
January 2021 District Councillor report

for

Ousden Parish Council

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

West Suffolk Council has been and continues to lead and play its part in tackling COVID-19, keeping our communities safe, supporting out businesses and delivering services during this challenging time. On this page you will find information about what the council is doing and how you can play your part, as well as guidance and support for our communities and businesses.

Latest updates



National lockdown: stay at home

(updated 4 January 2021)

- You must stay at home. This is the single most important action we can all take to protect the NHS and save lives.
- You must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:
 - shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
 - go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
 - exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
 - meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
 - seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
 - attend education or childcare - for those eligible
- Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or bubble.

Suffolk, like the rest of the country, is in a national lockdown due to rising infection rates of COVID-19. This means much more tighter restrictions on what you can do to stop the spread of COVID-19. This includes most pupils being schooled at home. Everyone must play their role in tackling COVID-19 and taking action to stop the spread.

- [GOV.UK - National lockdown: stay at home](#)

Government guidance

The lockdown guidance means many businesses have to close and others operate in other ways. The guidance can be found on the Government website and we ask residents to support their local businesses at this difficult time. They must also play their part in social distancing and sticking to COVID safe measures when using businesses.

- [GOV.UK - Work and financial support](#)
- [GOV.UK - Working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- As part of its measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Government has announced grant funding to be paid out by councils to businesses that have, as a result, have been required by Government to close. Please visit our [COVID-19 - Business grants](#) webpage for more details.
- [GOV.UK - National lockdown: stay at home](#)
- The Government has brought in a payment for those on benefits or low incomes who have been asked by the national Test and Trace service to self-isolate. Find out more on how to claim for the [Test and Trace support payments](#) if asked to do so, you must self isolate.
- Whether you meet the criteria or not set by Government, there is help available for those facing financial difficulty or needing support. The Suffolk Support and Advice Service helps people across the county access information or support relating to debt, benefits, housing or employment. You can contact the service on 0800 068 3131 between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday or visit [Suffolk Support and Advice Service](#).

Home But Not Alone

Find support during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including our emergency phonenumber if you need urgent help such as getting food and medicine. Find out more: [Suffolk County Council - Home But Not Alone](#)

Government and medical guidance

COVID-19 case numbers are rising rapidly across the whole of the UK and in other countries. You must act now to control the spread of the virus. The single most important action you can take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home, to protect the NHS and save lives.

Remember, Hands. Face. Space:

- **hands** - wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- **face** - wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- **space** - stay two metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or one metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings)

The NHS has advice on what you must do if you are showing symptoms or if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive. Please download the NHS Test and Trace app. It is vital to stick to social distancing and COVID safety rules as one in three people don't show symptoms.

For more information visit:

- [NHS - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Get the latest NHS information and advice about coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [NHS - Social distancing and changes to everyday life](#)
- [NHS - Self-isolation and treating coronavirus symptoms](#)

Fraud advice

In an initiative between government and the independent charity Crimestoppers, the public can now call a new COVID Fraud Hotline (0800 587 5030) anonymously and free of charge to report suspected fraudulent activity. The COVID Fraud Hotline is open 24/7, 365 days a year on 0800 587 5030 or fill in the simple and secure anonymous form at www.Covidfraudhotline.org

Read more on the Government scheme: [New hotline launched to report COVID fraudsters](#)

Helping the community

- [KickStart -providing six-month employment placements for 16-24s on Universal Credit to assist them in gaining the skills and experience they need to succeed in the future](#)
- [COVID-19 Community support](#)
- [COVID-19 Landlords and tenants advice](#)
- [New National Lottery community funding available](#)
- The Suffolk Support and Advice helpline is open between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Phone: 0800 068 3131 or visit [Suffolk Support and Advice Service](#)

Helping businesses

- [COVID-19 support for business](#)
- [Creating safer places](#) - West Suffolk continues to work with partners to help make places as safe as possible and to support businesses. But this requires the public and businesses to follow guidelines. Brandon, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Mildenhall and Newmarket - changes to highways and footpaths information, and business information pack to help businesses.

Changes to services

- [West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village](#), museum, visitor centre and shop are closed.
- [Moyes's Hall Museum](#) is closed.
- [Leisure centres](#) are closed.
- [The Apex](#) cafe, Tourist Information Centre and box office are closed.
- Abbey Gardens, Brandon Country Park, East Town Park, Nowton Park and West Stow Country Park are open daily for exercise, the toilet facilities at each of these sites are open. The café facilities at Nowton Park and West Stow Country Park are open for take-away refreshments, Brandon Country Park tea room is closed.
- The 200 play areas maintained by West Suffolk Council are all open.
- [Abbey Gardens tennis courts](#) are closed.
- Outdoor gyms at East Town Park and Moreton Hall are closed.
- [Skateparks](#) are closed.
- [Shopmobility](#) in Bury, Newmarket and Haverhill is closed.
- [West Suffolk Markets](#) are open to sell essential goods only.
- [COVID-19 - waste disposal advice](#)
- [Tips for reducing waste](#)
- [Residential permit holders in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill allowed to park in nearby West Suffolk Council car parks at no extra charge during national lockdown restrictions, plus arrangements for residents in Newmarket](#)

For more information visit: [COVID-19 Changes to services](#)

Staying physically and mentally healthy

Staying safe

- What you should do: Keep a social distance of two metres from anyone not in your household bubble; wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds and clean equipment before use. Wear a face covering and stay local. You must avoid non-essential travel.

- [The Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership have created a video is to raise awareness of safeguarding for children and adults at risk](#) and tell members of the public what to do if they see something that doesn't seem quite right. During this challenging time, it will be even harder for children and adults who are already vulnerable to tell us what is happening to them. We are all responsible for safeguarding and now more than ever it is important that we are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect. Please share this amongst your networks.

Protecting your wellbeing by staying active

People are encouraged to exercise to protect our physical and mental health. You can continue to do unlimited exercise alone, or in a public outdoor place with your household, support bubble, or with one other person if you maintain social distancing. You should follow the [guidance on meeting others safely](#). This remains part of the nation's battle against COVID-19 and the same free opportunities continue in West Suffolk for you to keep up your routines or add to new ones.

Find out the latest updates:

- [Parks and open spaces](#)
- [Keep Moving Suffolk](#)
- [Play areas](#)
- [Skateparks](#) are closed

[COVID-19 Information and wellbeing support guide](#) - LifeLink has compiled this guide of great resources and virtual support.

Latest news

Read our recent press releases in [Latest news](#)

Last updated:

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- Creating safer places



- COVID-19 Landlords and tenants advice



- Skills



- COVID-19 Changes to services



- Test and Trace Support Payment



- COVID-19 support for communities

More in Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- [COVID-19 support for business - grants](#)
- [COVID-19 Market deliveries](#)
- [COVID-19 Waste disposal advice](#)
- [COVID-19 Licensing update](#)
- [COVID-19: Advice for equine and horse racing industry](#)
- [COVID-19 Information, health and wellbeing support guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Apex updates](#)

COVID-19 vaccine scam



07 Jan 2021

A dangerous fake NHS text has been circulating, telling people they're eligible to apply for the COVID-19 vaccine. It reads: "NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here : uk-application-form.com"

The link takes you through to an extremely convincing fake NHS website that asks for your personal details.

Never give out your personal details.

With the recent approval of multiple vaccines in the UK, these types of scam events are likely to continue as fraudsters look to take advantage of the rollout to so many people. Cold calls regarding the vaccine are also beginning to take place – there have already been reports of scammers asking people to pay for it over the phone. If you receive one of these calls, hang up.

The COVID-19 vaccination is only available through the NHS to eligible groups and it is a free vaccination.

If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by this fraud or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or at www.actionfraud.police.uk

You can find out more about the rollout of the vaccine at:

- [NHS UK – Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine](#)
- [Gov UK – Why you have to wait for your COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Public Health England and NHS publication – COVID-19 vaccination: Why do I have to wait](#)

Please share this message with your family and friends.

West Suffolk Hospital has been granted planning permission for a new decant ward while urgent repair works take place

A new 32-bed ward is to be built at West Suffolk Hospital to maintain services while urgent repair work takes place.

West Suffolk Council granted planning permission shortly before Christmas for the hospital to create a single-storey extension to the existing facility which will form a 'decant ward' - bed space for patients and staff to move into to allow healthcare to continue uninterrupted while maintenance work takes place at other wards.

The hospital said it will have 32 beds and hopes it will be ready by summer 2021.

A spokesman from West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust said: "Our long term plan is to build a new healthcare campus for Bury St Edmunds but while that work takes place we need to maintain the existing West Suffolk Hospital building, which is now more than 45-years-old.

"This new decant ward will help us minimise disruption to patients while we carry out maintenance work in the current building.

"The new ward is designed as a modular structure which means it has the potential to both be put in place quickly - hopefully by the summer - and also to be moved and re-used in the future."

West Suffolk Hospital is to move to a new site being created at Hardwick Manor from 2025 - Credit: West Suffolk Hospital

While the hospital is due to move to a new facility being constructed at the nearby Hardwick Manor, that scheme is not likely to be completed until after 2025, meaning some essential maintenance work is needed to maintain the existing hospital.

Mike Chester

District Councillor Chedburgh and Chevington Ward