

Kedington Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 26 January 2021

Joint Report from District Councillors Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook

Firstly Happy New Year – although it would be nice to have a better start. Please find below a brief outline from us, if you would like further details please let us know.

Grants

The **Local Restrictions Support Grant** is available for all rate-paying businesses required to close as a result of the Tier 4 and/or national lockdown restrictions. Payments are now available for the period covering 26 December 2020 onwards. Government criteria apply. Although we don't know our funding allocation yet, we are still inviting businesses to make an application.

The **Additional Restrictions Grant** (ARG) to many businesses who were not eligible for other grants but who have been required to close, as well as business who are part of supply chain for closed businesses. The ARG grant is open to:

- Small bed and breakfast businesses
- Market traders selling “non-essential” goods
- Businesses that occupy shared spaces that are required to close
- Home based businesses that are required to close
- Mobile businesses that are required to close
- Businesses in the supply chain for the retail, hospitality, leisure, events and tourism sectors
- Community centres attached to places of worship.

The closing date for applications for ARG January/February is 15 February 2021.

The third grant scheme is linked to the national lockdown from 5 January 2021, with the Government announcing a one-off **Closed Business Lockdown Payment** for businesses in retail, hospitality and leisure that have been forced to close.

This is subject to Government criteria with grants of £4000, £6000 or £9000 available based on the rateable value of business premises. The Council are inviting businesses to make an application but have not had the amount they will receive confirmed.

Home, But Not Alone phonenumber

We have reported on this before. The Home, But Not Alone free phonenumber remains open, supports vulnerable people in our communities who may be struggling with the impact of coronavirus.

It has now supported many people through the lockdowns and the Council are getting good feedback from users

The telephone number is **freephone 0800 876 6926** and will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

This Home, But Not Alone phoneline compliments The Suffolk Advice and Support Service phoneline (0800 068 3131) which helps those with debt, benefits employment or housing worries. This phoneline, also delivered by the Collaborative Communities COVID-19 Board, is staffed by the Citizens Advice Suffolk Alliance, which includes the eight Citizens Advice Bureaus across Suffolk, and Anglia Care Trust and Ipswich Housing Action Group. Call handlers use resources and information from across many Suffolk organisations and specialist providers, which can be tailored to individual needs.

Winter Homelessness Update

Anyone who sees or suspects someone is rough sleeping, that they report it to www.streetlink.org.uk.

Locality Budget

Each of your district councillors are given a locality budget each year. What we do not spend we lose, please let us know if there is anything you can think of that we can help fund. As we all know so many local clubs and associations have lost funding this year.

Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook