



**CITY OF DURHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**

Learning from the past.
Building for the future.

CoDPC Bulletin 3

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL COVID-19 COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Covid-19 stats for our area

The latest Covid-19 stats for our area are as follows:

Durham City MSOA: Population 14,473; New Case Sum 131; New Cases Rate 905.10

Langley Moor and Nevilles Cross MSOA: Population 14,775; New Case Sum 25; New Cases Rate 169.20

These are 7 day rates per 100,000 population. Based on data up to 28 October 2020 (displays the latest 7 days for which near-complete data — release date minus 5 days — are available).

Social media videos showing large gatherings in Durham City

Earlier this week the Parish Council was made aware of yet more large gathering in Durham City of young people outside licensed premises and shops. The Parish Council immediately contact Durham Police and Durham County Council to express concern about this activity and its potential impact on spreading the virus. Durham Police brought in extra resources on Wednesday evening to police the City and Durham County Council's Neighbourhood Wardens have been working up until midnight to provide additional support.

We are pleased to say that, with the additional resources added to the City, no incidents of such gatherings were reported from Wednesday. The Parish Council was concerned that the City may have been much busier than usual with some viewing this as a "last night pre-lockdown jolly" but this does not appear to have been the case.

Our thanks as always to Durham Police and to Durham County Council Officer for their work in helping to keep our City safe.

Durham University's Covid-19 community group

Under the new lockdown rules, schools and Universities are able to remain open. Durham University has recently issued a letter to all of its students to say:

"Covid-19 breaches among our community, if necessary, will be dealt with under our Non-academic Misconduct Disciplinary Procedure, which carries expulsion from the University as its most extreme penalty. A record of the visit will be maintained by the University and the outcome of this visit will be shared with Durham Constabulary Police University Liaison.

We all have a part to play in keeping each other safe and both the University and the local community in Durham are looking to you to be responsible citizens and observe Covid-19 legislation and guidelines at all times.

In joining Durham University, you committed to upholding our Student Pledge which sets out what we mean by being a responsible citizen during the global pandemic. The Community Response Team will give you a copy of the Student Pledge with this letter.

Please show an understanding that the Covid-19 pandemic is a challenging time for everyone and behave in a way that recognises and respects the concerns of other students, local residents and the wider community.

Universities around the UK are experiencing localised Covid-19 outbreaks and undertaking varying measures to prevent the virus spreading. We want to do everything possible to avoid an outbreak here in Durham – and we need your help in achieving this”.

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/).

During October the Police referred 38 incidents, reported to them via 101, to the Community Response Team. Only one of these turned out to be a clear breach of the Covid-19 regulations and another seven were suspected breaches. All of these eight were reported back to the police for further action.

Support for local businesses

A reminder to all local businesses that the Parish Council has contracted the services of local retail consultant Graham Soutl to provide free-of-charge support to local businesses at this difficult time. Anyone wishing to contact Graham can do so via e-mail at graham@cannyinsights.com

In addition to this, a reminder that Durham County Council has a page which provides all of the latest updates on financial support available to businesses across the County. Further details can be found here: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/22965/Covid-19-business-support-latest-updates>

...AND IN OTHER NEWS

Parish Council’s cascading poppy display at Durham Town Hall and “Sponsor a Poppy” Appeal.

Thousands of knitted poppies have been produced by Parish Council, together with the support of Durham County Council, local volunteer residents, local WIs, a local art group and local businesses, in what has been hailed as “a remarkable joint community effort during lockdown” by the City of Durham Parish Chair Cllr Elizabeth Scott.

2020 is an incredibly important year of Remembrance. This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the evacuation of allied soldiers from Dunkirk, the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Japan (VJ) Day and the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. 100 years ago on Nov 11th 1920, two Unknown Soldiers were simultaneously interred at ceremonies in London and Paris.

Earlier this year, the Parish Council marked the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain with a model Hawker Hurricane fighter plane on display in Durham Market Place and an art exhibition of the Battle of Britain in Durham Town Hall.

The cascading poppy display forms part of the Parish Council’s “Sponsor a Poppy” appeal; an appeal launched in support of the Royal British Legion following the news that 12,000 of the 40,000 poppy sellers nationally were having to shield due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Parish Council decided to launch this appeal in order to support the Royal British Legion who have faced a financial hit this November due to the pandemic.

Details of how to support this funding campaign can be found on our website here:

<http://cityofdurham-pc.gov.uk/2020/11/05/parish-council-support-royal-british-legion-funding-campaign/>

Remembrance Day and “looking to the future” Remembrance project

Added to the knitted poppy project, the Parish Council has also provided funding towards the training of veterans and ex-service personnel to the Finchale Group, based here in Durham, as part of a “looking to the future” Remembrance project and the Group is providing skills training to get people back into employment.

The Parish Council will also be marking Remembrance Day at Durham Cathedral and will be laying a wreath at the Garden of Remembrance and at the DLI statue in the Durham Market Place this weekend, in accordance with Government Guidelines.

Greening our Parish

Earlier this year, the Parish Council was successful in securing over 300 trees from the Woodland Trust and we are expecting these to arrive this month.

Over the course of this calendar year alone, the Parish Council has planted 114 trees at the Sands and local volunteer residents and local schools have supported us with the planting of over 7,000 spring bulbs. We cannot wait to see these grow and a huge thank you to everyone for their support.

In addition to this, the Parish Council has agreed funding towards the Weir Rivers Trust to help tackle the issue of invasive species along the riverbanks and is also funding a scheme at the top of North Road by the roundabout as part of a greening/ designing out of anti-social behaviour for the area.

The Parish Council has also agreed £7,000 worth of funding towards an alternative “greening up the Parish project” as an alternative to Durham in Bloom having been cancelled this year due to Covid-19. We are working closely with our partners Durham County Council on this.

Virtual Christmas Market

A reminder that 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 advice from the Government, following the announcement that we are to go into a national lockdown until at least 2nd December. All the latest Government advice can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

