

Subject: CoronaVirus Update No16
Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2020 at 15:54:33 British Summer Time
From: EHA Secretary
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, Bank-InsuranceQuestionnaire.docx.zip, VE_Update-8April20.pdf

Dear Member

Please kindly see below **the EBN Cobra update held today**, from Kris:

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Dear Members,

Mark and I attended this week's crisis meeting and wanted to update you all. This is quite a long email again, but as we hope you can appreciate there is a lot discussed with things happening across Eastbourne and nationally. Caroline Ansell was also able to dial into the whole meeting, which was welcome. I'd first like to start with some good news:

Business Rate Grants

EBC has been working around the clock to implement and test the software to process the Grants. **This will now be live tomorrow (9th April) from 9am.** Eight days earlier than we were advised last week.

- A communication will be sent out via email and post, advising to each business the link to the portal.
- The portal link will originate from EBC website, and then you will be taken to the third party software company to provide relevant information.
- We are awaiting for the definitive list, but were told that you will need to supply two forms of evidence. These will be (but not exhaustive):
 - Business rate reference
 - Utility bill
 - Insurance schedule
 - Bank statements
 - Business invoice
 - Rent statement
- **All applicants will need to supply bank details**, regardless of whether you have a direct debit set up.
- Payments will then be issued in 3-4 working days.

As we updated last week, EBC have been experiencing call volumes that are off the scale. **Therefore if you have any questions, please contact me or the office in the first instance.** We have direct communications to the Director in charge - Tim Whelan who is going to be sending through all the instructions later today. **We have the most up to date information and are happy to help with any queries.**

Police update & anti-social behaviour from the Strand Hotel

There has been a lot of anti-social behaviour transpiring from the Strand Hotel, spilling into the road, seafront and outside the Pavilion tea rooms. The Police are aware of this, as it is the Strand Hotel that is housing the street community. They have taken on our concerns and have agreed to increase patrols. They have also said to, please keep reporting any activity to **101** and also via the online form, [which can be found here](#). As this is a raised issue, it will mean that they will act on any reports received.

CBILS Loans

You may have seen the Business Secretary announce a change to the scheme on Thursday night. The change means **CBILS should now be opened-up** to businesses facing cashflow difficulties, who previously would not have been eligible for CBILS because they only met the standard commercial facility not the enhanced one. This was what we all needed to hear and the British Business Bank website was updated on Friday to reflect this change. If you haven't seen it, the website suggests **re-contacting your lender** if you have previously been unsuccessful in securing funding. [Click here for more information.](#)

Volunteering

It is predicted that the next two to three weeks will be when the peak of this pandemic will occur and that will be when the highest demand of support for the community will be needed. We have been asked to encourage any furloughed staff and members who would be prepared to volunteer some time, [to register, Click Here.](#) There are lots of different ways you can get involved that don't necessarily mean putting yourself in danger, but could really help those most vulnerable.

Communication of announcements regarding events

Following the announcement from the LTA regarding tennis week, we all experienced a huge wave of cancellations, or booking modifications to 2021. It was highlighted that any event cancellations, results in us haemorrhaging the much needed cash flow in the immediate term. We have had it agreed that the EHA will be included in any future communication plans, in relation to event announcements so that all members are informed. We will endeavour to communicate that to you as soon as we get notifications.

Whilst writing this email I also spoke with Jack – Destination Manager, who has kindly provided the attached brief tourism update.

NHS Questionnaire

The Sussex CCGs have devised the survey below to find out how the people of Sussex are feeling at this time, therefore we would be really grateful if you could complete this and, if possible circulate it to others. The survey is not long and is open until Sunday 12th April. [To take part click here.](#)

NHS – Walk-in centre at the Train station

Caroline has lobbied and been successful in having the current consultation suspended during the pandemic. Following this, she is building a case to oppose the closure of the surgery. More details to follow.

THE FUTURE

Looking to the future

Although we are still the grips of the pandemic, it's really important to not lose sight of the future and what Eastbourne."

Bank & Insurance questionnaires

- Thank you to those who have participated in the questionnaire. This may seem a fruitless task around this is to collate as much information as possible between the EHA membership, the back to Ministers and if we get nowhere with the Insurance companies, then we will be **mal appreciated and this strategy only works if people participate. There is a cross stakeholder**

Developing Eastbourne into a year-round tourist zone

- Caroline Ansell has been very proactive in this area and has been in contact with Nigel Hudc

- the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and the strategy is to look at making Eastbourne
- The EHA will be part of the strategy group and will work with **Caroline, VisitEastbourne** and

Lobbying central government for a reduction in VAT for tourism

- At the last Bi-monthly meeting with David Tutt and Phil Evans, Mark raised the issue of how from David and we will be following this up as part of the Tourism development strategy.

Proactive PR and strategy development

- As we move through this, the EHA will be taking a more proactive approach to PR. Thank you kindly offered to assist in this.

As always, please keep in contact with the office if you have any questions or need any support.

With best wishes

Kristian

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