



Weekly News Bulletin for Community and Voluntary Groups, Town and Parish Councils, Partners and Hub Update Subscribers

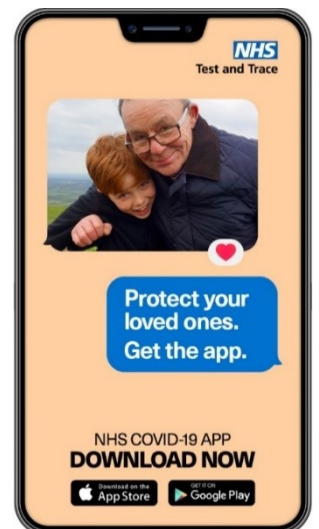
Updates from the Community Support Hub

NHS Test and Trace app – Please continue to encourage your communities to download and use the app to keep people safe and West Berkshire open. In addition to the content supplied in last week's Hub Bulletin, you are also welcome to share the following with your community/ies:

This is a reminder to download the app to help protect yourself and your loved ones by having an extra tool in your armoury against COVID-19. The app acts as a pocket friend to equip you with the latest COVID-19 guidance, check into local venues, check your symptoms, book a test, and advise you of your local risk level. And, it helps the NHS Test and Trace service to understand how and where the virus is moving, so they can take the necessary measures to contain the virus. The NHS COVID-19 app tracks the spread of the virus, not individuals – to register you provide the first half of your post code.

The [NHS COVID-19 app](#) has six key features:

1. **Trace** – alerts you if you were in close contact with a confirmed case
2. **Alert** – provides you the risk level associated with coronavirus in your local area, based on the postcode district you enter (first half of your postal code)
3. **Check in** - allows you check in to locations via the App
4. **Symptoms** – allows you to check symptoms against government guidance and to get advice
5. **Test** – allows you to order a free test and to receive results and advice via the App
6. **Isolate** – provides an 'isolation 'companion' which counts down how many days left to isolate and provides links to useful advice



[Watch this video](#) of West Berkshire Council Leader Lynne Doherty talking about the importance of using the App and showing how to use it.



New £500 Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme – The Government has announced that those on lower incomes who have to self isolate and cannot work from home and have lost income as a result will be eligible for a new £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.

The Council is working hard to put this scheme into place for our district, and will announce by 12 October on the website how the payment can be applied for.

Applicants will need to provide proof of a positive Covid test or an instruction to self-isolate as well as evidence that their income has been affected. Those who are told to self-isolate from 28 September will receive backdated payments, if they are eligible.

Recording available of the Covid-19 Update held on 28 September on Facebook – If you weren't able to join this event, you can view the [video recording](#).



Leader of West Berkshire Council Lynne Doherty, and Head of Public Health and Wellbeing Matt Pearce discussed the latest work being done to support residents and businesses. They also thanked all the community and volunteer groups for all of their work during the pandemic to support the community.



Government's Latest News and Guidance on Covid-19

New legal duty to self-isolate is now in force - [The government announced](#) on 28 September that residents in England will be required by law to self-isolate if they test positive or are contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

This law has been introduced to ensure compliance with self-isolation rules and to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

Two key pieces of guidance have been updated to include the new legal requirements for self-isolation:

- Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus infection who do not live with the person [HERE](#)
- Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection [HERE](#)

The High Sheriff of Berkshire invites community volunteers to a Community Group Roundtable, Thursday 8 October 2020, 6-7 pm, via Zoom (Free)

All those who have been involved with voluntary and community groups in meeting the needs of their local communities during the COVID crisis are warmly invited to join this zoom interactive event.

The free event aims to celebrate the impact that these groups have made this year, discuss how groups are adapting for the future, identify any support needed for next steps, and share advice and information.

The Hub has been asked to say a few words about the fantastic work that has been carried out by groups in West Berkshire so it would be great to see you all there!

"Share success, learn from each other, be supported"

The High Sheriff of Berkshire invites you to a

Community Group Roundtable

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2020 | 6:00-7:00PM
VIA ZOOM

Celebrate the impact community groups have made this year, share success, advice and information and explore how groups are adapting for the future.

Mary Riall is the current High Sheriff of Berkshire. She has responded to the needs created by the pandemic by focussing on supporting volunteering and community action across the county.

The Roundtable will be hosted by Mary, supported by volunteers and representatives from Berkshire Community Foundation and the Community Support Hub. [Register on Eventbrite](#).

New Webinar for West Berkshire: Keeping Village Halls safe and informed about Covid-19 Rules & Regulations - Wednesday 21 October, 10.30am - 12.00pm

The charity Connecting Communities in Berkshire ([CCB](#)) has organised this webinar for Trustees/Volunteers who run community buildings/village halls in West Berkshire.

Places are limited and booked on a first come, first served basis, with priority being given to halls operating within West Berkshire.

This training will cover:

- Management Committee concerns about the safety of activities that regular hirers want to start providing
- Hygiene requirements
- Shared responsibilities and working with Hirers
- Flexibility through the expected 'phases' and 'changes' during the pandemic
- Latest government updates regarding hirers and what is/isn't allowed in community buildings
- Facilitate Frequently Asked Questions session and a chance for volunteers/trustees to share knowledge and experiences



Free to [CBAS](#) members, £15 to CCB members and £25 to non members. The West Berkshire Adult Community Learning team has provided support for this learning opportunity.

Dementia Friends Information Session and Toolkit for Volunteers



The Dementia Friends initiative can support volunteers who may not have experience of supporting people living with dementia and their families in their communities. Becoming a Dementia Friend simply means finding out more about how dementia affects a person – and then, armed with this understanding, doing small everyday things that help.

Dementia Friendly West Berkshire is offering to deliver virtual Dementia Friends Information Sessions via zoom or Microsoft Teams. If you would like to know more about becoming a Dementia Friend or to book a session for your community, please contact Viki Rowland at Victoria.Rowland@AgeUKBerkshire.org.uk. Alternatively, volunteers can complete online training individually via the Dementia Friends website www.dementiafriends.org.uk.

In addition, Alzheimer's Society has created a ['top tips' information toolkit](#) with simple things a volunteer can do to support people living with dementia.

Good news stories – please keep them coming in!

We love to feature your good news stories on our social media and [Hub Facebook](#) page and you can find more about the wonderful work of West Berkshire's volunteers on our [Local Heroes](#) website. Please contact us to share your stories and volunteer photos. It's a great way to say a public thank you to your volunteers and your local community.

With our grateful thanks and best wishes, The Hub Team.

Please ensure that all queries about any individual cases are directed to the Hub via the general email westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk or by calling 01635 503579. This is to ensure they are dealt with promptly, effectively and in line with guidelines on dealing with vulnerable adults.