BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Coronavirus

7th September 2020

Binham and Cockthorpe have seen an increase in traffic since the last time I wrote to update you on Coronavirus at the end of July. This increase of people represents neighbours returning for their summer break as well as visitors to stay or enjoy the Priory ruins and Church, The Chequers, Trevor’s and the Little Dairy Shop. Everyone has made them most welcome, but there has been anxiety amongst residents about keeping free of the Coronavirus. So far so good, but time will tell as the summer holiday season comes to an end and everyone returns home to work, school, college and university.

My reflection on the COVID pandemic is that we seemed to have reached a point whereby many consider that it is over, which of course it is **not**. This may well be because there has been confusion about the many adjustments made in releasing lockdown further. The requirements are constant in that whatever is reintroduced must be in line with the COVID-19 Secure guidelines and adhered to. This couldn’t be more important as Norfolk has been placed on the Watch List because of the Banham Poultry Factory outbreak. We on the North Norfolk Coast are not affected as yet but the rate has increased significantly in Great Yarmouth, Norwich and Attleborough/Thetford as has been reported in the EDP. So….



From 1st September, children will be going back to school, nursery or college opening, indoor activities such as bowling alleys, indoor play areas, indoor performances, wedding receptions and celebrations will be opened. Hopefully at the beginning of October we will be able to go back to football stadiums to support ‘our’ teams etc, as well as conferences /business events. Such access will only be allowed if the prevalence/occurrence of COVID-19 remains around or below the current levels (East of England R value is 0.8-1.0 and England 0.9-1.1), a very fine balance of risk of further lockdown.

**All the social distancing measures - 2 meters apart rule, hand hygiene, and wearing masks where required remain the same and are the absolute basics to prevent spread of the virus.**

### A gentle reminder of what we should still avoid doing. It remains the case that you should not:

* socialise indoors in groups of more than two households (anyone in your support bubble counts as one household) – this includes when dining out or going to the pub
* socialise outdoors in a group of more than six people from different households; gatherings larger than six should only take place if everyone is from exclusively from two households or support bubbles
* interact socially with anyone outside the group you are attending a place with, even if you see other people you know, for example, in a restaurant, community centre or place of worship
* hold or attend celebrations (such as parties) where it is difficult to maintain social distancing and avoid close social interaction – even if they are organised by businesses and venues that are taking steps to follow COVID-19 Secure guidelines
* stay overnight away from your home with members of more than one other household (your support bubble counts as one household).

### It is against the law for gatherings of more than 30 people to take place in private homes (including gardens and other outdoor spaces (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>). If attending a place or event that is following COVID-19 Secure guidelines, you should take care to limit your interactions with anyone outside of your group and you should continue to maintain social distancing from those that you do not live with. It is critical that you follow these guidelines to keep both yourself and others safe. The government will be introducing fines for those who facilitate or organise illegal gatherings of over 30 people

Every household in Norfolk has recently received a Coronavirus update from Norfolk Public Health under the banner of **PROTECT OURSELVES. PROTECT OTHERS. PROTECT NORFOLK**. DO keep this safe and to hand, as it includes what to do if you develop symptoms and also if you have been in contact with someone who tests positive.

This is very timely, especially knowing about the outbreak of Covid-19 in Attlebourgh. We remain vulnerable especially with the influx of holiday makers, second homeowners and other general visitors from outside the county. We must remain vigilant and pay attention to what is required especially as we are return to some sort of normal ‘life’ but knowing that COVID 19 is STILL present. **The pandemic is not over**

**News from the Village:**

**Memorial Hall** - the Binham Village Show will take place on **26th September**, Class categories can be found on the MH website [www.binhamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.binhamvillagehall.co.uk) , or on the noticeboards. Let’s try and make this a fun day and show off all those skills we have learnt during the lock down. It is as much fun for the children to show off their skills and there are some who have been learning to sew and use sewing machines this summer.

**Children’s play area equipment** will remain closed as it is felt that safe use of the equipment cannot be guaranteed. The playing field is open and social distancing guidelines should be adhered to for the continuing safety of all using the field.

**The Priory Church of St Mary and the Holy Cross** is open daily for individual private prayer under COVID Secure guidance between 10am-4pm. The church is also open for Sunday worship as scheduled [www.binhampriory.org/services](http://www.binhampriory.org/services) or www.Locallynx.co.uk. You are most welcome to attend.

**ZOOM SERVICES**will continue, as from the beginning of September, **Zoom Evensong** will be held at 5pm on the **first Sunday**of each month, starting on 6 September. Everyone is welcome! To participate please telephone Ian Newton on 01328 830947 or email **iannewton46@ gmail.com.**

**The Chequers Inn** is open for drinks and food Friday to Tuesday, in September. It is advisable to book (01328 830297) for drinks or food as indoor space is limited to allow for social distancing. You are still only allowed two households (plus bubble) to meet indoors, but up to six individuals from different households outside. Takeaways are also available each day we are open. We are also working on making The Chequers comfortable and safe for everyone to enjoy through the Autumn and Winter and hope to have some outdoor “Winter proof” space added too. We look forward to seeing you soon.

**Local Lynx** – the Local Lynx will only be published on-line until at least Easter 2021. There will be a limited number of copies of each issue available and if anyone would like to have a copy, please contact Liz Brady on 01328 830830 and she will post one through your letter box. You can access on line [www.locallynx.co.uk](http://www.locallynx.co.uk) or via [www.binhamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.binhamvillagehall.co.uk)

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