

Tourism Matters - Coronavirus and Tourism update 4th June

This week in Tourism Matters there is more on Thanet's Discretionary Business Grants scheme, and an update relating to some of the beach issues we have been facing. We have some news of our own to share with you and quite a full 'Your News' section.

If you know somebody who would like to read our e-news, please forward it on, or let them know they can register to receive it themselves on www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters

Thanet District Council

Thanet's Discretionary Business Grants scheme launched at 4pm on Monday, 1 June.

The council will be distributing £1.66m of Central Government funding to local businesses that submit eligible applications.

The scheme is aimed at those businesses that didn't qualify for the previous round of business grants, that have been affected by Covid-19. Eligible businesses include B&Bs which pay Council Tax instead of business rates (this excludes properties that operate on the Airbnb platform); regular market traders with fixed building costs; charity properties in receipt of charitable business rates relief; boat charters and the identified priority business including design, film, TV, radio, photography, music, performance arts and visual arts.

The scheme will be administered in accordance with the [guidance issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy \(BEIS\)](#) on Friday 22nd May 2020.

To check your eligibility and apply online, [click here](#)

Please note that the deadline to submit an application is 11:59pm Monday 15 June 2020 so we urge you to check now.

When applying, it's important that you select the correct category. If you choose the wrong one there is a danger you may be rejected.

We've also seen businesses claiming under the 'Other' category, even if they don't meet any of the eligibility criteria. We know these are difficult times but we ask that you please refrain from doing this. The application will be rejected and it takes up precious processing resources.

Beach Management Plan

Following the recent influx of visitors to the district as a result of the Government's easing of restrictions, the council is developing a Beach Management Plan to help protect our beautiful coastline. It will set out the actions that both the council and key stakeholders are undertaking to ensure the safe and appropriate use of local beaches as well as what we expect from members of the public. More details to follow in the next issue.

Bay Inspectors and Beach Huts

As beach hut provision around the UK is reintroduced, Your Leisure are now in the process of implementing further preparation arrangements to get the beach hut service re-open.

- From **Monday 8 June**, private beach huts owners at Westbrook, St.Mildred's and West Bay will be invited to make arrangements for their huts to be positioned.
- From **Monday 15 June**, private beach hut owners at Stone Bay, Viking Bay, Louisa Bay, Dumpton Gap and Minnis Bay will be invited to make arrangements for their huts to be positioned.

Your Leisure is now in the process of contacting customers to advise them of the above dates and to outline some additional information relating to contractors and the hut transportation and positioning.

To assist with bay management and positioning of beach huts, bay inspectors will be in situ from 8 June (Westbrook, St.Mildreds, West Bay) and 15 June (Stone, Viking Louisa, Dumpton & Minnis).

All beach huts are to be positioned by **Friday 26 June**, in order for final checks to be completed to make the anticipated re-opening of beach hut use in early July.

Government Information

Self Employment Support Scheme (SEISS) extended and furlough next steps

Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, announced on 29 May that the SEISS will be extended, with those eligible able to claim a second and final grant capped at £6,570.

Further details on the extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, including improved flexibility to bring furloughed employees back part time in July, a new taper requiring employers to contribute modestly to furloughed salaries from August.

Further information on both updates can be found [here](#)

Other Government Updates

Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme now live

Employers with fewer than 250 employees can now claim for up to two weeks of coronavirus-related Statutory Sick Pay (SSP). In order to file a claim, businesses must be registered with PAYE Online and must have already paid employees' SSP. Forms are open for employers to [check whether they are eligible](#) and [file a claim online](#).

NHS Test and Trace Service

Guidance on the [NHS test and trace service for employers, businesses and workers](#) has been published. The new guidance means that anyone who has been in close contact with someone who tests positive for Covid-19 must self-isolate for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms. This guidance explains how employers and businesses can play their part in the NHS test and trace programme to slow the spread of the virus, protect the health and care system and save lives.

[VisitBritain/VisitEngland](#)

New industry standard in development in response to COVID-19

We mentioned before that VisitBritain/VisitEngland are working on a common industry standard quality mark that would provide a 'ring of confidence' for tourism businesses, attractions and destinations, as well as reassurance to visitors that businesses have clear processes in place as restrictions are lifted.

We understand that a draft is with DCMS and that details of the new standard will be available around 15 June.

We appreciate businesses wish to prepare as much as possible, as soon as possible, so in the meantime it may be worth having a look at the information on the [UK Hospitality Industry website](#)

[Visit Kent](#)

Visit Kent's 'Maximising opportunities across google solutions' webinar, delivered by Sleeping Giant Media, takes place on Wednesday 10 June from 10am to 12pm. If you have not already done so, you can register [here](#).

If you missed their previous Business Resilience Webinars, you can catch-up on them [here](#) including

- Learning to adapt and diversify your product
- Communicating in a crisis
- Creating virtual content

[Tourism Service News](#)

Changes to the lockdown restrictions and phased recovery plans being announced has got us thinking. Have you been contemplating the way forward for your business? Do you have any questions that we can help with, or find out answers for you?

At the moment, more than ever, communication is key. So if you have ideas and suggestions you would like to share or questions you would like answered, please let us know by email to tourism@thanet.gov.uk

We will share these (if you are happy for us to do so) and our answers via these weekly updates as they could spark more ideas or opportunities for partnership working, or answer questions that other industry colleagues would like answers to as well.

Visitors' Maps 2020/21

With some businesses starting to re-open we wanted to highlight that our Visitors' Maps for this year have been delivered and are ready to be distributed to venues who wish to have a supply. If you would like copies, please let us know on 01843 577577 or visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk.

The maps are aimed at cross-selling the destination and highlighting all there is to see and do. So, even if all venues are not open yet, it is worth getting the maps out there as they

could spark future visits and potentially overnight stays, all helping to support our wonderful tourism industry.

Safety and distancing signage

We have received a few enquiries about safety and distancing signage from venues planning to reopen. Our aim is to try and pull together some information on local providers to share with you next week. If you know of, or have used a local company for this, please let us have their details so we can share them.

Interreg Experience Development Programme

We are participating in the Interreg Experience Development Programme, which is designed to help businesses to take a new or adapted product idea, develop it, test it and take it to market. This programme is perfect for businesses thinking about how they can adapt their product and rebuild following lockdown. Working with Visit Kent, the programme offers businesses up to £6,000 in benefits, including 1 to 1 business support, promotion and market testing.

We will be sharing further information on this with you next week, but are always happy to hear from you now if you have a new product idea that you would like to be considered for this project. Please contact us on tourism@thanet.gov.uk

Your News

Broadstairs Town Shed ‘Shed Heads’ receive the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service

Congratulations to the 11 ‘Shed Head’ volunteers who oversee and manage the day-to-day running of the Shed, for receiving the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service. The award recognises the group for their commitment, dedication, donations of skills and time in helping other older people learn woodworking skills.

Representatives of the Shed will receive the award from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent later this summer. In addition, two volunteers from The Shed will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May 2021, along with other recipients of this year’s award.

Find out more about Broadstairs Town Shed and their award [here](#).

Joss Bay Surf School and Kent Surf School - Both surf schools have posted on instagram stating that they will be back offering lessons from Monday 1st June, observing government guidance on social distancing and hygiene and advice from Surfing England.

[Joss Bay Surf School](#) - 1 to 1 surf and sup lessons, plus group lessons with a ratio of 1:5, with limited equipment hire.

[Kent Surf School](#) - 3-4 trained instructors offering 1 to 1 surf and sup lessons, plus equipment hire.

Rascal Bay Adventure Golf

Rascal Bay at Manston is now open with a super-safe one way system in place, social distancing and sanitizers on every hole. First tee time is 9am, pre-booking online - www.rascalbay.co.uk/manston/

Quex Adventure Golf

Quex Adventure Golf in Birchington is due to re-open on 15 June - www.quexadventuregolf.co.uk

Hantverk and Found

From 4 June, Hantverk and Found will be offering collection-only sushi, with a small lunch selection and a bigger dinner menu. Details can be found [here](#).

Dive

Dive is a new taco shop on Margate's harbour arm, now open for collections. Find out more about them and check out their menu and details for ordering [here](#).

Bottega Caruso

From June, Bottega Caruso will be open Friday and Saturdays offering food and wine to take home as well as hot food and cold drinks for picnics. Check out their [website](#) for further information.