



**CITY OF DURHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**

Learning from the past.
Building for the future.

CoDPC Bulletin 2

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL COVID-19 COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Covid-19 stats for our area

The good news, insofar as there is good news, is that Councillor Roger Cornwell has noted that in the last seven days there have been 220 new cases of Covid-19 in the Durham City MSOA, leading to a rate per 100,000 of 1520. This figure may be depressed due to lower reporting at the weekend, but there are now two places in the Country worse than Durham. And the numbers now are around 28% of what they were at the peak.

The less good news is that night-time conduct is threatening that good news and our position in Tier 2. Everyone has seen videos which have appeared online showing large crowds of young people gathering in the City and outside shops and licensed premises. What is clear from these videos is that rules around social distancing and large group gatherings are clearly being flouted. The Parish Council has written to the Chief Constable of Durham Police to ask what additional measures are being put in place. The Parish Council is concerned about the impact that their actions are having on everyone in our community because businesses and people's livelihoods will suffer if we are forced to go into a Tier 3 lockdown situation.

Durham University's Covid-19 community group

Three Parish Councillors are members of the University Covid 19 Community Group and also its two sub groups: HMO Communications and Safe Student Lettings. Other stakeholders include landlords, DSU, DCC and Purpose Built Student Accommodation Blocks. All meet regularly coordinating efforts to keep infection rates down across the city. One priority is devising a protocol for Covid safe viewing of student properties, the joint ownership of which by students and landlords is vital to preventing spread of the virus.

Reporting Reminder

The Parish Council wishes to re-emphasise the importance of everyone calling 101 if they see or suspect a breach of Covid-19 regulations, including anti-social behaviour, large gatherings and parties. If the police cannot immediately attend, they will pass the information over to the University who will send out their Security Community Response team. There is information on their web page (www.dur.ac.uk/coronavirus/residents/).

...AND IN OTHER NEWS

Neighbourhood Wardens

A report from the Parish Council's new Neighbourhood Warden is on our website here:

<http://cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk/2020/10/29/latest-durham-city-neighbourhood-warden-report-october-2020/>

This report details actions taken in our warden's first month of the agreement we have with the County Council. In particular, it is worth noting that he and the City Police Beat Team now conduct daily patrols of all areas of Durham including North Road and the Bus Station several times daily and move on people loitering or confiscate alcohol under the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) we have in Durham City.

Fighting Plastics

At its most recent Full Council meeting, Councillors agreed to provide £5,000 funding (divided equally) to all the local schools in our parish to launch a challenge to eradicate single-use plastics. See more about the key decisions taken at the last Full Parish Council meeting here: <http://cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk/2020/10/22/city-of-durham-parish-council-key-decisions-october-2020/>

Remembrance Day and Poppies

The Parish Council, which is now responsible for the Remembrance Day parade in Durham City, has agreed that the Parade cannot take place this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This is in line with all other areas of the UK.

In its place, Councillors agreed to launch a "Sponsor a Poppy" appeal using the poppies knitted by local Women's Institute groups and local volunteer residents. The Parish Council hopes that, with the agreement of the County Council, these poppies can be displayed at the Town Hall.

The Parish Council has also agreed to fund the training of local ex-servicemen in partnership with the Finchale Group as part of a "looking to the future" Remembrance project.

Virtual Christmas Market

The annual Christmas market in Durham City has unfortunately been cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The market has become not only one of the most popular annual activities of the Holiday Season and an annual tradition for many families, but is also a key time where traders are able to showcase and sell their products to shoppers. A number of small, handmade, and family-owned businesses usually rely on local fairs and events for their seasonal sales and the cancelling of the market in Durham City will undoubtedly have an impact for these businesses.

In order to address this, the Parish Council, together with the Indoor Market Company, is funding and hosting a virtual Durham City Christmas market this year.

It is expected that this virtual market will last a total of 10 days (beginning from the last weekend in November 2020) and will host a wide range of stalls, each selling a variety of product categories.

In order to achieve this, a specialist website will need to be created and promoted online and via social media.

All of the usual local stall holders who have a presence at the annual market will be invited to participate in the virtual market and the Parish Council is working with other local Independent businesses in our parish to get them involved in this exciting event.

GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES: Please continue to follow all of the latest local advice from the Government, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

