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**CORNWALL
COUNCIL**
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Town and Parish Council **COVID-19 Update**



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CALC advice on virtual meetings and audits

Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) has published [advice on virtual meetings, audits and associated issues](#), including:

- Virtual meetings, local councillors and the six month rule
- Annual meetings of the council

- Virtual meetings – questions and answers
- Virtual meeting top tips for public access and participation at meetings
- Parish meetings (areas without a separate parish council)
- Audit and completing the AGAR annual return
- Councils with a turnover over £25,000
- Councils with a turnover less than £25,000

Job Retention Scheme

The Government has updated its information on the Job Retention Scheme, with a [step by step guide for employers](#).

Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy

[Our Plan to Rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy](#)

maps out a three stage approach that begins this week, with further stages at the beginning of June and potentially from 4 July.

The [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do](#) provide more information about preparing for the changes the plan will bring.

There's also new Government guidance on:

- [Staying alert and safe \(social distancing\)](#)
- [Safer travel guidance for passengers](#)
- [Working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

The furlough scheme has been extended until 31 October. The scheme in its current form will continue until the end of July. From August changes will be introduced to allow more flexibility, such as return to work part-time, with employers paying a percentage towards salaries.

reopen on 19 May

Cornwall Council is finalising plans to reopen many of Cornwall's Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) on Tuesday, 19 May but for safety reasons will need to restrict how and when residents access the sites and the types of waste they can bring.

Unfortunately, reopening the HWRCs is not as simple as just unlocking the gates and it has to be done in a way that protects the safety and wellbeing of staff and the public. Each site is different and presents its own particular set of challenges. Therefore the Council is introducing restrictions to ensure the HWRCs can be operated safely. **At this point the Council will not be able to reopen the sites at Tintagel, Dudnance Lane in Pool and Saltash** because traffic management planning could not find a way of safely reopening them while maintaining local traffic flow.

The Council has been putting together bespoke plans, including traffic management and social distancing systems, to protect the safety of site users and staff.

If the Council is not satisfied that a site is operating safely, or if traffic congestion is creating issues on the public roads, then facilities may be closed at short notice.

HWRCs will be open for essential use only. This means using an HWRC only for general rubbish (black bag waste or bulky items) and garden waste that cannot be stored safely at home without risk of injury or harm to health.

Kerbside rubbish, recycling, garden and bulky waste collection services are all running as normal, so residents should check first to see if they can dispose of their waste by one of these services before going to an HWRC.

As seen at other HWRCs across the country, very long queues are anticipated on reopening. To help alleviate some pressure the Council will be operating traffic management systems and restricting when residents can visit an HWRC with a vehicle number plate system.

If the last digit of your number plate is an **ODD number** – 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9 – then you may only visit an HWRC on an **ODD** date of the month, e.g. 19, 21, 23, 25,

For example, if your license plate number is WL57 ABO, then the last digit is 7 – an odd number – so you may only visit an HWRC on an odd date of the month, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 May etc.

If the last digit of your vehicle number plate is an **EVEN number** – 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8 – then you may only visit an HWRC on an **EVEN** date of the month, e.g. 20, 22, 24, 26 May etc.

For example, if your number plate is B398 EWP, the last digit is 8 – an even number – so you can only visit on an even date of the month. Even numbers include the number **0 (zero)**.

Please read all of the guidance on the Council's website about [visiting HWRCs during coronavirus restrictions](#) before you set off or you may be turned away.

Cormac

On behalf of Cornwall Council, Cormac will be making a phased return to carry out key repair and maintenance works, alongside essential planned critical projects over the coming weeks. This will ensure that the road network and essential community infrastructure remain accessible and safe. This is essential for those who still need to travel – people travelling to and from work or to exercise, those who need to shop for basic necessities, people walking and cycling for exercise, and those providing care for vulnerable people – as well as maintaining the condition of 4,500 miles of our roads.

All sites will have strict safeguarding measures in line with current health and safety and Public Health England guidance to ensure the safety of Cornwall's residents and Cormac staff.

People are being asked to please be kind to the workforce and observe any diversions or safety fencing that is in place. The teams are working within the guidelines laid out by the Government for construction works and are preparing Cornwall to get back to normal as quickly as possible when the current restrictions are relaxed.

[Problems with roads, highways and footways can be reported online](#) as

normal, but it may take a little longer than usual to respond to some reports.

For up to date information on what's happening in your area, see the updates on the [Cormac website programming pages](#).

Dogs on beaches

The new [seasonal restrictions for dogs on beaches](#) begin on 15 May 2020. At this stage they will affect only the 12 beaches in Cornwall that have Blue Flag or Seaside Award status, where no dogs will be allowed between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm.

The remaining seasonal restrictions come into place on 1 July 2020 and will also be from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm. This allows dog owners to exercise with their pets before 10.00 am and after 6.00 pm, while the hours in between respect those who prefer to exercise on beaches without dogs present.

Dog owners should keep their pets on leads in all public areas to help with social distancing and also continue to pick up after their pets.

There are no plans to relax access for dogs to Cornwall's beaches, or to change Public Protection Orders, under the current easing of Government exercise guidance.

Help with food

Cornwall Council's [Getting help with food](#) web page includes information on home deliveries, guidance on how to pay, support for those shielding, free school meals, and nutrition.

If you know of an organisation that provides food support, please encourage them to complete the [food survey](#) to support evidence gathering on current levels of demand.

Individuals who need such support should contact 0300 1231118 or covid19@cornwall.gov.uk.

Coronavirus testing

The latest Government [guidance on coronavirus testing](#), including who is eligible for a test and how to get tested is available on the GOV.UK website.

You can [apply to get a test](#) if you're in one of these groups:

- All essential workers, including NHS and social care workers with symptoms
 - People over 65 with symptoms
 - People who cannot work from home and have coronavirus symptoms (for example, construction workers or delivery drivers)
 - Anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus and lives with any of those identified above
-

Care home testing

Care homes can now access coronavirus testing kits to test staff and residents at their homes. More details are available through the Government's [online portal](#). Care homes can apply whether or not any of their residents or staff have coronavirus symptoms.

Testing will be offered to:

- Care home and service staff and residents, with or without symptoms, in the event of an outbreak in the home.
 - People who are awaiting admission to a care home.
-

Cornwall Council is reminding people to keep an eye on their vulnerable neighbours during lockdown in case of any safeguarding concerns.

Everyone has a right to live their life free from violence, fear and abuse, but not everyone can protect themselves. Watch out for:

- Domestic abuse, by and towards people of any gender
- Abuse of older people
- Abuse of disabled or otherwise vulnerable people
- Abuse of children

To report a safeguarding concern, ring the Council on 0300 1234 131 and choose option 3.

If you have immediate concerns or are worried about a child or young person's safety, ring the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) on 0300 123 1116.

Enforcement update

Cornwall Council's officers have responded to approximately 1,700 complaints to date since the Government introduced its emergency Coronavirus business closure regulations at the end of March 2020. These complaints are broadly to do with concerns about holiday accommodation, alleged business closure breaches and visits to second homes. Cornwall Council has powers of enforcement in relation to business closures, including holiday accommodation, but has no powers to require people to leave their second homes. Non-essential travel contraventions, including to second homes, are enforced by Devon and Cornwall Police.

Officers from across Cornwall Council have worked together to investigate the complaints made working on the "Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce" enforcement model drawn up at the start of the outbreak. Following enquiries, approximately 300 holiday accommodation businesses were found to be closed or agreed to close on that first contact. Approximately 60 were closed after further enforcement action based on the model above. However, in 3 other cases, formal closure notices had to be served by officers requiring other holiday accommodation to cease.

On investigation a number of exemptions to holiday accommodation being open were found including people living in them permanently, people not being able to return home and accommodation housing key workers. Evidence to support these claimed exemptions would have been asked for by officers.

Cornwall Council is continuing to ask people not to travel to Cornwall during the pandemic so that the spread of the virus can be controlled in order to save lives and alleviate pressures on services including the NHS.

The Council is also continuing its work to ensure accommodation providers in Cornwall remain closed to all holiday-makers and is urging residents to report any businesses suspected to be open illegally on 0300 123 1118 or at covid19@cornwall.gov.uk.

The Government has repeated that leaving your home – the place you live – to stay at another home for a holiday or other purpose is not allowed. This includes visiting second homes. Cornwall Council has not been given any legal powers under the coronavirus emergency laws to require people to leave their second homes.

Anyone concerned about social gatherings to contact the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Mass gathering events

Devon and Cornwall Police are aware of planned 'mass gathering' events in areas across Devon and Cornwall and nationally which are circulating locally on social media. The Police have responsibility for enforcing rules prohibiting public gatherings of more than two people, except for reasons set out in the [following guidance](#).

Cornwall Council is working in partnership to support the Police, who have risk assessed the gatherings and regard them as low risk. The Council has not been asked to close car parks by the Police but continue to liaise with them.

The Council is reminding individuals of their responsibilities in following the Government's advice to stop the infection rate from rising.

It is vital that everyone continues to act responsibly in public places, as the large majority have done. Keeping coronavirus under control protects key services, including the NHS, and saves lives.

Introduction to Crowdfunding webinar

[Crowdfund Cornwall](#) is running a free 30 minute online workshop on how to crowdfund and the extra funding opportunities available in Cornwall. The workshop takes place at 11am on Wednesday 20 May.

This introductory session is suitable for anyone who wants to find out more about this method of fundraising, the potential uses for local projects in Cornwall and the extra funding that's available through Cornwall Council.

You can find out more and [register online on Eventbrite](#).

£600,000 cashflow assistance for Cornwall's Business Improvement Districts

Cornwall's Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) will be offered Council cash flow support by way of an interest free loan of up to a maximum of £600,000 to help support town centres to recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

Between them, the eight not-for-profit BIDs – Falmouth, Newham Industrial Area, Newquay, St Austell, St Ives, Penzance, Truro and Camborne – represent and support more than 2,000 businesses and play a vital role in encouraging visitors, representing traders' interests and regenerating town centres. They are small businesses in their own right.

With town centres hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, especially in coastal and rural areas such as Cornwall, BIDs face an uncertain future at a time when their role in boosting local economies and developing long-term plans to protect the future of their towns is needed more than ever.

The Council's cashflow support is in addition to the Government funding for

Funding will come from the Council's £4m ring-fenced Town Centre Regeneration budget with the agreement that the money is paid back by the BIDs by 2022.

The Council will be looking at other ways it can support town centres that do not have a BID in place.

Voluntary sector survey

Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum has created a survey, with help from contacts in the sector and Exeter University, to evaluate the social and economic impact that the current crisis has had on the voluntary sector. It is forecast that there will be a surge in demand, and a corresponding drop in income from fundraising, but a more precise picture is needed to help the sector recover.

To help maximise the reach of the survey, please share the survey link <https://exeter.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/complete-cvsf-covid-19-survey> with any friends or family who work in the voluntary sector in Cornwall. **The closing date for responses is Tuesday 26 May 2020.**

Help for parents coping with lockdown

Creating and maintaining a nurturing environment for both parents and children during lockdown can be a challenge. It can be tough for parents to find the energy to keep their family and themselves emotionally strong and resilient. Help is at hand with Cornwall Council's [Emotional Resilience for Parents and Carers](#) web page, which is updated weekly.

This week's content focuses on ways we can look after ourselves in order to take better care of our families, and to build connection to the wider world during lockdown. There are videos, podcasts and suggested activities.

Support for new parents in Cornwall, including front line health visiting and school nursing, are continuing throughout the lockdown.

New parents are still being offered home visits to undertake new birth assessments or can opt to receive their assessment by phone or video call.

Parents with children under the age of two also have access to video calls with a named health visitor and telephone or video call health reviews are continuing.

Families with additional needs are being prioritised and health visitors and school nurses are actively contacting families to provide health advice and support. This can range from growth and developmental concerns, health worries, behaviour and emotional health needs, coping with babies and children during the lockdown, infant feeding, nutrition and sleep issues. Breast feeding support is also being delivered by telephone and virtual contacts by breastfeeding volunteers who work with health visitors.

There's more support and information for families on Cornwall Council's [Together for Families](#) web page.

Health visitors and school nurses in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly can be contacted on the Client Advice Line on 01872 322779 or by emailing coco.childrenscmc@nhs.net.

Support to stop smoking

New evidence shows that smokers who get coronavirus are 14 times more likely to get a severe respiratory disease, so there's never been a better time to give up smoking. Cornwall Council's Healthy Cornwall team are continuing to provide a [stop smoking support service](#), even during the lockdown, with support available by telephone, text and email.

As well as personalised behavioural support to develop a quit plan and practical help on beating the cravings, the Healthy Cornwall team can also arrange stop smoking medication, such as nicotine replacement therapy, through a GP

To find out more, [complete the online enquiry form](#) or ring 01209 615600.

Important support

Please send all coronavirus related enquiries or issues to Cornwall Council's dedicated email address covid19@cornwall.gov.uk.

There's an [information page](#) on Cornwall Council's website specifically for clinically vulnerable residents who are in the shielded group.

Find out more about Cornwall Association of Local Councils at www.cornwallalc.org.uk or email enquiries@cornwallalc.org.uk.

Anyone who needs help can request a volunteer by ringing Volunteer Cornwall on 01872 266988 or emailing requestforhelp@volunteercornwall.org.uk.

Community volunteers can register with [Volunteer Cornwall](#) on their website or by emailing mid@volunteercornwall.org.uk. Volunteer Cornwall will match people who ring up needing help with the community volunteers in their local area – or, if they have more complex needs, with specialist services.

Support for those living with domestic abuse is available from [Safer Futures](#). People can [make a referral online](#), email saferfutures@firstlight.org.uk or ring 0300 777 4777. There is also refuge and support via the [Cornwall Refuge Trust](#) website and their 24 hour helpline 01872 225629.

Find out more about the support available for businesses here: [Business Rate Support](#), [Council Tax Support](#) and [Growth Hub](#).

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