

Report from GYBC Cllr James Bensly 5th May 2021

Driving forward investment

We all continue to work flexibly to support the coronavirus response and recovery, while driving forward the projects and investments which are so important to longer-term success. Construction of the new Marina Centre continues apace, along with the first phase of the Market Place redevelopment, while the Town Deal Board has met again this week to consider further national funding opportunities including the Levelling-up Fund and the Community Renewal Fund.

Covid picture

The infection rates across Norfolk and Great Yarmouth remain relatively low and stable, though there has been a small increase across Norfolk this week. We have seen a slight ripple in figures for the Yarmouth Parade area, but as the figures are so low the impact of just one settings outbreak can make quite a difference. We continue to work with Public Health Norfolk on any settings outbreaks.

Supporting the safe reopening of the economy

This month, Environmental Health Officers and covid marshals have been visiting businesses to support the safe reopening of outdoor visitor attractions, outdoor hospitality and non-essential retail. As well as offering advice and guidance, this has included joint visits with the police to licensed premises at weekends to address issues for enforcement. As a result of issues identified last weekend, Environmental Services is serving prohibition notices against four premises for a number of breaches of the covid regulations and will escalate to fines and further notices in the event of further breaches. These visits will continue this weekend.

Covid Compliant Award scheme

Ahead of the further easing of restrictions, scheduled for May 17th, the council will soon be launching our very own Covid Compliant Award scheme, which we will encourage all our retail and hospitality businesses to apply for. Business will need to demonstrate that they have adequate covid control measures in place. Businesses that meet the standard will be issued with a certificate to display at their premises to help provide that extra reassurance and confidence to customers.

Business support grants

The council is paying out its first batch of Restart Grants this week. Last week we launched the next phase of the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme to support businesses in the hospitality, non-essential retail and garage/MOT sectors.

Vaccination

We are continuing to support the campaigns and initiatives with the CCG, Norfolk Public Health and other partners around encouraging vaccination uptake. The large-scale vaccination centre at Market Gates shopping centre has gone fully live, offering a more accessible town centre vaccination location, and our covid marshals are assisting with queue management.

The CCG is prioritising the current supply of vaccines for those needing second doses, while first doses are being prioritised for eligible people in hard-to-reach groups. As part of targeting those groups, the NHS Coronavirus Vaccination Bus is visiting Great Yarmouth. As part of our Community

Champions initiative, we have been door-knocking and posting leaflets in target areas to encourage eligible people to get their first dose on the bus.

Testing

We are supporting the national drive to encourage adults to get tested regularly as part of controlling the virus as restrictions ease. Norfolk Public Health has launched a new campaign highlighting all the ways people can access symptom-free testing kits and we are supporting that via our channels. More details around testing options [are available here](#). Great Yarmouth's main site for observed symptom-free testing is now located at 4 Market Row.

If I can be of any further assistance please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

james

James Bensly

Councillor - East Flegg

Councillors

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