

## **Coronavirus and Tourism update**

Happy sunny Thursday tourism colleagues.

This week we have an update on the Discretionary Fund, good news about our coastal toilets and information on Visit Kent's business resilience webinars, even those that have already taken place.

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](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters)

### **Thanet District Council**

#### **Discretionary Fund update**

As you know, we have been working on a process and criteria to support as many relevant businesses as possible. The remaining details are being finalised and will be available from Monday 1 June should you wish to check the criteria. Thanet District Council's [Business Advice and Support website pages will have all the relevant information.](#)

#### **Update on coastal public toilets**

The main beach toilets will be open from Saturday 30 May. The following facilities will be open to the public from 10am to 5pm daily, including disabled facilities which will be accessible with a RADAR key:

- Minnis Bay;
- West Bay;
- St Mildred's Bay;
- Westbrook Bay;
- Botany Bay;
- Stone Bay;
- Dumpton Gap.

Toilets open already include:

- Margate Main Sands (Buenos Ayres/TS Eliot);
- Joss Bay;
- Viking Bay (Harbour Street);
- Ramsgate (near Wetherspoons).

Read the statement from Councillor Steve Albon, Cabinet Member for Operational Services [here.](#)

#### **Lifeguard provision**

We updated you on this last week, but thought it worth mentioning again that there will be RNLI lifeguard cover for Viking Bay from Saturday 30 May. This will be 7 days a week from 10am to 6pm. Lifeguard cover for Margate Main Sands will begin from Saturday 20 June. These are the only two Thanet beaches that the RNLI are able to cover. We are liaising with

the RNLI on what level of service can be provided elsewhere but as things stand currently there will be no cover at the other beaches.

We are using our social media accounts, including @visitthanet to put out safety messages linking to the [RNLI website](#) 'Protect your family at the beach' pages.

Other facilities unavailable on the beaches at the moment are general first aid and lost children's services.

### [Gov.uk](#)

#### **Latest guidance on accessing green spaces**

Guidance on [accessing green spaces in England](#) has been updated to include a provision for visiting ticketed gardens in line with social distancing guidelines. The guidance includes reference to beaches and water sports.

#### **Outdoor retail reopening 1 June, non-essential retail reopening on 15 June**

On Monday the [Prime Minister confirmed](#) that outdoor markets and car showrooms will be allowed to reopen on 1 June, and that all other non-essential retail including shops and department stores will begin reopening on 15 June.

#### **Updated guidance for shops and other retail spaces**

[Official guidance has been updated](#) for shops, branches and other retail spaces on working safely during COVID-19. Opening will be contingent on businesses following this guidance, and the Government will have the power to compel compliance.

#### **Other Government updates**

Businesses who are eligible for the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) are [now eligible to apply for the Local Authority Discretionary Fund](#).

### [VisitBritain/VisitEngland](#)

#### **English Tourism Week - 25 to 31 May**

There are still a couple of days of English Tourism Week left, so we have kept in the information that we included last week, should you wish to get involved.

VisitEngland's annual campaign aims to raise awareness of the value and contribution of the English tourism sector, and is taking place 'virtually' this year.

MPs and industry are being asked to tweet their support on social media with the hashtag #EnglishTourismWeek20. You can join in the campaign and download their specially designed 'I Support English Tourism' [here](#). VisitEngland will be sharing posts across their social media channels.

### [Visit Kent](#)

#### **Business Resilience Webinars**

Please see below the remaining free Business Resilience webinar. Just click on the link to register.

- Wednesday 10 June - 10am - 12pm  
[Maximising Opportunities Across Google Solutions](#) - delivered by Sleeping Giant Media

The previous webinars, 'Learning to adapt and diversify your product' and 'Communicating in a crisis' can be viewed [here](#) 'Creating virtual content', which took place on Thursday 28 May, will be available soon on the same link.