**Tourism Matters - Beach Matters**

Dear Tourism Colleague

As we head into the main summer season we wanted to bring you an update on the additional measures that have already, or will be, put in place to help manage our beaches, the announcement of the beach awards and reminder of services available for visitors

**Blue Flag and Seaside Awards**

## Keep Britain Tidy has today announced the cleanest beaches in Britain for 2022 and Thanet has been awarded 7 International Blue Flags and 3 Seaside Awards.

**Blue Flag Award Beaches**

Minnis Bay, Birchington

West Bay, Westgate

St Mildred’s Bay, Westgate

Margate Main Sands

Botany Bay, Broadstairs

Joss Bay, Broadstairs

Stone Bay, Broadstairs

**Seaside Award Beaches**

Westbrook Bay, Margate

Viking Bay, Broadstairs

Ramsgate Main Sands

**Cllr Reece Pugh, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development at Thanet District Council said:**

*“We’re thrilled to once again receive so many awards for our beautiful beaches. This is especially true this year as two more of our beaches, Joss Bay and Botany Bay, have been awarded the prestigious International Blue Flag by environmental charity, Keep Britain Tidy.*

*“The district received every award that we applied for and we should be very proud of our seven International Blue Flags and three Seaside Awards. In 2021, we were awarded five Blue Flags and five Seaside Awards.*

*“These internationally recognised awards can only be achieved with the continued dedication and hard work of council officers, partners, businesses, volunteers and residents, who all play a role in helping to keep our beaches as clean and enjoyable as possible.*

*“Work takes place all year round to maintain our 19 miles of coastline to the high standards that our residents and visitors have come to expect. We are proud that wherever you visit on Thanet’s coastline you can find an award-winning beach that is well managed, clean and safe.”*

For more information on Thanet’s beaches and bays, go to [Visit Thanet’s website](http://visitthanet.co.uk/beaches-bays)

**Beach App Returns**

Once again Thanet will be participating in the national Beach Check UK App to help manage overcrowding on beaches. Users of the app will be able to check real time updates at five of Thanet’s busiest beaches.

The app works on a traffic light system using on-the-ground authorised users who assign a colour to beaches according to the number of visitors. Visitors can check the status of a beach before leaving home and avoid the hotspots, thereby encouraging safe, social-distancing

Five of Thanet’s busiest beaches will be updated in real time (Margate Main Sands, Botany Bay, Joss Bay, Viking Bay and Ramsgate Main Sands)

The app is simple to use and free to download from Google Play and the Apple App Store ([iOS](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/4uWFSoQj5FkiPvIOsO3pQgQPBAALgA-f1xfE0Sv7AvK6vHdi6XXTu2z1r9ZN5lO3ZEJbF8RH_8fCit6FIWddbVyil9ZIKbZaO_IF_4hxWItS-jdcBbyxB_MuobW5mv8UNqFsI0ojWhinPIRv2wcO3Xzkt3peJxFya6dc6y7uF4_kJTvO5II_-Wf-SzDvhd5PMrWjXokNnFje_bRCozjfwZrI) or [Android](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/Zj4UR4P9gKuk5sS54u81xjGxym2reRVq3SJLitHjIJ1Us0co9udN1rbLpT0ME0utVNEQhJ-xhARg5aOY0aSch-Fc9tNlUIiFe7D-mrtH9DxC0lFzT2A_LfuSLmcBjlprOx2kB6uqG7Isn-ACqysJM1AWNvnhKJt_xsSkk-u2SImudvrJWWcyGj84jxLUO5JCRfZxTXD-hD6MpAOrif4tiWokwIaC8wgFZGm_nVIDwA) - and it allows users to check individual beaches or see a map showing red (crowded), amber (less congested) and green (uncongested) beaches.

Please encourage visitors to download.

**Keeping our beaches safe and clean for everyone**

Our Beach and Coast Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) came into effect on Sunday 1 May, and is designed to make our beaches safer and more enjoyable for everyone. The full Code of Conduct is displayed on [our website](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/beach-and-coast-pspo-code-of-conduct/)

Here are the key points to remember:

* If you are cycling on the promenade between 10am and 6pm, you must dismount where the signs tell you to do so
* BBQs and bonfires are not permitted on the beach until after 6pm (if you do have a BBQ or bonfire after 6pm, please please please take your rubbish with you)
* Horse/donkey riding is not permitted along the promenade between 9am and 7pm
* Once requested to stop drinking alcohol in a public place by a Police Constable or an Authorised Officer, it then becomes an offence to continue.

We will continue to share Respect Protect Enjoy messages on our social media channels and in signage around the district.

Our Dog PSPOcame into effect on Sunday 1 May, and may affect where you are able to walk your dog. For more information about where and when dogs are allowed, please check the Thanet District Council website (www.thanet.gov.uk/dogs-and-our-beaches)

Temporary portaloos have been installed at Margate Main Sands and Botany Bay, to increase facilities for the summer season.

**Parking at Botany Bay**

We know that there can be issues around parking at our beaches and bays particularly at Botany Bay. Please can we encourage businesses to advise anyone wishing to visit the beach

*Parking is advised at Palm Bay Avenue, where there are over 150 free parking spaces, (CT9 3PP) for Palm Bay beach and a short cliff top walk to Botany Bay. The area around Botany Bay is residential. At all times park sensibly in designated car parks or parking areas, being aware of local residents and emergency vehicles.*

**Seaside lifts update**

The Viking Bay lift in Broadstairs is now open daily. Ramsgate’s Eastcliff lift will not be opening for this year’s summer season.

**Thanet Coast Project**

**Events Programme**

This summer there is a series of awareness and interpretative events and activities around the North East Kent Marine Protected Area. Thanet Coast Project volunteers will be running the ever popular Seashore Safari rockpooling events whilst experts will be running informative walks and talks. Bookings open in June and July. [For more information click here](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/whats-on/events-and-activities)

**School and Group Visits**

There is online advice for school and group visits to the Thanet Coast. This includes the council’s online notification for S[chool & Organised Group visit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdabYUUhoqAVVOvFycz_9Q3dKL_wPECSJaWncwVKpGmxIKOGQ/viewform)s to any of Thanet’s beaches. [Further information can be found here](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/learning/formal-zone-schoolgroup-visits/)

**Thanet Coast Beach Clean Advice**

There’s everything you need to know about beach cleans with online advice on how people can volunteer to join existing groups, or run their own beach cleans- including giving [landowner notification](https://forms.gle/FWfNmhyaZD5itKgNA) or [borrowing equipment](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/how-to-help/beach-cleans/)

**Thanet Coastal Codes**

Thanet has its own set of coastal codes where people can help reduce their impact on the coastal environment and the marine protected area. These help underpin the recent Beach and Coast Public Space Protection Order 2021, and advice given on the main bay information signs. [For more information click here](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/factfile/thanet-coastal-codes)

**Bird Wise East Kent**

Bird Wise East Kent aims to raise awareness about the incredible wildlife that we have along our coast, and educate people about bird disturbance and how we can all work to prevent it. Our coastline is recognised as **internationally important** for wildlife, especially overwintering migratory birds. Sadly, recent years have seen big declines in bird numbers along our shores. Research suggests this is largely due to disturbance, through recreational activities such as dog walking and kite surfing. We work to let people know how we can all use the coast while also helping to look after the amazing wildlife that we have here. We spend our time out on the coast, engaging with the public by giving talks, going into schools and attending or running events.

If you’d like to learn more about the bird life that we get along the coast, as well as other wildlife, come along to one of our upcoming events:

* Wednesday 20 July - Tuesday 2 August Photography Exhibition at Droit House, Margate,
* Monday 12 September Pegwell Bay Walk and Talk
* Saturday 22 - Sunday 30 October Great Coastal Birdwatch (Events throughout the week)
* Monday 14 November Walpole Bay Activities Day

[Keep an eye on our events page for information and updates](https://eastkent.birdwise.org.uk/bird-wise-events/)

**Have you got copies of our Visitors’ Map 2022/23?**

Remember that the coast and beaches might be busy but our businesses and attractions away from the main seafronts need support. Please make sure you have supplies of our free Visitors’ Maps 2022/23 to encourage people to discover more. Many visitors will be new to this area, so we want them to be aware of how much there is to see and do in Thanet. Repeat visits and staying for longer is the aim - leaving them with the knowledge that we have a ‘Coast for all Seasons’ and not just the summer.

If you are a business and would like copies please contact visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk

Visitors can pick up maps from Droit House Margate, The Custom House Ramsgate, Broadstairs Information Kiosk or Lillyputt Mini Golf Broadstairs, alongside local businesses stocking copies

**Hire a Coastal Explorer Pack**

Have you tried our Coastal Explorers Packs or recommended them to your guests? These fun family friendly activity packs contain lots of equipment, interesting activity cards and trails to help you discover Thanet’s heritage and coastline.

Packs can be hired for just £5 a day with ID proof from Droit House Margate and Lillyputt Mini Golf Broadstairs. [**Find out more**](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/coastalexplorers/)

**More to Explore**

Keep an eye out for our new communications campaign, ‘More to Explore’, that will be appearing on signage, flags and planters as well as in shop windows around the district. It will also feature in a new social media campaign to start later this month.

The More to Explore campaign has been developed by a local designer, and aims to encourage residents and visitors to discover the unique character of Thanet’s towns and what each has to offer.