

## E-Newsletter – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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### **1) Information Corner**

#### **Renewals**

If you have not already, **please re-join** as without your help we cannot continue to do the good work that we do for our area.

#### Please note:

If you pay by Paypal, please ensure that your name, address and email address that we hold on file for you is on the form, as otherwise we are unable to locate and renew you. Thank you.

#### **Seafront car parks to reopen on 29 March**

Following the Government's announcement of its roadmap out of lockdown, the council plans to reopen all seafront car parks and parking bays from Monday 29 March.

As part of 'Step one' of the roadmap, from Monday 29 March, the 'stay at home' rule will come to an end, with outdoor gatherings of either six people or two households being allowed. This will include gatherings in private gardens. Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis or basketball courts will reopen and organised adult and children's sport, such as grassroots football, will also return.

Cllr Ron Woodley, cabinet member for transport, inward and capital investment, said: "Since the seafront car parks were closed at the start of the year, we have seen less out of town visitors and positive cases of Covid-19 have continued to fall in

recent weeks. Following the Government's roadmap announcement, we are pleased that there is now a positive plan to get the economy going once again and allow friends and families to start meeting again, and that we can now begin planning for what we hope will be a fantastic summer season for the town.

"Our seafront car parks will remain closed for the time being, but plans are being put into place to reopen them, along with the seafront parking bays, from 29 March, which is when the 'stay at home' rule comes to an end. Above all we must still obey the government rules and protect ourselves from the virus. The ability to avoid extended restrictions is in our own hands.

"Therefore, it is important to note that many restrictions will still remain in place from 29 March, and the Government has said that people should continue to work from home where they can, minimise the number of journeys they make where possible and still stay local."

Cllr Ian Gilbert, leader of the council, said: "As was made clear in the announcement, much is dependent on keeping the data on track, which means we all still need to continue playing our part and staying home and staying local until 29 March. The Government have also provided suggested dates for steps 2 to 4 which give us hope, but we cannot let our guard slip until we reach these targets and must all act sensibly and cautiously.

"As we have throughout, we will continuously review the data both locally and nationally to ensure that locally we can continue to protect NHS and health workers."

## **Feeding the seagulls**

We have been contacted by a member who believes someone is feeding the seagulls as there is a huge number flying over their house. Their property is being covered by bird droppings due to them attracting these birds. They have cleaned their glass over the weekend and within 2 days it is back to square one and the clothes on their washing line is constantly being rewashed because of this. The seagulls are very large and as there is now warmer weather, these birds do not need feeding. They are a nuisance as they are hanging around waiting for the food.

The RSPCA advise people not to feed birds snacks like bread which is high in calories but otherwise of poor nutritional value. Feeding seagulls can result in over-population and the birds becoming a nuisance as they quickly learn where there are ready sources of food. They may even become aggressive to people if they realise that the public are likely to have food.

Please be considerate of your neighbours and refrain from feeding these seabirds. They do not prosper on a diet of bread and other scraps and quickly become a serious nuisance when they start pestering people for their next meal.

## **Essex Police - Focus on Theft of Pedal Cycle**

Offences of theft of pedal cycles remain low in the Southend district, you can help us to keep it that way by following a few simple steps:

- Register it - Get your bike security marked and registered at Bike Register. It's a highly effective, visible deterrent to bike thieves.
- Record it - Remember to record details of your bike such as the frame number (normally found underneath the bike between the pedals or where the back wheel slots in), the Bike Register number plus any other distinguishing features, and take a photo.
- Secure it - Secure your bike as close to the stand as possible to give any thieves little or no room to manoeuvre.
- Double lock it - It can take thieves as little as few seconds to cut through some locks, so use two good quality locks, at least one of which is a D-lock.

Further advice can be found at:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crimeprevention/theft-of-a-bicycle/how-safe-is-yourbike/>

If you have any information about these or any other crimes, please contact us by calling 101, or report it online on the Essex Police Website or you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. In an emergency call 999

## **Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex**

### **a) Give your thoughts around the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) in Essex.**

Essex Police are looking to get your thoughts around the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) in Essex.

ANPR technology is used by police forces across the UK –including Essex Police to help detect, deter and disrupt criminality, including organised crime groups and terrorists. The registration plate cameras are governed by strict codes of practice. They are most commonly used to alert officers to stolen vehicles, vehicles that have been involved in crime or to help locate missing people. The data they collect can also be used in investigations.

ANPR is a vital tool to help policing stay one step ahead of criminals and better protect people. Your views play an important part in how Essex Police do this.

You can shape the future of ANPR by anonymously completing this survey at:  
<https://westmidlandspolicepnn.researchfeedback.net/s.asp?k=160337245159&fbclid=IwAR3CyW-QsDUj-bqU05d-CA7lp38IXleoKBxu9SZnLAee2SXq8CN3mMZBT8>

### **b) Help raise money for the family of Special Constable Toby Speller - Can you help?**



Essex Police Federation is raising money for the family of long serving Special Constable Toby Speller who recently passed away.

Special Constable Toby Speller was 46 years old and had been a Special Constable for over 16 years with the last five years being on the Essex Police Marine Unit, dedicating 1000's of hours over the years to Essex Police.

To find out more, please go to:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tobyspeller?utm\\_term=mMYg5m57B](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tobyspeller?utm_term=mMYg5m57B)

## Essex Police Fraud Alert System

### FAKE NATIONAL INSURANCE CALLS

Following a surge in reporting to Action Fraud, Essex has also seen an increase in automated National Insurance scams.

Residents have reported receiving an automated telephone call telling them their "National Insurance number has been compromised" and in order to fix this and get a new number, the victim needs to "press 1 on their handset to be connected to the caller".

Once connected to the "caller", they are pressured into giving over their personal details in order to receive a new National Insurance number. In reality, they've been connected to a criminal who can now use their personal details to commit further frauds.

#### Remember:

**STOP** - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

**CHALLENGE** - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

**PROTECT** - If you have provided personal details to someone over the phone and you now believe this to be a scam, contact your bank, building society and credit card company immediately and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

### Possible Scams

We have been contacted by a member who receives many scams calls around lunch time to his landline. Please see all the scams below from our member:

1) Friday (19<sup>th</sup>) from 01270766575 and a very polite female voice advised us that our subscription was closed and should we wish to re-subscribe or get more information, please press button 1. No mention of what the subscription was, so a scam to get you to connect to a premium phone line or someone trying to get your details.

2) Today (20<sup>th</sup>) from 01556616523 another very polite female voice advising that she was calling from our internet provider and that our internet would be disconnected in 15 minutes as they have detected a fault with our router. If we wished to get a new router or discuss the problem, please press button 1. No details of what internet provider they are talking about so another scam.

3) A regular call from different numbers each time, about twice per month... Can we speak to Mr Joel Cooper?. When we say there is no one of that name here, they say Oh dear, Mr Cooper was so interested in our investment deal/savings plan/subscription to a free delivery service/whatever, etc, but we need to verify his bank details. Such a shame he will miss out. By the way, it's such a great deal, while we are on the phone, would you be interested? We hang up but I assume they are after bank details or a subscription to some non-existent service. Now as soon as we hear the name Cooper, we hang up.

4) They also get people asking them if they want to get vaccinated for £125, or be sent hand sanitizer at £25 a bottle. Please do not pay for any vaccination as they are free on the NHS and a that is a very expensive bottle of sanitiser. Do not buy!!

5) Easyjet and then Mastercard advised us that their systems had been hacked, but no bank details had been taken. Soon after, our energy company advised us of a similar situation. I assume that even if they don't get your bank details, they get phone and e mail details as we have now been getting e mails to both of us and phone calls and texts on our mobiles and landline.

6) Yesterday(24<sup>th</sup>), a text from +447901349430. Royal Mail. Your Royal mail parcel is waiting for delivery, please pay £1.99 postage to ensure delivery is on time at: <https://firstclass-rm.com>

7) Three e mails and texts yesterday (24<sup>th</sup>) to phones and PC, all stating that someone had logged onto our Amazon account in Sheffield and that if it was not us, we need to contact Amazon immediately by clicking on their link. They add a note that says 'how do we know this is secure?'. They then suggest that if we are worried about clicking on the link, we can connect to amazon direct by typing in a long code they provided into our google search bar and it will take us safely to Amazon.

### **Somewhere you can forward scam emails**

If you receive a scam email you can send them to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and the National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) analyses them and can remove the culprit sites.

### **Veolia**

Please copy and paste the below website information into your browser if you wish to view Veolia's February's CLG presentation.

file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/CLG%20MEETING%20Presentation%2023.02.2021%20(1).pdf

### **City Fibre**

Please find below the list of roads that CityFibre will be working in next week.

| CF Permit Reference   | Road Name          | Scheduled start | Scheduled End Date |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| KG027SE-FTTH-PN071-07 | Burges Road        | 16/02/2021      | 08/03/2021         |
| KG027SE-FTTH-PN005-06 | Maplin Way         | 23/02/2021      | 05/03/2021         |
| KG027SE-FTTH-PN080-11 | Greenways          | 24/02/2021      | 02/03/2021         |
| KG027SE-FTTH-PN005-02 | Marcus Avenue      | 24/02/2021      | 09/03/2021         |
| KG027SE-FTTH-PN005-03 | Marcus Gardens     | 24/02/2021      | 09/03/2021         |
| KG027SE-FTTH-PN06-08  | Eastern Esplanade  | 24/02/2021      | 09/03/2021         |
| KG027SE-FTTH-PN081-09 | Butterys           | 26/02/2021      | 02/03/2021         |
| KG027SE-FTTH-PN038-19 | Northumberland Ave | 01/03/2021      | 03/03/2021         |

## **2) Temporary Road Closures**

### **a) Bournemouth Park Road**

Works on Eastern Avenue are progressing well on site with the extension to the right turn lane nearing completion. We are therefore going to be progressing onto the widening at Bournemouth Park Road.

These works will require the closure of Bournemouth Park Road until the end of March. The affected bus company has been advised and signs have been erected on site to let residents know.

### **b) Herschell Road, Leigh-On-Sea – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 for 1 week - Water Mains Repairs**

To facilitate emergency water main repairs; they have imposed a prohibition of entry in Herschell Road, Leigh-On-Sea.

Whilst this notice is in operation, all vehicles will be prohibited from:  
**ENTERING HERSCHELL ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH LONDON ROAD TO ITS JUNCTION WITH EATON ROAD.**

These prohibitions or restrictions came into effect on **25th February 2021**. It is anticipated that the works will last for **1 week**.

Whilst this section of Herschell Road is closed, an alternative route for traffic will be marked on site and resident's access will be maintained where possible.

## 3) A127 Major Works (A127 & the Bell Junction)

### **A127 Bell Junction - 22nd Feb to 26th Feb**

Mon-Fri there will be daytime off peak (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closures on Hobleythick Lane; and eastbound and westbound off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) lane closures Mon-Fri on the A127 (at the Bell Junction), for new carriageway widening and footway works.

Full time left turn closure into Rochford Road for A127 eastbound traffic; for construction of new kerb lines and new pedestrian crossing island.

### **A127 Bell Junction - 1st Mar to 5th Mar**

Mon-Fri there will be daytime off peak (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closures on Hobleythick Lane; and eastbound and westbound off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) lane closures Mon-Fri on the A127 (at the Bell Junction), for new carriageway widening and footway works.

Full time left turn closure into Rochford Road for A127 eastbound traffic; for construction of new kerb lines and new pedestrian crossing island.

### **A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 22nd Feb to 26th Feb**

Mon-Fri there will be night-time (20:00 to 06:30) southbound road closures on the A127 Victoria Avenue from the Cuckoo Corner Roundabout to the Carnarvon Road Junction, for carriageway resurfacing works.

### **A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 1st Mar to 5th Mar**

Mon-Fri there will be night-time (20:00 to 06:30) northbound road closures on the A127 Victoria Avenue from the Harcourt Avenue Junction to the Cuckoo Corner Roundabout, for carriageway resurfacing works.

### **Weekly Major Works**

| Address 1   | Start      | End        | Works Reference  | L.A.Ref | Traffic Management         |
|---|------------|------------|------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| DREWSTEIGNTON   | 01/03/2021 | 12/03/2021 | AZ007-1000862790 | 100372  | Some carriageway incursion |
| INDEPENDENT FOOTPATH ADJACENT 381 TO 419A ARTERIAL ROAD | 17/11/2020 | 01/03/2021 | AZ007-1000875190 | 101628  | Some carriageway incursion |
| HEYCROFT ROAD   | 05/01/2021 | 16/03/2021 | AZ007-1000876043 | 101719  | Some carriageway incursion |

|                          |            |            |                          |        |  |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|--------|--|
| BLATCHES CHASE           | 26/02/2021 | 23/03/2021 | AZ007-1000891103         | 103443 | Some carriageway incursion                 |
| MEAKINS CLOSE            | 26/02/2021 | 16/04/2021 | AZ007-1000892072         | 103566 | Give and take - delays possible            |
| SOUTHCHURCH BOULEVARD    | 18/01/2021 | 23/04/2021 | AZ007-1000906944         | 104538 | Lane Closure - delays likely               |
| BISHOPSTEIGNTON          | 20/01/2021 | 09/03/2021 | AZ007-1000964855         | 109233 | Some carriageway incursion                 |
| LARCHWOOD CLOSE          | 01/03/2021 | 06/04/2021 | AZ007-1000987009         | 111340 | Give and take – delays possible            |
| THORPE HALL AVENUE       | 13/01/2021 | 10/03/2021 | AZ007-1000994632         | 111886 | Road closure - delays likely               |
| BURGES ROAD              | 16/02/2021 | 13/04/2021 | AZ007-1000994635         | 111895 | Road closure - delays likely               |
| THORPE HALL AVENUE       | 15/02/2021 | 05/03/2021 | AZ007-1000994666         | 111900 | Road closure - delays likely               |
| BLACKGATE ROAD           | 15/02/2021 | 29/03/2021 | AZ007-1001005277         | 112695 | Multiways Signals - Delays Likely          |
| ELM ROAD                 | 15/02/2021 | 29/03/2021 | AZ007-1001005289         | 112694 | Multiways Signals - Delays Likely          |
| THE BROADWAY             | 21/01/2021 | 23/03/2021 | AZ007-1001016164         | 113235 | Road closure - delays likely               |
| THORPE BAY GARDENS       | 15/02/2021 | 31/03/2021 | AZ007-1001016165         | 113232 | Road closure - delays likely               |
| GLOUCESTER TERRACE       | 15/02/2021 | 10/03/2021 | AZ007-1001018980         | 113480 | Road closure - delays likely               |
| TYRONE ROAD              | 22/02/2021 | 08/03/2021 | AZ007-1001019111         | 113488 | Road closure - delays likely               |
| WESTERN ESPLANADE        | 02/04/2020 | 01/04/2022 | JR001-TEMPDIST2825       | 106534 | Some carriageway incursion                 |
| CUCKOO CORNER ROUNDABOUT | 01/02/2021 | 24/02/2021 | JR002-SURFACINGPRIOR2-1  | 113294 | Road closure - delays likely               |
| VICTORIA AVENUE          | 01/03/2021 | 13/03/2021 | JR002-SURFACINGPRIORITY3 | 113282 | Road closure – delays likely               |
| VICTORIA AVENUE          | 22/02/2021 | 06/03/2021 | JR002-SURFACINGPRIORITY4 | 113284 | Road closure - delays likely               |
| GROVEWOOD AVENUE         | 04/12/2020 | 14/04/2021 | JR101-TEMPDIST2988       | 113064 | No carriageway incursion - delays unlikely |
| COLCHESTER ROAD          | 01/02/2021 | 01/03/2021 | JR101-TEMPDIST3003-1     | 114074 | No carriageway incursion - delays unlikely |



|                       |            |            |                            |        |   |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|----------------------------|--------|---|
| CHALLACOMBE           | 01/03/2021 | 20/03/2021 | KG027-SE-FTTH-<br>PN014-12 | 114573 | Some<br>carriageway<br>incursion        |
| BROADCLYST<br>GARDENS | 27/01/2021 | 03/03/2021 | KG027-SE-FTTH-<br>PN029-07 | 113676 | Multiways<br>Signals - Delays<br>Likely |
| MAPLIN WAY<br>NORTH   | 13/02/2021 | 05/03/2021 | KG027-SE-FTTH-<br>PN029-14 | 114533 | Some<br>carriageway<br>incursion        |
| SHOEBURY ROAD         | 25/02/2021 | 19/03/2021 | KG027-SE-FTTH-<br>PN029-15 | 114777 | Give & take –<br>delays possible        |
| LADRAM ROAD           | 05/03/2021 | 26/03/2021 | KG027-SE-FTTH-<br>PN031-06 | 114771 | Give & take –<br>delays possible        |
| BURGES ROAD           | 16/02/2021 | 08/03/2021 | KG027-SE-FTTH-<br>PN071-07 | 112319 | Road closure -<br>delays likely         |

#### **4) List of Applications Registered** **Week Ending 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Application Number: 21/00252/FUL **Ward: Southchurch**  
 Officer: Robert Lilburn  
 Install four shipping containers to south elevation (retrospective)  
**New Wick Farm Wakering Road Southend-On-Sea**

Application Number: 21/00294/FULH **Ward: Southchurch**  
 Officer: Oliver Hart  
 Erect single storey front extension, part single/part two storey rear extension with  
 roof lantern and relocate decking to rear  
**6 Broadclyst Gardens Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 21/00270/FUL **Ward: Thorpe**  
 Officer: Kara Elliott  
 Replace existing beach hut  
**Beach Hut 269 Thorpe Esplanade Thorpe Bay**

Application Number: 21/00281/FULH **Ward: Thorpe**  
 Officer: Kara Elliott  
 Erect single storey outbuilding to rear  
**22 The Broadway Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 21/00287/FULH **Ward: Thorpe**  
 Officer: Oliver Hart  
 Erect single storey rear extension convert garage in to habitable accommodation and  
 alter front elevation  
**117 Brunswick Road Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 21/00340/PA3COU

**Ward: Thorpe**

Officer: Scott Davison

Change of use and convert first and second floors from Office Space (Class B1a) to form 2 self-contained flats (Prior Approval) (Amended Proposal)

**161 - 163 The Broadway Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 21/00242/CLP

**Ward: West Shoebury**

Officer: Julie Ramsey

Erect single storey extension to south elevation of SECAT house and relocate existing timber canopy, patio and fence to west elevation, erect twin-bar fence to south elevation and replace existing roof to match new extension (certificate of lawful development - proposed)

**Thorpedene Primary School Delaware Road Shoeburyness**

Application Number: 21/00264/FULH

**Ward: West Shoebury**

Officer: Julie Ramsey

Erect single storey rear extension

**19 Sedgemoor Shoeburyness Southend-On-Sea**

Application Number: 21/00273/FUL

**Ward: West Shoebury**

Officer: Robert Lilburn

Demolish existing beach hut and erect replacement beach hut (amended proposal)

**Beach Hut 553 Shoebury Common Road Shoeburyness**

## **5) List of Decisions Issued** **Week Ending 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

APPLN. NO: 20/02034/FUL

**Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Robert Lilburn

DEMOLISH EXISTING AGRICULTURAL BUILDING, ERECT NO.3 DETACHED DWELLINGHOUSES WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING AND AMENITY SPACE

**NEW WICK FARM WAKERING ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

Decision: Refuse Permission Date

APPLN. NO: 20/02153/FULH

**Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT FIRST FLOOR FRONT EXTENSION AND SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSIONS, EXTEND AND ALTER ROOF TO FORM PITCHED ROOF TO FRONT AND REAR ELEVATIONS, FLAT ROOF DORMERS TO FRONT, SIDE AND REAR ELEVATIONS, JULIET BALCONIES TO FRONT AND REAR ELEVATIONS, RELOCATE ENTRANCE DOOR AT FRONT AND ALTERATIONS TO ELEVATIONS.

**19 LADRAM WAY THORPE BAY ESSEX**

Decision: Refuse Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01855/FULH

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE/REAR EXTENSION WITH ROOF LANTERN

**48 RUTLAND AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02109/FULH

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Janine Rowley

TINSTALL VEHICULAR ACCESS ONTO NORTHUMBERLAND CRESCENT

**36 NORTHUMBERLAND CRESCENT SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00044/DEM

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Robert Lilburn

DEMOLISH PAIR OF SEMI-DETACHED DWELLINGS USED FOR HOTEL  
ACCOMMODATION (APPLICATION FOR PRIOR APPROVAL FOR DEMOLITION)

**8 - 10 CLIEVEDEN ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX**

Decision: Prior Approval Is Required/Grant

APPLN. NO: 20/01943/FUL

**Ward. West Shoebury**

Officer: Robert Lilburn

ERECT TWO DWELLINGHOUSES WITH AMENITY SPACE, AND LAY OUT  
PARKING TO FRONT

**LAND ADJACENT TO BRIDGE HOUSE NESS ROAD SHOEBURYNESSE**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02186/FULH

**Ward. West Shoebury**

Officer: Julie Ramsey

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION

**8 TEINGRACE SHOEBURYNESSE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02196/FULH

**Ward. West Shoebury**

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STORY REAR EXTENSION WITH ROOF LANTERN AND  
CONVERT GARAGE INTO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION

**154 MAPLIN WAY THORPE BAY ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00139/GPDE

**Ward. West Shoebury**

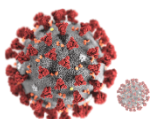
Officer: Spyros Mouratidis

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PROJECTING 4M BEYOND THE  
EXISTING REAR WALL OF THE DWELLING, 3M HIGH TO EAVES AND WITH A  
MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 4M

**36 YARNACOTT SHOEBURYNESSE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

Decision: GPD Non Conditional

## **6) Coronavirus Information**



## **Number of UK COVID-19 vaccinations falls by a third as vaccine supply dips**

The number of COVID-19 vaccines administered in the UK has fallen by over a third in the last week as ministers warned of a short-term dip in supply coupled with stockpiling to ensure people get second doses within the recommended 12-week limit. The latest data showed 192,341 people received a first jab on Monday (23<sup>rd</sup>), the second-lowest daily total since 17 January – taking the number of people in Britain who have had an initial COVID-19 vaccination to 17.9 million.

## **All adults offered vaccine by 31 July**

Every adult in the UK will be offered their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine by 31 July, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has promised. The July target is intended to allow vulnerable people to be protected sooner and allow for further easing of the lockdown restrictions. Over 17 million people have already received a vaccine and NHS England's chief executive Sir Simon Stevens says that there are early signs the vaccine is contributing to a fall in hospital admissions.

## **Vaccine rollout should turn to children 'as fast as we can' to avoid more schools disruption**

The Health Secretary Matt Hancock has said there is a "value" in giving COVID-19 jabs to children, as a leading scientist said the UK's vaccine rollout should turn to younger age groups "as fast as we can". Professor John Edmunds, member of the Government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), warned that until everyone – including children – has been vaccinated there will be "significant risk of a resurgence" of the virus.

## **England's schools back on 8 March with home COVID-19 tests**

All schools in England are going back from 8 March, the Prime Minister has confirmed, with schools able to decide a phased return during that week. There will be mass coronavirus testing in secondary schools, with parents expected to carry out the testing at home, after three tests in school. Home testing for secondary pupils will be twice weekly, while face masks will also be required in some secondary school classrooms.

## **Test and vaccine certificates could help sectors reopen**

People in England could be issued with certificates confirming their coronavirus test and vaccine status, as part of a potential plan to help some sectors reopen this summer. A cross-government review has been set up to investigate the idea, which could be used to give people access to certain domestic settings, such as shops, or allow certain restrictions to be relaxed.

## **Pfizer vaccine is cutting infections, hospitalisations and deaths, studies show**

The rollout of the Pfizer/BioNtech vaccine is reducing infections and the number of deaths among the elderly and driving down their rates of admittance to hospital, Public Health England has said. Two new studies have examined the real-world effectiveness of the jab, which found the vaccine successfully prevented both symptomatic and asymptomatic infections, reducing cases by more than 72 per cent 21 days after a first dose. This increased to 86 per cent after a second dose.

## **Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 26th February 2021**

### **Key updates/actions**

\* Roadmap out of lockdown: The Government has published its four-step plan<<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>> for easing national restrictions.

From 8 March 2021, people in England will see restrictions start to lift and the Government's four-step roadmap offers a route back to a more normal life. Read the Council's media release on our news

centre<<https://www.southend.gov.uk/news/article/2188/council-responds-to-government-s-four-part-plan-to-lift-coronavirus-lockdown>>. As part of the Council's response, seafront car parks will re-open on Monday 29 March. Read the media release<<https://www.southend.gov.uk/news/article/2189/seafront-car-parks-to-reopen-on-29-march>>.

\* Education: Education Secretary Rt Hon Gavin Williamson gave a statement<[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/direction-issued-to-ofqual?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_source=1686a841-0792-45b8-8e10-351e1c0d87b0&utm\\_content=immediately](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/direction-issued-to-ofqual?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=1686a841-0792-45b8-8e10-351e1c0d87b0&utm_content=immediately)> in parliament, setting out how qualifications will be awarded this summer. GCSEs, AS and A levels should be awarded using teacher assessed grades. Vocational and technical qualifications will be split into 3, each with a different approach to awarding. Other general qualifications will be awarded through alternative arrangements.

\* Vaccination: With the vaccination roll-out underway, regular information is being updated on the EPUT<<https://eput.nhs.uk/news-events/coronavirus/coronavirus-vaccine/>> website. Figures are now also being reported by the national programme on a STP/ICS footprint – the latest weekly figures can be found at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

\* COVID-19 testing: Testing is key to stop the spread and identify cases. Testing options includes three rapid testing LFD sites available across the Borough which are now available for both walk-ups and appointments. Full details of all the booking options are available at [www.southend.gov.uk/gettested](http://www.southend.gov.uk/gettested)<<http://www.southend.gov.uk/gettested>>

Please also find social media and digital assets on our Flickr site<<https://www.flickr.com/photos/southendbc/albums/72157718349126193>>.

\* Business grants:

New Government business grants in place from November lockdown: Paid £8.9m to 4,277 businesses with 588 outstanding out of 4,556 applications received.

Discretionary grants: Paid £1.941m to 611 businesses.

Small business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grants: Paid c. £37.5m to 3,086 businesses.

\* Business testing: Businesses can now order tests if they have more than 50 employees. Read more on GOV.UK<<https://www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests>>

\* Coronavirus case data: This is published on our website<<https://www.southend.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/test-trace/6?documentId=1014&categoryId=200233>> and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000.

7-day rate of positive cases as at 26 February 2021 is 82.5 per 100,000 (down from 115.2 per 100,000 on 19 February):

The rate in the 60 and over age bracket is 70.3 per 100,000 (down from 140.7 per 100,000 on 19 February):

\* ONS death data: Southend-on-Sea residents' deaths registered inside and outside of Southend-on-Sea with any mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate that occurred up to 12 February 2021 but were registered up to 20 February 2021: 602 (+27).

\* National and local data: A link to the national NHS Digital<<https://digital.nhs.uk/dashboards/progression>> information shows information by time intervals (for example, 3-days, 7-days, 30-days, etc), as well as the total numbers and requests or referrals to NHS 111.

## Other

· Members of the public who need to self-isolate but are stuck and have no local support from friends and family can call the helpline on 01702 212497. A full list of support contact numbers is available on the corporate website<<https://www.southend.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus/10>>

· Out of hours

Urgent issues arising out of hours should be reported to the out of hours service in accordance with standard practice. The phone number is 01702 215000.

The out of hours service will then contact the relevant Council officer who is on-call

or the relevant contractor such as Veolia. They also have access to the town link radio and CCTV.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Next Week

- A roadmap is due to be announced by the PM on Monday 22nd.
- o Northern Ireland had their review on Thursday, Wales announced theirs today.

### **DfE**

- Announced a ban on placing vulnerable children under 16 in unregulated accommodation will come into force in September.

Children in care under 16 can no longer be accommodated in unregulated independent or semi-independent placements. This forms part of the Government's response to a consultation on reforming unregulated provision for children in care and care leavers.

The Education Secretary also announced plans will be developed to support councils in creating more places in children's homes.

### **DoHSC**

Announced a new campaign to support vaccine roll-out.

Social media platforms and celebrities help launch new graphics to show support. The Facebook frames allow users to show "I've had my vaccine" or pledge "I'll get my vaccine".

The vaccines stakeholder Q&A document and social media content is also updated.

### **HM Treasury**

Announced the final report of the business rates review will be published in the Autumn, when there is more economic certainty.

The review was announced at last year's Budget and a call for evidence closed late last year. An interim report, which will include a summary of consultation responses, will be published on 23 March.

### **Homes England**

- Launched a new round of strategic partnerships to increase the delivery of affordable housing to new partners.
- o For 2021, HE is offering its strategic partnerships to a broader range of organisations than before, including councils.

- o Rather than applying for funding on a scheme-by-scheme basis, strategic partners enter into a multi-year grant agreement with HE to deliver affordable housing.
- o Competitive bidding launches in March 2021.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

### **PMO has published:**

The PM will set out the government's roadmap for cautiously easing lockdown restrictions in England.

The PM has addressed the Commons with plans to ease lockdown and published the COVID-19 Response Spring 2021 roadmap, which he called 'cautious and irreversible'. The level of infection is similar across England, so relaxations are national:

- 17.7m are now vaccinated
- Rates of infection are high, yet continue to fall.
- There is a continuing fall in hospitalisations, which remain at a high level.
- Death figures are falling, with the most recent 7-day average at 480 per day.
- No vaccine is 100% effective. So, as lockdown is eased we anticipate more deaths, hospitalisations and infections.
- He recapped the 4 stage approach out of lockdown, which will advance with a minimum of 5 weeks between changes.
- Some may prefer to accelerate the timetable and others prefer to slow the easing of lockdown. We will be following the data closely, as we cannot remain in lockdown indefinitely
- We are leading to a spring and summer which will feel better to us all, and we will not go back into lockdown.

### **8 March – Stage 1**

- Stay at home order remains in place.
- Schools, and outdoor school clubs reopen, with secondary students wearing masks.
- Students on university courses requiring practical teaching may return.
- Care home residents may have one regular visitor.
- Two people from separate households can socialise outdoors.
- A broader range of Covid-secure election campaign activities.

### **29 March**

- Stay at home order ends, stay local where possible.
- Homeworking to continue.
- Two families, or 6 people, can meet outdoors – incl. gardens.
- Outdoor sports resume.
- No overseas travel.



## 12 April – Stage 2

- Non-essential retail reopens.
- Gyms, indoor pools, and personal care (hair and nail salons) reopens.
- Campsites and self-catering rentals resume business - one household limit.
- Outdoor hospitality resumes in pubs and restaurants for rule-of-6, or two households – no curfews or meal requirements.
- Libraries, museums, zoos, theme parks, and outdoor cinemas reopen.
- Weddings take place with up to 15 people, funerals with up to 30.

## 17 May – Stage 3

- Most social contact rules lifted outdoors, for up to 30 people.
- Weddings, funerals and wakes may resume for up to 30 people
- Two households may meet indoors, with rule of 6 for indoor hospitality
- Accommodation sector reopens - Hotels, hostels, and BnB's
- Soft play centres and indoor exercise classes reopen
- Performances, concert halls, cinemas, sporting events may resume based on capacity limits.

## 21 June – Stage 4

- Remove all legal rules on contact.
- All restrictions lifted on life events including weddings.
- Large theatre performances, potentially with testing.
- Reopen all remaining sectors – e.g nightclubs.

The four stages of easing lockdown align with vaccination progress:

Achieved target - Top 4 priority groups by February 15.

Current target - Priority groups 5 to 9 by April 15.

Future target – First dose to every adult by end of July.

The lifting of restrictions also depend on four tests being met at each stage, which focus on:

1. Vaccination success
2. Hospital admissions and deaths
3. NHS pressure
4. New variant impacts.

### **DfE has published:**

New information that 300,000 more devices are currently being delivered to schools on top of their initial allocations

### **Department of Health and Social Care has published:**

New guidance that people experiencing the longer-term effects of long COVID to benefit from research projects to help better understand the causes, symptoms and treatment.

New information that every care home resident will be allowed one regular indoor visitor from 8 March.

### **PHE has published:**

New report providing information on worklessness and support available to local authorities to mitigate worklessness locally.

New online training, developed by PHE, is now available for those supporting children and young people.

### **DEFRA has published:**

Updated advice for pet owners and livestock keepers on looking after the welfare of animals. Added guidance about contacting your vet if your pet has respiratory or digestive problems and a temperature.

### **MHCLG has published:**

Updated guidance updated to reflect new legislation extending the prevention on enforcement of evictions during the national lockdown and launch of the mediation pilot.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**

### **Roadmap comms material**

Following the publication of the roadmap, PHE has made new social media materials to support councils with Spring 2021 roadmap information to the public.

### **Elections**

Government announced that a proxy vote can be used up until 17:00 on 6 May for voters who are required to self-isolate. Legislation will be laid before Parliament.

### **Testing**

MHCLG has published guidance on routes for asymptomatic testing for organisations where people cannot work from home.

More specific advice is available for:

- Small employers with fewer than 50 employees
- Employers with more than 50 employees
- Government published a new spreadsheet for organisations such as schools and care homes, to record the details of people who have been tested for coronavirus on that day.
- Guidance provides info on how to complete and update the spreadsheet.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## **A new £700m plan has been announced to support children and young people to catch up on lost learning, including:**

- an expansion of one-to-one and small group tutoring programmes
- support for the development of disadvantaged children in early years settings
- secondary school summer provision for those pupils who need it the most.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has advised government to invite the people on the GP Learning Disability Register to be invited for vaccination as part of cohort 6.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **Department for Education and Ofqual**

Education Secretary Rt Hon Gavin Williamson in parliament gave a statement, setting out how qualifications will be awarded this summer:

- GCSEs, AS and A levels should be awarded using teacher assessed grades,
- Vocational and technical qualifications will be split into 3 each with a different approach to awarding
- Other general qualifications will be awarded through alternative arrangements

Guidance outlining process for awarding grades based on teachers assessments

- Includes arrangement for taking exams
- Quality assurance and appeals process
- Awarding process for vocational and technical qualifications and other general qualifications

Guidance published for awarding Functional Skills

Consultation outcomes published for:

- Alternative arrangement for the award of VTQs and other general qualifications
- how GCSE, AS and A levels should be awarded

Consultation launched on general qualification alternative awarding framework. The technical consultation on conditions and requirements for GCSE, GCE, AEA and Project qualifications in summer 2021 will close on 11 March 2021

### **DHSC**

- Statement from UK Chief Medical Officers recommending COVID Alert level change from level 5 to level 4.
- Published latest findings from antibody surveillance study 13.9% of the population had the antibodies against virus and high levels of confidence for the vaccine
- New campaign launched encouraging public to continue staying at home

## **Public Health England**

Published guidance letters sent to people identified as: high risk aged 70+, high risk aged between 19 to 69, adults who are clinically extreme vulnerable, and to clinically extremely vulnerable child and young people

## **HMT**

Levelling Up Fund extended to the whole of the UK to boost growth. £4.8bn will be invested in local projects. Funding will be partly diverted from funds earmarked from Towns Fund for levelling up projects

## **DfT**

Published research on confidence using transport during COVID and policy and communication measures to reassure users.

## **Office for National Statistics**

Released experimental data on the impact of COVID on the UK economy and society

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