

# Coronavirus Update 2

## **Community Response launched (March 24)**

A dedicated telephone line has been set up to support residents self-isolating due to the Coronavirus (COVID -19).

The Trafford Community Response Line gives residents a direct line to the help they need to get through their period of self-isolation due to the virus.

It has been set up by a number of key Trafford organisations including Citizens Advice Bureau, Trafford Council, Trafford Housing Trust and voluntary sector infrastructure organisation Thrive alongside a range of enthusiastic and committed local community groups who have mobilised to help.

Residents can call the number on 0300 3309073 for help with shopping, telephone support and food parcels. Callers to this number, which will be operational from Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm, will be signposted to one of five Trafford Community Response Hubs in Altrincham, Gorse Hill, Partington, Sale and Urmston. These hubs are also being set up by voluntary and community sector organisations based in Trafford.

The community response to COVID-19 has been incredible and there are many voluntary organisations looking to recruit volunteers to help support the work of the Trafford Community Response Hubs. If you have skills and time that you would like to offer please do contact us via this link <http://www.thrivetrafford.org.uk/news/coronavirus-covid-19-trafford-response-how-you-can-give-help-or-get-help-locally/>. You can register your interest here and we can put you in touch with organisations that need more volunteers.

## **Funeral services**

We regret to announce that having listened to government advice on social distancing we are restricting attendance at chapel services at Altrincham Crematorium Chapel to immediate family only with a maximum of 10 mourners.

These new measures will protect the health and wellbeing of bereaved families as well as staff. Families will be encouraged to wait in their cars or outside the Chapel ahead of services, as the waiting room in the Chapel is closed to reduce the risk of infection. Extra cleaning processes are in place at the Chapel and Crematorium.

Service books have also been removed from Chapels as a precaution and hand shaking is also being discouraged with ministers, celebrants and funeral directors until further notice.

### **Temporary closure of Flixton House**

Linked to yesterday evening's Prime Ministerial announcement, we are sorry to announce that weddings and all social events at Flixton House have temporarily been postponed in a bid to help stop the spread of COVID -19.

The decision comes as all social venues across the UK are required to close their doors and the public urged to stay home and limit all but essential travel in an attempt to stamp-out the coronavirus.

The knock-on effect means that some weddings and events will need to be rescheduled. The Council will be monitoring and reviewing the situation and will provide residents with updates on when the venue will reopen.

### **Recycling Centres close until further notice**

Following government guidance, Trafford's two household recycling centres (HWRC) have closed to the public with immediate effect. More than 46,000 people visited 20 recycling centres at the weekend making it impossible to implement the government's critical advice on social distancing.

The decision comes as social venues have closed and the public are urged to stay home and limit all but essential travel in order to further limit the spread of coronavirus. Trips to dispose of waste are not deemed essential journeys.

The sites, located at Chester Road, Stretford and Woodhouse Lane (off Sinderland Road), Altrincham, will not be operational until further notice. The same situation applies to HMRCs elsewhere in GM.

The waste treatment sites will still be operational – and managed by contractor SUEZ. The situation will be reviewed in the coming weeks – and recycling centres will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Council is very much aware that having to pause residential green bin collections because of staffing issues linked to COVID19 will have contributed to the additional journeys referred to above. For now, residents are being asked to dispose of any waste that would have gone into their green bin into their grey bin.

### **Trafford Pride cancelled**

Unfortunately this year's Pride in Trafford event has also been cancelled due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic.

The event, which was due to take place from May 13 to 17 across Trafford, has sadly been called off following advice and guidance from the Government with regards to the social distancing rules.

Pride in Trafford, a partnership between the Mayor of Trafford, Trafford Council and Waterside Arts, will hopefully return next year once the fears over the spread of COVID-19 the current restrictions have been lifted.

### **Business Grants Funds**

The Chancellor has announced a number of measures to support businesses, one of which is the award of business grants to eligible businesses with a rateable value of up to £51k and we are currently writing to all eligible businesses. The types of grants being given to businesses falls in to two schemes.

**Scheme 1 – Business Support Grants (Small Business Rates Relief) -**

You will be eligible for a grant payment of £10,000 if you are in receipt of rural rate relief or small business rates relief\*

**Scheme 2 – Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund**

You will be eligible for a grant payment of £25,000 where your rateable value is greater than £15,000 and less than £51,000.

This is a grant which does not have to be repaid. The grant is intended to help businesses meet their on-going costs. There are no conditions attached to receiving this money and therefore if you have received a letter we urge you to return it as soon as possible.

For full details of the eligibility criteria please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding>