

Coronavirus COVID-19 Parish Update 10

MARCH 2021

Welcome

The Government's roadmap out of the Covid-19 pandemic and a timescale to gradually ease lockdown restrictions which have impacted so deeply on the district over the last year are a tremendous boost for us all. We must, however, keep our feet on the ground as any temptation to act unwisely because we believe we can see the end of the crisis is to risk hard-won gains. We must still abide by the rules

Vaccination centres are working with smooth efficiency and offer a warm welcome in both Grantham and Stamford, while our testing centres continue to confirm a decline in infections.

To support the economy through this crisis we have, to date, paid out more than £40m in grants to a wide range of businesses across the district.

A crucial next move is to see our small businesses, the lifeblood of the district, get back up and running and InvestSK will be handling the new grant funding for them announced in the Budget. Support for our economy remains a priority for SKDC and we will do all we can to help them get up and running again.

Cllr Kelham Cooke, Leader of South Kesteven District Council



Support for Business

InvestSK, the council's growth and regeneration company, has launched two new discretionary schemes to support local businesses badly affected by national lockdown measures. The schemes are based on insight from local businesses impacted by Covid restrictions and are targeted to support specific sectors that haven't been mandated

to close, but supply those which have. The schemes support:

- Main supply chain firms such as event management companies, corporate caterers and breweries.
- Businesses providing domestic, education, travel and holiday services.

ISK will also be distributing the latest Government funding

announced in the Budget to help pubs, restaurants, shops and other small businesses as they reopen.

The next ISK Tea Break event will take place on Thursday 18 March with a focus on looking ahead to the economy reopening. For details of grants, other business support and events go to www.investsk.co.uk

Support for Residents

With flooding very much in the public eye, SKDC is working with county authorities and environmental agencies to explain the responsibilities of riparian ownership and help reduce flooding.

Many people whose gardens border a ditch, stream, watercourse or dykes are often unaware that they are probably responsible for keeping their section clear and free flowing. We are

asking parish councils to be proactive to raise awareness of responsibilities and help to reduce the potential for flooding and the impact it can have on wildlife.

Bigger watercourses and land drains are looked after by the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards but a riparian owner will need to keep their section of the smaller watercourses flowing by

removing debris and cutting down vegetation.

Please note that Lincolnshire County Council is the lead authority on flooding and anyone who experiences flooding inside their homes should report it to them for investigation. www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/Managing-flood-risk

Support for Communities

SKDC is asking parish councils to help support the national Ask for ANI domestic abuse campaign by including details in their parish newsletters.

Anyone needing support in dealing with abuse can use the code Ask for ANI at Boots pharmacies and many independent chemists as a discreet way of asking for help.

Those using the phrase (devised by the Home Office to mean Action Needed Immediately) will be found a safe space to discuss what help they need.

Participating pharmacies will have posters in windows and inside to reassure people at risk or suffering abuse that they can safely approach staff to seek confidential help. The

scheme was launched in January in recognition of the impact of Covid restrictions on the ability of victims to reach out for help and support. For more information go to <http://bit.ly/ask4ani>



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