

Subject: CoronaVirus Update No33
Date: Tuesday, 12 May 2020 at 11:19:35 British Summer Time
From: EHA Secretary
Attachments: image001.jpg, image002.jpg, image003.png, 33. Suggested Guest Safety Ideas.pdf

Dear Member

Please kindly see below, various updates from a range of sources:

1. **Weekly EBN Cobra Meeting Notes: From Mark Cotman**

- Public Health England East Sussex Director attended for the first time to update us on stats for Eastbourne:
 - **613** confirmed Covid-19 cases with the sad news of which, 64 have died (*26 ONS reported from Community – non hospital*)
 - Our condolences to family and friends, that have been affected
 - Claremont update, with regards to the road closures:
 - Work is proceeding at pace
 - Estimated **6 weeks** for completion, therefore 17th June'20 is expected date for the road to be opened
 - The Small Business Grant for non-business rate payer, which is at the discretion of the Local Authority, is expected to be available this week (commencing 11th May'20), but guidance from Central Government has not yet been received by LA
 - EBC have to date, paid out £17m from the £21m granted by the Government, therefore this leaves £4.5m
 - There is a new website which is supporting local businesses: Please visit www.eatlocal.info to support, and where possible promote, their products and food for sale
 - <http://eatlocal.info/?view=grid&type=all&location=eastbourne#listings> (Eastbourne Suppliers)
 - MP's office, Chamber & EHA are continuing to lobby on Insurance and Grants for businesses above £51k rateable value. Once there is more news around this, the office will update
 - Eastbourne's Recovery plan is well and truly gathering momentum from its initial directive, with various sub groups identified and assigned leads. The EHA and Director of Tourism, Phil Evans has been appointed lead on Tourism and Accommodation sub-group with support from Visit Eastbourne. More on this will follow.
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2. Further news on Coach companies that have gone into Administration this week:

- **Trueman Coaches:** If any members have bookings with them, visit their website: <http://www.truemans.co.uk/>
- **David Urqhart Travel**
- **Shearings Coaches** are on the verge of collapse and are trying to obtain a rescue package, perhaps be cautious until further notice
NB: It is unclear at this stage, if this will have an impact on their associated hotels in Eastbourne

3. Please see attached, the news article submitted by Howard & Catherine (Bassets House) which highlights some interesting ideas in how to keep ourselves and our guests safer when we re-open (eventually!)

4. Gaynor (NumberNinetyOne), raised concerns over rumours on Facebook recently, which indicated planning permission for a Premier to be built at Sovereign Harbour, next to the Yacht Club. Mark challenged this with David Tutt, who confirmed it is FALSE.

There is an application in play, but for 'Premier Marinas' - owners of Sovereign Harbour - to develop a parcel of land, into a car park

Mark has been assured, that there is no application in for a Hotel of any kind currently. A factual document at the following link, should you be interested : <https://www.shra.co.uk/devsites.html>

5. **General Round-Up of News**

- [Business rates revaluation postponed](#): A revaluation of business rates will no longer take place in 2021 to help reduce uncertainty for firms affected by the impacts of coronavirus.
- [Read the paper that VisitBritain](#) sent to Cabinet Office on behalf of the tourism industry, detailing how government can help the tourism industry recover from COVID-19. Thank you to all members who contributed to the response
- UKinbound has issued a press release based on their latest business barometer warning that 'Undervaluing inbound tourism will hamper the UK economy's recovery from Coronavirus' (Please see press release attached).
- In response to a clear ask from the industry, a new [industry standard quality mark](#) is in development to help tourism businesses, attractions and destinations provide reassurance to visitors and customers that they are taking the necessary steps to adhere to the official Government guidelines. Discussions are ongoing with industry and VisitEngland is in consultation with the national tourist boards for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales on a common approach. We will keep you updated on any further developments

6. Waste sites will re-open from 18th May '20



Household waste and recycling sites (tips) in East Sussex will begin **to re-open to the public from 10am on Monday 18 May.**

We expect the sites to be extremely busy and we ask that you only come to them if you have waste that it's absolutely essential to dispose of at this time. If you're able to compost waste, or safely store it at home for the time being, please do.

We are following new Government guidance on how to keep the public and staff safe at waste sites, including keeping people two metres apart. This means:

- A limited number of unloading bays will be in use
- Only one person at a time will be allowed to use the access ramps
- Staff will not be able to help you unload
- Trailers and over-sized vehicles will not be allowed on site to avoid lengthy visits
- Chargeable waste - plasterboard, asbestos, tyres, hardcore and soil - will not be accepted
- The re-use shops will remain closed

We believe these arrangements are the best way to re-open sites safely for you. We recognise they are likely to mean longer waiting times and we thank you in advance for your patience if it's essential for you to visit a site once they re-open on 18 May.

We will constantly monitor how the sites are working and keep you updated on any changes, including through our website.

[Latest information on rubbish and recycling](#)

7. Airbourne 2020:

By now, you probably already know that Airbourne 2020 has been cancelled. Below is the letter received, informing the office of the plans:

Dear Airbourne Project Board Member

As I know you are all only too well aware, the Coronavirus pandemic has impacted on all planned events across the world. In Eastbourne the LTA announced the cancellation of the tennis tournament at the beginning of July and indeed the whole of their programme for the current year.

I had been holding back from contacting you about Airbourne in the vain hope that the lockdown may end and that we might be able to salvage a small part of the tourist season which is so important to our town. From discussions I have had recently I recognise that this is unrealistic. Phil tells me that from discussions he has had with St Johns and the Police, neither would be able to resource the event this year and even if the lockdown has come to an end, it would not be sensible to bring hundreds of thousands of people together so soon.

I had considered calling a meeting of the Project Board to formally cancel the event, but I know that you will all have many other things to do than attend a meeting where the outcome is inevitable. I am therefore intending to issue a press release to announce the cancellation this coming Friday.

Thank you for all that you have done in recent years to make Airbourne so enjoyable. Let us hope that we will have come through the Covid-19 challenges by next year and can bounce back and make Airbourne 2021 really special.

Kind regards

David

David Tutt
Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council

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8. **Top-up to local business grant funds scheme:** A discretionary fund has been set up to accommodate certain small businesses previously outside the scope of the business grant funds scheme. The following article again, if you missed it when it was published on 2nd May'20:



The Business Secretary Alok Sharma and Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government, Simon Clarke spoke to local authorities in England yesterday to set out that up to £617 million would be made available.

This is an additional 5% uplift to the £12.33 billion funding previously announced for the Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund (RHLGF), so up to £617 million. We will confirm the exact amount for each local authority next week.

This additional fund is aimed at small businesses with ongoing fixed property-related costs. We are asking local authorities to prioritise businesses in shared spaces, regular market traders, small charity properties that would meet the criteria for Small Business Rates Relief, and bed and breakfasts that pay council tax rather than business rates. But local authorities may choose to make payments to other businesses based on local economic need. The allocation of funding will be at the discretion of local authorities.

Businesses must be small, under 50 employees, and they must also be able to demonstrate that they have seen a significant drop of income due to Coronavirus restriction measures.

There will be three levels of grant payments. The maximum will be £25,000. There will also be grants of £10,000. local authorities will have discretion to make payments of any amount under £10,000. It will be for councils to adapt this approach to local circumstances.

Further guidance for local authorities will be set out shortly.

Take care & be safe

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Yvette Cowderoy

Association Secretary

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