



Seafront Newsletter 2020

We bring this newsletter to you during unprecedented times and are aware that many businesses are having an extremely tough time. We have tried to include information that may be helpful to your business at this time, along with an update on seafront activity over the forthcoming months.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative.

Business Advice and Loans

Portsmouth City Council Business Update

During this time, advice and updates are constantly changing, and we are strongly advising Portsmouth Businesses to check the [PCC Business Advice Page](#) or call the business support line on **023 9284 1641** for regular updates.

If you have already applied for the small business grant fund or retail, hospitality and leisure grant, we are making payments as quickly as possible.

As of Tuesday 5 May 2020, Portsmouth City Council had made over £31 million in payments, around 75% of the businesses eligible. Portsmouth City Council is still awaiting information from businesses and so they cannot make the payments until that is complete. Please make sure all information is sent in if you have applied for a government loan or grant.

National Schemes

Top-up to local business grant scheme

This is a discretionary fund which has been set up to accommodate certain small businesses who have found themselves outside the scope of the business grant fund scheme. This is aimed at small businesses with ongoing fixed property-related costs.

Bounce Back Loan Scheme

This loan scheme enables businesses to obtain a six-year loan at a government set interest rate of 2.5% a year and the government guarantees 100% of the loan. The government will cover interest payable in the first year. The scheme is open to most businesses, regardless of turnover, who meet the eligibility such as a credit check.

There are many other areas of business support so please contact the Business Support line for a conversation specific to your circumstances 023 9284 1641 (Mon- Fri 7am-7pm). They also have a regular e-bulletin which you can sign up for [here](#).

Seafront Staff

A new team of Community Advisors has been created, redeploying staff from the museums and libraries to provide a mobile walking team across the public open spaces especially at weekends. This team are walking the seafront during busier days, providing pro-active social distancing advice and general information to local people. They are also engaging with the public on where seafront offers have started to re-open as well as ensuring that the public safely use the seafront infrastructure. In addition, the Seafront Team are also working hard, carrying out essential security checks and repairs as they would be doing this time of year.

Seafront Roads

Sections of the seafront roads currently remain closed to vehicles to enable more local people to walk, run, and cycle safely while social distancing. The closures are in place between The Ocean at the End of the Lane (western end of Canoe Lake) and St George's Road and The D-Day Story car park and Hovertravel.

The most up to date information about parking across the seafront can be found on the Council's website [here](#).

Events

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, it is with deepest regret that we have cancelled the events programme this summer.

We have been closely monitoring Government advice and were hopeful we could at least deliver some of the programme. However, the UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy clearly recognises that public events present a high risk to public health and therefore it will not be possible to hold large scale public gatherings at this stage and for the months ahead.

We want to thank all our partners, suppliers and traders for pulling together what would have been a great programme and we hope to bring this to you next summer.

We encourage everyone to continue to support our emergency services, who provide invaluable support at all our events and we thank them for all their work which is proving so vital at this time.

Parks and Open Spaces

The Parks and Open Spaces Team remain busy during this period. The summer bedding will start to be delivered from 18 May and this will be planted up over the following three weeks. An incredible 70,000 bedding plants are planted out by the team during this time. Hanging baskets will also be delivered and start to be erected on the lampposts around the city from the first week of June.

Across the city and in accordance with Government guidelines, our public tennis and golfing sites are reopening. On the seafront both Canoe Lake Leisure and Southsea Tennis Club have now reopened to members and are operating in accordance with the Lawn Tennis Association's guidelines. We hope their public pay & play offers will be opening in the near future.

Take Away Food Offers across the Seafront

Some of the businesses and concessions that are able to open are doing so, with changes in place to make sure they follow the restrictions and abide by social distancing to ensure customer safety. Food related businesses are advised to seek up to date information on necessary adjustments from Environmental Health prior to opening and to ensure that they adhere to safe social distancing measures especially in regards to potential customer queues and their wider context.

For specific advice please contact the City Helpdesk: cityhelpdesk@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Other Services

Public toilets across the seafront continue to remain open during this time with additional attendance to check and clean sites so they are visited at least twice per day. Extra measures have been put in place to ensure touch points are remaining sanitised. The seasonally opened toilets at the Pyramids Centre and Southsea Castle remain closed at the current time but this is being regularly reviewed.

The RNLI have confirmed that due to challenges with their seasonal training programme they anticipate they will only be able to support one area this summer. The lifeguard provision will return to the beach on schedule from 4 July and it is expected that this support service will be located to the east of South Parade Pier. A programme of messaging around their changed provision will be supported during June to ensure the public are aware.

D-Day 76

What a difference a year makes.

Last year, the 75th anniversary of D-Day was commemorated nationally and internationally, with Portsmouth at the very heart of these commemorations. This year, due to the restrictions in place, it is unfortunately not possible to have any physical gatherings or memorial services. Instead we will bring people together to compare and contrast the two anniversaries through The D-Day Story's social media channels, sharing images of the commemorations last year and encouraging the public to share their own. The D-Day Story volunteer team will also share their personal thoughts on why we should remember D-Day.

The museum will follow the day-by-day build up to 6th June 1944 by sharing relevant objects from the collection on social media. | There will also be a drive to increase financial donations to the museum, to help keep the story of the veterans alive, and of course encourage future visits once the museum is allowed to re-open.

How can people get involved?

- Follow The D-Day Story on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- Share your photos with #DifferenceAYearMakes

Or you can email photos to theddaystory@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

LCT 7074 at The D-Day Story

LCT 7074 is one of the last surviving examples of the enormous landing crafts that carried tanks and personnel across to Normandy during the D-Day Landings. Work has recently restarted both on the seafront where she will have her new home and behind the scenes as plans and infrastructure are worked on and finalised for the interpretation of this amazing craft. It is hoped that she will move from the Naval Base where she is being restored in August or September, arriving by sea and then transported down the seafront road to the museum. The two tanks that used to be outside the museum will be displayed on the new craft which will open as soon as we can safely do so.

Conserving and opening LCT 7074 is a joint project between The D-Day Story and the National Museum of the Royal Navy, with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Marine license granted for Southsea Coastal Scheme

The majority of the team delivering the Southsea Coastal Scheme are working from home during this time. But progress has not stopped, work on the design and plans for the scheme, necessary processes and licenses as well as exploration of further funding opportunities have continued.

The scheme has now been granted Marine License by the Marine Management Organisation. The licence is effectively a planning permission for any works carried out below a certain water level. After being granted full planning permission in December last year, this is the next big milestone for the Scheme. Construction work on the first section of defences, at Long Curtain Moat, is still planned to begin later this year.

To find out more go to: www.southseacoastalscheme.org.uk

HIVE Portsmouth

As the city's official community hub, HIVE Portsmouth is working with the council, NHS Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group and Solent NHS Trust to coordinate support for vulnerable people and groups. HIVE Portsmouth have helped since the start of the lockdown period and we wanted to use this newsletter to ensure the contact details are known. If you are or someone you know can't find help online, please call their **dedicated helpline on 023 9268 8004**. This line is currently open from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

HIVE Portsmouth has developed a directory of Portsmouth businesses that are delivering locally, which are shown in the map. It's updated every week and if you'd like your business added, please email: steffan@victorousevents.co.uk.

If you would like to volunteer or donate to The HIVE, visit the HIVE [here](#).

The Latest Government Advice Surrounding COVID-19

Stay alert. Control the virus. Save lives.

We can all help control the virus if we all stay alert. This means you must:

- **Stay at home as much as possible**
- **Work from home if you can**
- **Limit contact with other people**
- **Keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)**
- **Wash your hands regularly**

Self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

At the time this newsletter was distributed, this was the latest government advice. For regular updates and further information visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus. To view all the latest health advice, visit [NHS UKs coronavirus information](#)