

12th June Tourism Matters - Discretionary Business Grants Scheme and Business Reopening

There is important news this week for non-essential retailers planning to open from 15 June. There's also a final call to businesses eligible for Thanet's Discretionary Business Grants Scheme as the 15 June deadline for applications is fast approaching. Plus, as promised, information in the 'Tourism Service News' section of local businesses who can help with safety and distance signage.

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 visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters

Thanet District Council

Guidance for businesses reopening on the High Street

The Government has confirmed that non-essential retailers can re-open from Monday 15 June, provided they have implemented the recommended Covid-19 safety guidelines.

To support businesses as they begin to reopen, the council will install high street signage, communicate directly with local retailers, offer practical 'Ready for reopening' information on the council's [website](#), as well as provide help via the Council's support line on 01843 577330 (open from Monday). Businesses can also contact the Kent and Medway Growth Hub for guidance or call their business support hotline on 03333 602 300 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 6.30pm).

Our High Streets will have new temporary signage to remind the public of the Government guidelines around social distancing and to encourage pedestrian flow to help maintain this, which will help people return to our high streets with confidence. It will be a phased approach with the focus on the High Streets in Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate, Westgate, Birchington and Northdown Road, Cliftonville to begin with.

Funding for this activity will come from the £126,456 from the [Reopening High Streets Safely Fund](#) to help adapt public spaces and communicate the changes. This new £50 million fund, allocated from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), has been introduced for all councils in England to help local businesses establish safe trading on the high streets. Receipt of this funding is dependent on it being used to support very specific activities in line with [guidelines](#)

Thanet's Discretionary Business Grants scheme

As mentioned last week, the council will be distributing £1.66m of Central Government funding to local businesses that submit eligible applications. **The deadline for applications is 11:59pm on Monday, 15 June 2020**

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 in the district 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 22 May 2020.

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

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

In response to some of the behaviour we've seen from visitors to our beaches in recent weeks, a dedicated Beach Management Plan has been put together to help members of the public enjoy the area safely. The emphasis of the plan is also for the public to be responsible in relation to parking, toilets, litter and social distancing.

The plan is a collaborative effort between the council and its various partners including the RNLI, Bay Inspectors, Concessions and Kent Police. The main aim is for people to visit Thanet knowing that our beaches are safe and clean.

On occasions, people have been flouting the rules, so we want to offer our local residents and responsible beach users reassurances that we will be taking a robust approach. In these circumstances anyone who disrespects our public spaces will be accountable. This means we will tackle the anti-social behaviour of a minority using all the tools we have available, including enforcement and fines where necessary. You can read the plan in more detail on our [website](#).

[Government Information](#)

Business Secretary launches working groups to help plan economic recovery

Business Secretary Alok Sharma is creating five new business-focused groups as part of the Government's plans to help the economy bounce back from the coronavirus pandemic.

Focused on five key themes, each group will explore how business can work with Government to deliver economic growth and jobs:

- The future of industry: How to accelerate business innovation and leverage private sector investment in research and development
- Green recovery: How to capture economic growth opportunities from the shift to net zero carbon emissions

- Backing new businesses: How to make the UK the best place in the world to start and scale a business
- Increasing opportunity: How to level up economic performance across the UK, including through skills and apprenticeships
- The UK open for business: How to win and retain more high value investment for the UK

Further details including membership of the five working groups will be published in due course.

Updated Covid-19 advice has been published for accommodation providers.

The advice still states that businesses providing holiday accommodation (including hotels, hostels, B&Bs, campsites, caravan parks, boarding houses, and short term lets) should remain closed for leisure related stays. No person should stay overnight away from their own home for a holiday or similar purpose.

Included in the guidance is advice for businesses who provide holiday accommodation and how they can accommodate those required to self-isolate. From 8 June, certain individuals travelling from overseas will be required by law to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. Businesses offering holiday accommodation can provide rooms to those required to self-isolate because they have arrived in England from outside the UK, or arrived in England from elsewhere in the UK but have within the preceding 14 days been outside the UK. Accommodation for these purposes should adhere to the same guidelines as for other permitted stays, including on social distancing and cleaning. [Read the full guidance on Gov.uk](#)

[VisitBritain/VisitEngland](#)

New industry standard in development in response to Covid-19

We understand that the new standard will be available around 15 June, so hopefully we will have information on this for you next week.

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

[Visit Kent](#)

Summer Industry Update - Friday, 19 June 2020, 3.30pm to 5pm

During this event, Visit Kent's CEO Deirdre Wells OBE will provide an update following the sector beginning to reopen, along with the latest information to support destination recovery. [Click here](#) to register.

Recovery Working Groups Blog

Visit Kent has produced a blog to summarise the Recovery Working Group sessions, which encompasses the key issues and gives a snapshot of some of the great innovative ideas from Kent businesses. You can read the blog [here](#)

[Other News](#)

Historic England announce Covid-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund

This Fund will award grants to help fund urgent maintenance, repairs and surveys at some of England's locally-cherished historic buildings and sites. Find out more [here](https://historicengland.org.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-har-fund/).(https://historicengland.org.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-har-fund/)

[Our News](#)

Interreg Experience Development Programme

As mentioned last week, we are participating in the Interreg Experience Development Programme.

We're looking to work with organisations, both traditional tourism businesses and businesses from other sectors from across Thanet to develop new experiential tourism products for the off-season. If you have a great idea for a new experience, an idea for collaborating with another business or an existing offer which could be adapted for a new audience, this programme could help you turn this into reality and take it to market through a package of dedicated support.

If you have an idea you would like to discuss, or if you would like further information, please contact us on tourism@thanet.gov.uk

Safety and distancing signage

Last issue we mentioned about providing details of local companies that are able to assist with safety and distancing signage for venues planning to reopen.

Posters and signs will be available to download for free and print yourself from www.thanet.gov.uk/highstreets. If you wish to purchase ready-printed signs, the businesses below are able to help.

- **Thanet District Council** - the Printing department can provide printing solutions to support social distancing in your businesses. Please see attached flyer for examples with size and price details. For further information or to place an order please email printing@thanet.gov.uk or ring 01843 577292
- **Premier Signs** - can provide graphics and plastic safety screens, with prices dependant on size, amount, material www.premiersigns-kent.co.uk/#screens or call 01843 843895 to discuss requirements
- **Lanes Printers** - able to assist with posters, signs and stickers with prices depending on size, amount and material <https://lanesprinters.co.uk/specialist-services/covid-19-services> or call 01843 861314. Have been providing complimentary posters to local businesses
- **All Sign Solutions** - able to design and make stickers (from £4) and screens (from £25) www.allsignsolutions.co.uk or call 01843 232016
- **Seaward Copy Shop** - able to provide posters A5 - A0 which can be collected from the contactless point set up at the shop or be delivered where possible. They have a number of free poster packs available which they have been giving out to businesses www.copyprint.uk.com or 01843 602557

Your News

Margate Caves

Congratulations to Margate Caves for winning the South East RICS Social Impact Award 2020 for Heritage.

www.margatecaves.co.uk/2020/06/11/rics-social-impact-awards/

Petticoat Lane Emporium

Petticoat Lane Emporium has announced they will officially reopen on 15 June with safety measures in place, new decor and a few other surprises.

www.facebook.com/petticoatlaneemporium/