMPORTANT MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS SINCE LAST MONDAY

The Council is holding two virtual Adoption Information sessions later in May <https://www.facebook.com/MKCouncil1/>

* 12 noon Friday 15 May

* 6 pm Wednesday 27 May

MK Council Leader Pete Marland believes there are possibly 300 businesses still eligible to apply for Government funding help <https://t.co/dV6VLkwGUj>

Join the Council's new venture with the City Discovery Centre with new activities for all ages. This week #MKNewTownQuiz and #MK2050City in a Box or Masterplan. More here <https://mkcdc.org.uk/new-town-heritage-explorers/>

The Council is working to clean up CMK when there is so little traffic around <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKMK/bulletins/28a298a>

It has re-purposed some of its schools' recycling learning resources so that they can be used for at home teaching <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling/other-waste-services/schools-recycling-information>

The Food Bank Xtra team are now able to collect larger donations from single collection points. Call 01908 565852 for more details. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKMK/bulletins/28a5b57>

The Council, with Ringway, lit up the City Centre for VE Day <https://www.mkfm.com/news/local-news/milton-keynes-city-centre-trees-lit-up-in-red-white-and-blue-last-night-to-mark-ve-day/>

The Council has updated its guidance on financial help for individuals during the present crisis. In particular we will shortly be mailing discounted council tax bills to those residents entitled to receive a reduction.

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/benefits-council-tax/coronavirus-financial-help-for-individuals#Council%20Tax>

RECENT IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT NOTICES

The Government's new bounce back loans for small businesses launched on Monday <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bounce-back-loans-to-launch-today>

People who can't work their normal hours because of coronavirus will still receive their usual tax credit payments <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-credits-customers-will-continue-to-receive-payments-even-if-working-fewer-hours-due-to-covid-19>

OFQUAL's initial decisions on GCSE & A level grading are here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-publishes-initial-decisions-on-gcse-and-a-level-grading-proposals-for-2020>

Scientific evidence supporting the Government's COVID-19 response <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-scientific-evidence-supporting-the-uk-government-response>

Eligibility for childcare offers <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eligibility-for-government-childcare-offers-protected>

The Government has postponed the planned 2021 business rate revaluation in order to reduce uncertainty for companies <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/business-rates-revaluation-postponed>

It is warning against international cyber fraud <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-condemns-cyber-actors-seeking-to-benefit-from-global-coronavirus-pandemic>

It has launched a pilot test, track & trace app <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-test-track-and-trace-plan-launched-on-isle-of-wight>

A new reagent is available in support of global diagnostic testing <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-reagent-available-to-support-global-diagnostic-testing-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

The Government is encouraging the re-opening of Household Waste & Recycling centres (tips) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/883329/200505_HWRC_letter_to_LAs.pdf

Advice for universities on student number controls <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-he-providers-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Case studies on successful remote learning are here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/case-studies-remote-education-practice-for-schools-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

A dedicated app for social care workers has been launched <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dedicated-app-for-social-care-workers-launched>

New funding is being made available for dairy farmers <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-to-support-dairy-farmers-through-coronavirus>

Coronavirus Act 2020: status table <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-act-2020-status/coronavirus-act-2020-status-table>

An emergency support fund is being established to support domestic abuse safe accommodation charities <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-covid-19-emergency-support-fund>

A revised deadline (Thursday 21 May) has been announced for applications to the domestic abuse fund <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-covid-19-emergency-support-fund>

Updated guidance for people receiving direct payments <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-people-receiving-direct-payments>

New business partnerships have increased PPE supply <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-more-items-of-ppe-for-frontline-staff-from-new-business-partnerships>

Combating online child sexual exploitation <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/countering-online-child-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>

MK-RELATED ORGANISATION ANNOUNCEMENTS SINCE LAST MONDAY

Here is Community Action:MK's regular Monday update <https://mailchi.mp/communityactionmk/weekly-info-updates-from-community-action-mk-23march-2623898?e=c9370b21aa>

Community Action would still like more charities and community groups to complete their survey of how they are coping with COVID-19 in MK https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3blv_px7IHrDIq0fC790M_DRbCIJC7uG3jZgzN2R24plAFg/viewform

They address issues of coronavirus stigma & discrimination here <https://communityactionmk.org/2020/05/06/combating-coronavirus-stigma-and-discrimination>

Age UK Milton Keynes have updated their current arrangements and information about helping people in our area <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/miltonkeynes/>

Total MK have a great picture of the 1960s Bletchley rail flyover being removed <https://www.totalmk.co.uk/news/1960s-railway-flyover-removed-in-bletchley-as-part-of-the-east-west-rail-project>

Pete Winkelman thanks the 3.500 season ticket holders who have already renewed for next season <https://www.mkfm.com/news/local-news/mk-dons-chairman-re-iterates-gratitude-for-unbelievable-season-ticket-holders/>

Thames Valley Police are offering advice on the use of Snapchat which criminals are using to target young people online during lockdown <https://www.facebook.com/pg/thamesvp/posts/>

They are also warning against a new "Romance " fraud using dating apps <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/dating-fraud>

The Police are advertising for Police Officers, PSCOs and civilian staff (a number of separate posts to be read) <https://www.facebook.com/pg/thamesvp/posts/>

The MK Citizen has published COVID-19 death figures by post code area for Milton Keynes, based on ONS data, and covering the period up until Friday 17 April.

<https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/health/coronavirus/revealed-milton-keynes-hotspots-where-covid-19-has-claimed-most-lives-2841854>

The Citizen has joined with the Living Archive to publish a collection of local pictures from VE Day 1945 <https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/retro/pictures-ve-day-street-parties-milton-keynes-1945-2843282>

Living Archive are promoting this link to their online exhibition - <http://www.discovermiltonkeynes.co.uk/homefront.html> They'll be sharing local photos and cine film on their social media channels. They're also asking people to send them photos of their own VE 75 Day celebrations.

The Hospital is involved in a number of COVID-19 related studies supported by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) <https://www.mkuh.nhs.uk/news/working-on-covid-19-research-teammkuhs-lynn-wren>

It has published Nick Clark's story of how it's possible to recover from a bad COVID-19 hit <https://www.mkuh.nhs.uk/news/patient-discharge-story-nick-clark>

MKFM is reporting how planning has started for MK's 2021 STEM festival, especially relevant at the moment when we are relying so heavily on science and technology <https://www.mkfm.com/news/local-news/milton-keynes-festival-to-help-bridge-the-stem-skills-gap/>

They have a gallery of photographs from across the city of Friday's VE Day celebrations. <https://www.mkfm.com/news/local-news/in-pictures-milton-keynes-celebrates-ve-day-with-garden-parties-and-decorations/>

Harry's Rainbow has teamed up with Energie Fitness on a virtual mountain climb over the weekend 16/17 May. They would like us to climb as many flights of our stairs as we can and report back via Facebook, zoom or text when we've finished. There is a prize for the most amount of flights completed in 1 hour <https://www.facebook.com/events/2893705164081282/>

There is a huge team of Royal Voluntary Service responders in MK. They'd like help to spread the word so that those who need support know how to access it. Here's the RVS support access number - 0808 196 3646.

The Parks Trust have announced that work on their Willen Lake improvements are to re-start <https://www.theparkstrust.com/blogs/improvement-works-at-willen-lake-are-back-underway>

The Trust has been given permission to install a ferris wheel beside Willen Lake <https://www.mkfm.com/news/local-news/a-london-eye-style-ferris-wheel-will-be-coming-to-milton-keynes/>

It is publicising outdoor learning activities we can do in our own homes <https://www.theparkstrust.com/get-involved/outdoor-learning/stay-at-home-activities/>

Total MK are reporting that Whitbread have secured planning permission for a new hotel beside Willen Lake <https://www.totalmk.co.uk/news/whitbread-gets-green-light-for-new-hotel-at-willen-lake-in-milton-keynes>

The food hall and gardening department of Frosts Garden Centre has re-opened but with the leisure and restaurant side remaining closed for the time being

<https://www.frostsgardencentres.co.uk/woburn-sands-partial-re-open>

Willen Hospice's Midweek Pub Quiz has been so successful that they are extending it through the rest of May and June. <https://www.willen-hospice.org.uk/get-involved/events/the-willen-hospice-midweek-pub-quiz>

Attachments at The Milton Keynes Citizen is reporting how a Beds, Bucks & MK sewing group have made 21,000 items for the NHS

<https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/health/coronavirus/facebook-volunteers-sew-incredible-21000-items-help-nhs-heroes-stay-safe-during-coronavirus-crisis-284194>

The MK3 Community Group works in West Bletchley - local people helping local people

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MK3creatingcommunityandhelpingeachother>

Milton Keynes Theatre has cancelled all shows until Sunday 28 June

<https://www.atgtickets.com/coronavirus-info/>

SOME NOTES & ADVICE FROM OTHER SOURCES SINCE LAST MONDAY

This is the regular Tuesday report from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) to Friday 1 May. If you open the link and click on <Download> four Excel tables will come up.

Table 2 is all care home COVID-19 deaths.

Table 3 is care home deaths from all causes. MK is Line 83 in both Tables

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/numberofdeathsincarehomesnotifiedtothecarequalitycommissionengland>

The British Business Bank (a Government body) has clarified that charities eligible to apply for the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme are exempt from the requirement that 50% of their income must be derived from trading activity. <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils-2/cbils-faqs-for-smes/#f10>

The English Football League has terminated this season's Academy Games & Central League programmes with immediate effect <https://www.efl.com/news/2020/may/efl-statement-academy-games-programme/>

In the absence of any sport, here's a selection of the BBC's best sports podcasts

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/category/sport?sort=popular>

As part of the Council's City of Sport 2020 At Home campaign Buddy up (virtually!) to a friend and commit to 26 minutes exercise every day <https://mayathon.com/>

A new Pitch Preparation Fund will give financial support to grassroots struggling to maintain their football pitches <https://www.premierleague.com/news/1665235>

The BBC describes the Bank of England's latest Monetary Policy Report on the economy <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52566030>

JPI Media (who own the MK Citizen) are running a Lockdown survey (6 minutes to complete) here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/lockdownMK>

The (national) Local Government Association is highlighting a significant rise in the number of scams during the present crisis <https://www.local.gov.uk/coronavirus-half-million-shoddy-face-masks-among-surge-virus-related-scams-and-illegal-goods>

A Universities of Sheffield & Ulster report on the impact of lockdown on young people is here <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/news/nr/young-men-most-likely-break-coronavirus-lockdown-rules-psychology-mental-health-study-1.888316>

Blurt is a social enterprise that aims to increase awareness and understanding of depression <https://www.blurtitout.org/>

The National Literacy Trust is concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on disadvantaged children <https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/mitigating-significant-impact-covid-19-literacy-disadvantaged-children/>