

BERA E-Newsletter 4th August 2020 - www.bera.co.uk (printable version of Newsletter is available soon on website if needed)

Dear Member

Please see today's update, along with other information that is happening in our area.

Please also continue to look at the BERA website for the daily updates under the 'newsletters' section. We will endeavour to send out the next e-newsletter on Friday/Saturday.

Keep well,

Regards

Ron

Summary of the Government Announcements, 4 August 2020

Please see below the latest COVID-19 related updates from government:

The Cabinet Office has published optional badges that can be used to show the carrier may have difficulties or concerns in maintaining social distancing.

The badges are available for mobile phones as well as print.

The guidance on the closure of businesses and venues has been updated to reflect the amendments to the 1 August 2020 easing. As announced by the Prime Minister on 31 July, the changes that had been proposed for 1 August will be delayed until at least 15 August.

The following business and venues will remain closed:

- Bowling alleys
- Indoor skating rinks
- Casinos
- Exhibition halls and conference centres
- Nightclubs, dance halls, discotheques
- Sexual entertainment venues and hostess bars
- Indoor play areas, including soft-play areas

1) Information Corner

Update from last weeks newsletter

The gentleman that we were trying to contact last week has made contact. Thank you.

Website

We are in the process of updating our website, which should be a smooth transition but please bear with us if you have problems logging on.

Testing and tracing ‘key to schools returning’

Scientists have warned that current testing and contact tracing is inadequate to prevent a second wave of coronavirus after schools in the UK reopen. They also say increased transmission would result from parents not having to stay at home with their children.

Testing squads to help schools remain open in virus hotspots

Testing squads are to be sent to schools in areas of high infection to attempt to keep them open even during local lockdowns. Regular checks for pupils and teachers with no symptoms in hotspot areas are being considered.

Cities face blockades to contain a second wave

Downing Street has said that ministers are prepared to quarantine towns and cities to prevent a second wave of coronavirus. Under the plans, government would impose travel restrictions in areas with severe COVID-19 outbreaks to stop residents leaving.

No 10 ditches plan to shield over-50s after backlash from ministers

Plans to extend shielding to some over-50s this winter have been dropped following a reported backlash by Cabinet ministers against the proposal. Ministers are said to have warned the plan was impractical, could damage the economy and send out mixed messages on the day the Government wanted workers to get back to the office.

English pubs likely to be spared new restrictions, No 10 says

Downing Street has indicated that English pubs are likely to be spared any new restrictions on social contact to stem coronavirus outbreaks, with the focus instead being on limiting gatherings in homes.

‘Eat out to help out’ scheme begins

High streets have received a boost from the launch of the Government-backed

discount dining scheme on Monday, as restaurants reported an increase in interest from customers. Data on shopper visits showed that by 3pm on Monday the number visiting the high street had gone up by nearly 30 per cent on the same day last week.

Manchester outbreak ‘a warning to complacent white middle class’

Director of Public Health in Trafford, has said the declaration of a major incident in Greater Manchester should jolt a “complacent white middle class” into realising that COVID-19 is not just spreading in ethnic minority households.

Coronavirus infections rising in England

Office for National Statistics figures suggest that coronavirus infections are rising in England. It says daily cases have risen from an estimated 3,200 to 4,200 since last week.

English beaches packed despite social distancing plea

Tens of thousands of people visited beaches on the south coast of England on what was the hottest day of the year, causing some councils to plead with people to stay away so that social distancing could be maintained.

More than half of furloughed staff ‘back at work’

The Resolution Foundation has suggested that more than half of the people furloughed during the pandemic are now back at work. It said fewer than 4.5 million workers were currently furloughed, as employers start contributions towards the scheme.

Lockdown easing on hold as shielding ends

People who have been shielding against coronavirus can now leave their home and return to work, as a further relaxing of lockdown restrictions in England is postponed. More than two million at high risk are no longer required to isolate in most of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It follows the Prime Minister putting the brakes on easing restrictions further and as some businesses stay closed. Wedding receptions of up to 30 people were to be allowed as part of the changes but now cannot yet happen, while face coverings will become mandatory in more indoor settings such as cinemas. Ministers have said police and councils will be given powers to enforce the new rules.

Number of high-risk drinkers almost doubled in lockdown

A government report has shown that the number of high-risk drinkers almost doubled during lockdown, with the problem worse in groups of higher social class. The report showed that high-risk drinking was higher in men than women.

Universal free TV licence comes to an end for over-75s

The universal free TV licence for over-75s has come to an end in what, Charity

Director of Age UK, has said is a “sad day for our older population”. The BBC will now means-test the entitlement.

2) Southend NHW Crime Report - 27th - 2nd August 2020

Ward	Reference	Offence Type	Reported Date	Committed From	Street	Town	MO
Southchurch	42/112414/20	Theft if not classified elsewhere	27/07/2020 12:36	05/07/2020 20:00	Newington Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS STOLEN THE VICTIMS HAT AND SUNGLASSES WHICH WERE LEFT IN THE LIVING ROOM INSIDE THEIR FRIENDS PROPERTY WHIST THEY WERE THERE WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS.
Southchurch	42/113183/20	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	25/07/2020 17:21	25/07/2020 10:30	Garon Park	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS DRILLED TWO HOLES IN THE SIDE OF THE VICTIMS VAN.
Southchurch	42/114577/20	Theft from a motor vehicle	30/07/2020 17:52	28/07/2020 00:00	Arlington Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS GAINED ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS KIA BY MEANS UNKNOWN AND CARRIED OUT A MESSY SEARCH AND STOLEN ITEMS FROM INSIDE.
Southchurch	42/115670/20	Interference with a motor vehicle	01/08/2020 15:04	01/08/2020 08:45	Garon Park	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS DRILLED THE LOCKS ON THE SIDE DOORS OF THE VICTIMS WHITE NISSAN NV200. NOTHING HAS BEEN

							REMOVED FROM THE VEHICLE.
Thorpe	42/115206/20	Theft of a motor vehicle	31/07/2020 18:17	31/07/2020 15:00	Elizabeth Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN REMOVED VICTIM VEHICLE, A WHITE VAUXHALL CORSA INDEX EA16WYX, BY UNKNOWN MEANS.
Thorpe	42/116236/20	Theft from a motor vehicle	30/07/2020 20:12	30/07/2020 03:30	St. James Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS BLUE MAZDA 3 BY MEANS UNKNOWN, CAUSING NO DAMAGE. SEARCH MADE AND PROPERTY STOLEN.
Thorpe	42/116146/20	Theft if not classified elsewhere	02/08/2020 10:34	01/08/2020 15:30	Eastern Esplanade	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS STOLEN THE VICTIMS BAG THAT WAS LEFT UNATTENDED ON THE BEACH.
West Shoebury	42/112419/20	Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	27/07/2020 02:44	27/07/2020 02:40	Tudor Gardens	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS ENTERED THE VICTIMS PROPERTY VIA A LOCKED FRONT DOOR CAUSING NO DAMAGE TO THE DOOR WITH NO KNOWN ITEMS BEING STOLEN.
West Shoebury	42/112295/20	Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)	24/07/2020 09:56	23/07/2020 15:00	Ness Road	Southend-on-Sea	SUSPECTS UNIDENTIFIED HAVE DAMAGED VICTIMS LOCK TO GAIN ACCESS TO

West Shoebury	42/115796/ 20	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)	01/08/2020 19:21	31/07/2020 15:00	Fitzwarren	Southend- on-Sea	PRIVATE PROPERTY. SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS USED PERMANENT MARKER TO WRITE ON THE VICTIMS AUDI A5. THEY HAVE WRITTEN PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON MY FRONT GARDEN AND NO PARKING. SUSPECT HAS ALSO TAPED A NOTE TO THE FRONT WINDSCREEN.
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3) Policy Watch – 31 July 2020

COVID-19

Covid 19 related government guidance is updated very frequently and communicated via other channels.

Lockdown easing postponed in England

The Prime Minister has announced the postponement of the easing of coronavirus restrictions that were due to come into effect from the 1st of August for at least two weeks. This announcement has come after a spike in virus cases across various regions of northern England including Greater Manchester and Bradford. Numerous venues including bowling alleys, casinos and live music venues were due to reopen but according to the Prime Minister, figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggest that 'the prevalence of the virus in the community, in England, is likely to be rising for the first time since May.' The Prime Minister's announcement will mean:

- Wedding receptions of up to 30 people cannot yet take place.
- Face coverings will be mandatory in more indoor settings including museums, galleries and cinemas.
- People attending places of worship will be required to wear face coverings.

However, the plan to pause shielding from 01/08 will still go ahead meaning that people who have been shielding during the pandemic will be able to return to work if

they cannot work from home (as long as their workplace is Covid-secure). The Prime Minister also said that from August onwards, employers will have 'more discretion over how employees can work safely, whether by continuing to work from home, or attending a Covid-secure workplace.

Government urged to provide targeted emergency Covid-19 support

The Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy Committee, a cross-party panel of MPs, has called on the government to provide targeted emergency support to people and businesses who would be hardest hit by a second surge of coronavirus infections. The committee has highlighted 'major gaps in the financial support package rolled out by the government' with women and freelance and agency workers particularly vulnerable. The group also raised concerns over the impact of late payments for small businesses who have had issues with cashflow during lockdown and suggested new powers should be put in place to exclude late payers from government contracts. The Business Committee has recommended that the Competition and Markets Authority watchdog should be given additional powers to tackle company abuses that occurred in the first phase of the pandemic, such as profiteering.

Covid-19: Self-isolation period to be increased to 10 days

The government has announced that anyone in the UK experiencing coronavirus symptoms or who has tested positive for the virus will now have to self-isolate for ten days rather than seven days. The Health Secretary advised this measure has been put in place in reaction to a perceived second wave of coronavirus 'coming across Europe' and in an attempt to prevent similar spikes in the UK. The Prime Minister added that 'it's absolutely vital as a country that we continue to keep our focus and our discipline and that we don't delude ourselves that somehow we're out of the woods'. In addition, the deputy chief medical officer advised that the change to isolation periods had been made due to a 'low but really possibility' of infectiousness between seven to 10 days after the onset of covid-19 symptoms.

This advice will apply to anyone currently self-isolating as a result of covid-19 symptoms and those already part way through their seven-day isolation will need to ensure they self-isolate for the full ten days. Government advice remains that anyone experiencing symptoms should be tested and then follow appropriate medical advice.

Health professionals travelling to the UK from high-risk countries to isolate.

The government has removed an exemption put in place at the beginning of June and has confirmed that health and care professionals travelling to the UK from high-risk countries will now be required to self-isolate for 14 days in line with rules for the general public. The government have advised they have removed this exemption in order to 'minimise the risk of onward chains of transmission that might infect the

wider workforce.’ This rule applies only to high-risk countries and health and care professionals returning from a ‘travel corridor’ country will not be required to self-isolate.

NHS test and Trace campaign to encourage tests for all with symptoms

The NHS has launched a new public health campaign to encourage everyone experiencing covid-19 symptoms to get a free test. The NHS Test and Trace service has now contacted 218k people who have tested positive for the virus or been in contact with a person who has contracted covid-19. A business plan has been put in place in order to continue expanding testing capacity in the lead up to winter with aims that the ‘number of tests given to people without symptoms will increase to 150k per day by September’ and 500k by October.

Health and Transport

Anti-Obesity strategy published

The government has published its anti-obesity strategy stressing the importance of tackling obesity as ‘helping people to achieve and maintain a healthy weight is one of the most important things we can do to improve our nation’s health’. Statistics given in the strategy suggest that 63% of adults are over a healthy weight and 1 in 3 children leave primary school overweight. People living with obesity are at greater risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from Covid-19 and it has been suggested that the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on people living in deprived areas and BAME populations may be linked to a higher risk of obesity.

The strategy discusses the importance of tackling obesity in order to ease pressures on the NHS. The government will be looking to increase weight management services available through the NHS and Public Health England will be introducing a new ‘Better Health’ campaign to help people lose weight. Other measures proposed include:

- The banning of ‘high in fat, sugar or salt’ (HFSS) advertisements shown on TV and online before 9pm.
- A UK wide consultation on current healthy food choices ‘traffic light’ labels and introducing legislation to require large restaurants, cafes and takeaways to add calorie labels to food sold.
- Legislating to end the promotion of HFSS products by volume (eg buy one get one free) both online and in store.

Discharge of patients to care homes without testing labelled reckless

MPs on the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) considering the handling of social care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic have labelled the decision to allow hospital patients in England to be discharged from hospital to care homes without

Coivid-19 testing at the start of the pandemic as 'reckless'. Government advice on this matter was changed in April but the PAC has said that the government was 'slow to support social care during the crisis' citing the discharge of 25,000 patients into care homes in England between mid-March and mid-April to free up hospital beds. The chair of the committee said that whilst there was limited data about the virus at the beginning of the pandemic, early decisions have highlighted a lack of understanding at the health department about how the care sector works.

The committee has also raised concerns about the NHS use of public money in securing private hospital treatment for patients criticising a 'lack of transparency' and also saying the NHS has failed to provide even an estimate of the costs of private treatment or the costs of England's Nightingale hospitals.

Governance

Local Government minister promotes mayoral combined authorities

The Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government, has discussed plans for a Devolution and Local Recovery White paper for the autumn that will seek to connect local recovery with levelling up. Speaking at the LGA annual conference, he discussed his view that England, as an 'overly centralised state' is unable to respond at speed to crises. The minister spoke of the need for those 'in the centre' to 'let go and trust' in return for an accountability framework that would make local areas with devolved powers accountable for delivery against key benchmarks.

In discussing his preference for devolution arrangements, he was clear that 'if you want the full suite of [devolved] powers and funding, it will need to be the mayoral combined authority route- ideally sitting over unitary authorities.' He also expressed a belief that mayoralities are appropriate everywhere and were appropriate in both a rural and an urban context. He said this preference to expand a mayoral arrangement is in part due to the 'heightened level of accountability' that comes with the position. The government was also clear that the process would not be 'top-down' in nature and that the Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government and the Secretary of State were both keen to work with local communities to ensure arrangements are tailored to them.

Home Secretary announces review of Police and Crime Commissioners

The Home Secretary has announced there will be a review of the role of elected Police and Crime Commissioners that will look to 'strengthen and expand' the role of Police Crime Commissioners (PCC). PCCs were introduced eight years ago and the government has said it wants to ensure the public can 'better hold PCCs to account for bringing crime down and protecting citizens in their area. The review will consider measures including:

- Raising the profile of PCCs.
- Promoting better public access to the performance of their PCC.
- Encouraging shared best practice amongst PCCs across the country.

- Reviewing the relationship between PCCs and Chief Constables.

The review will take place in two parts with the first stage looking to raise standards and improve accountability and the second stage focusing on longer-term reform.

The government advised the review will also strengthen the accountability of fire and rescue services.

Children and Education

Government-commissioned report urges free school meals expansion

A report commissioned by former environment secretary, Michael Gove, has been published. The report analyses the UK food system and considers a range of topics including the post-Brexit food supply, the dominance of supermarkets and increased usage of food banks. The report also stressed the impact of diet-related illness and highlighted the link between an increased risk of death from Covid-19 and obesity. The report says that just 1% of school children's packed lunches meet the nutritional standard of a school meal. Referring to 'the nutritional crisis facing the poorest children', the report recommends:

- 1.5million additional 7-16 year olds in households claiming universal credit should be eligible for free school meals
- £200m should be made available for a rollout of 'holiday hunger schemes' recognising that current provisions reach 50k children but around 3million children are at risk of hunger during the holidays.
- Expansion of the 'Healthy Start' fresh fruit, milk and vegetables voucher schemes for pregnant mothers.

Large percentage increase in child modern slavery referrals

Local Authority referrals of suspected child victims of modern slavery increased by 1400% between 2014 and 2019. The LGA has expressed concerns that the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions could lead to greater exploitation when businesses reopen as some may lack funds to pay their workforce and some may look to take advantage of people made vulnerable by the pandemic. In 2019, 91% of modern slavery referrals made by English councils were concerning children. The rate of referrals is placing huge pressure on children's services in Local Authorities and the percentage increase is thought to be driven by both a greater awareness of modern slavery and the exploitation of young people by county lines gangs.

The Chair of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board said 'Government needs to ensure councils are properly funded in the long-term to tackle modern slavery and support its victims, as well as creating a future-proof NRM system able to support the growing numbers of victims we are seeing.'

Workforce

Government Public Sector recruitment drive

The Prime Minister has launched a 'Public Sector Recruitment drive' to try to tackle a rise in unemployment and redundancies in the private sector. Career opportunities will be available across the public sector in schools, hospitals, prisons and police stations.

The drive includes an ambition to hire:

- 1000 new probation officers for the Ministry of Justice.
- A continued push to recruit new police officers in line with the Prime Minister's promise made in 2019 to recruit 20,000 new officers in England and Wales.

There will also be additional places offered on training courses with a total of 5,611 places being created on health courses. This will include 3000 additional university positions for people to study nursing. In addition, the government has promised to create 1300 extra university places for engineering, 756 places for bio-sciences and almost 500 for maths.

Environment and Transport

Bicycle repair voucher scheme launched

The government launched a new £50 bike repair voucher scheme on the 28/07 in a bid to increase sustainable transport and help to tackle obesity. 50,000 vouchers were made available online in the first batch and these have now all been claimed. The Department for Transport said that additional vouchers would be made available in line with the capacity of bicycle repair shops to be able to carry out these services. The Prime Minister also announced access to bikes would be made available on the NHS as part of the government's strategy to boost cycling and walking. The Prime Minister acknowledged that additional support to increase walking and cycling would require an improvement in terms of infrastructure, training and support to 'give people the confidence to travel on two wheels'.

Community, Equality and Diversity

Disproportionate exclusion rate for black pupils in England

Data published by the Department for Education has shown that pupils with black ethnicity have higher exclusion rates in two thirds of Local Authorities in England and are three times more likely to face fixed-term exclusions in some places. Disciplinary policies at schools have been partially blamed with policies banning black hairstyles and 'fist-bumping' being cited as potential reasons for the figures in a BBC report. The Department for Education responded to the figures in a statement saying 'the government had established an independent commission to look at race and ethnic disparities in general, as well as seeking to understand disparities in exclusion rates.'

Community Mobilisation: Unlocking the potential of community power

The NLGN has released their latest report 'Community Mobilisation: Unlocking the potential of community power' outlining some of the factors acting as barriers to community mobilisation including:

- **Scale:** Communities dispersed over large distances, in rural areas for example, may prove hard to mobilise, due to issues of communication and connectivity.
- **Characteristics of Communities themselves:** Communities afflicted with internal divisions- be they along the lines of things like class, race or age, or less structural factors- will have a much harder time mobilising.
- **Fatalism:** A sense of fatalism leaves people believing any fight for change will be futile
- **Time and resource:** People in marginalised communities are less likely to have the time or resource to devote to getting involved in community activities.
- **Trust and Confidence:** Marginalised communities are also likely to be more distrustful of representatives of the state or voluntary sector who may be seeking to enable mobilisation, presenting a further challenge for those trying to make change. They may also have lower levels of confidence in their ability to achieve positive outcomes.

High Streets and Planning

Survey suggests remote working could revive the High Street

The results of a commercial property survey given to members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) found that 93% of members working with businesses had heard that their clients are planning to scale back their office space over the next two years. Most members also expect retail and office rents to fall over the rest of the year. The head of UK government relations for the RICS has warned there could be a 'hollowing out of city centres' but that this could mean opportunities for high streets with businesses looking to relocate to more suburban locations. This wider trend of businesses relocating may also have benefits in terms of freeing up property space for housing.

Economy and Finance

Business rescue package may have 'delayed the inevitable'

Though analysis from the BBC has shown a surge of firms went out of business in March with the rate subsequently slowing under the government's £160bn support package, the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) has warned that many firms have 'piled on debts' during lockdown. The IFS fear that though the rate of businesses going bust slowed after March, many firms that are surviving the lockdown period through tax deferrals and taking out loans will be unsustainable in the longer term.

Housing and Homelessness

90,000 new social homes needed every year

A recently published report from the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee (HCLGC) has estimated that 'at least 90,000 net additional social rent homes a year' are needed to support the long-term delivery of social housing. It is likely that around £10bn in extra grant funding will be needed to deliver these homes and the HCLGC has called on the government to put a social housebuilding programme at the top of its COVID-19 recovery agenda.

The report also states that under the current system of funding Local Authorities and Social Housing Providers are at the limit of what they can deliver. Whilst the report recognises significant investment is required, it suggests public spending costs can be reduced by a reform of land value capture and a redistribution of current budgets. In addition, the report recommends that Local Authorities should receive 100% of Right to Buy receipts and should have longer to spend them.

Culture, Travel and Tourism

Socially-distanced theatre performances postponed

The Prime Minister has announced that the reopening of indoor performance spaces in England has been delayed until at least 15/08, putting a halt on initial plans to reintroduce some socially-distanced performances on the 01/08. The announcement also included the requirement that masks will be mandatory in museums, galleries and cinemas from 08/08 onwards. The arts sector had been working with the government to put on pilot performances with socially-distanced audiences in both theatres and music venues ahead of the planned reopening.

The government has outlined measures that aim to support the safe return of audiences that include reduced venue capacity, online ticket sales only, social distancing markers at likely queue points, a reduced performance schedule and increased frequency of cleaning.

4) Temporary Road Closures

a) Leonard Road & Retreat Road, Westcliff-On-Sea – 25th August 2020 from 07:00 till 18:00 – Network Rail maintenance to the trees over the railway tracks.

Temporary Prohibition of Traffic, Parking, Stopping, Waiting, Loading & Unloading

The Effect of the order will be to prohibit any vehicle from;

1. Proceeding on Retreat Road from outside No8 & No7 to Leonard Road.
2. Proceeding on Leonard Road from Cossington Road to Retreat Road
3. Parking, stopping, waiting, loading & unloading on Retreat Road from outside No8 & No7 to Leonard Road

4. Parking, stopping, waiting, loading & unloading on Leonard Road from Cossington Road to Retreat Road

The closure is scheduled to commence on 25th August 2020 from 07:00 till 18:00 or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting.

The alternative route will be via Retreat Road, Canewdon Road & Cossington Road and vice versa.

The Order will come into effect on 25th August 2020 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst Network Rail complete maintenance to the trees over the railway tracks.

b) Dalmatia Road, Southend-On-Sea – 24th August 2020 till 14th September 2020 – New electrical supply installation

Temporary Prohibition of Traffic

The Effect of the order will be to prohibit any vehicle from entering & exiting Dalmatia Road at its junction with Southchurch Road.

The closure is scheduled to commence from 24th August 2020 till 14th September 2020 or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting.

The alternative route will be via Rivera Drive and Chinchilla Road vice versa

The Order will come into effect on 24th August 2020 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst new electrical supply is installed.

c) Satanita Road, Westcliff-On-Sea – 7th September 2020 till 12th September 2020 – New gas connection.

Temporary Prohibition of Parking, Waiting, Loading & Unloading

The Effect of the order will be to prohibit any vehicle from parking, waiting, loading, & unloading on Satanita Road from outside No's 28-34 & 29-33.

The closure is scheduled to commence on 7th September 2020 till 12th September 2020 or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting.

The Order will come into effect on 7th September 2020 and may continue in force for 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst a new Gas connection take place.