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## News and Features from Harborough District Council - April 2020

# Harborough District News



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**Councillor Phil King,  
Leader of Harborough  
District Council**

### Working to overcome significant challenges

We are in unprecedented times, and residents will, no doubt, be apprehensive as we all face the challenge of responding to the coronavirus pandemic and wondering how it may develop over the coming weeks and months.

Whilst we don't yet fully know what it will mean for local families and our communities, as Leader of the Council, I want to offer reassurance that the Council is working tirelessly to do all it can, with our partners, including redeploying staff and making available whatever resources are necessary, to ensure we can continue to deliver for our residents, and to help protect the vulnerable and support our local economy.

We all need to play our part - by following Government advice to stay at home, social distancing and looking out for the vulnerable.

I publicly thank and pay tribute to all the NHS staff who live in our district, who are working so selflessly to help save lives. I would also like to thank the Council's staff, and their families, for adapting to this challenging situation and ensuring key Council services are able to continue.

### Tells us your views on our services

Whilst we focus fully on our response to the coronavirus pandemic; we would encourage residents and businesses to respond to our ongoing surveys.

This is an opportunity to tell us your views about our wider Council services.

Your views will provide us with valuable feedback about how we can meet your needs as a resident or business.

Each survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

All responses are anonymous.

[Take part in the residents or business surveys here](#)

Please read the information below; by continuing to work together I am positive that we will be able to overcome the significant challenges ahead.

Stay at Home - Protect the NHS - Save Lives

## Coronavirus - working and pulling together in unprecedented times

We may be living in a time of international crisis, but the local and UK-wide response to the current coronavirus crisis has been fantastic and involved everyone from those key workers delivering frontline health care, to volunteers who have stepped up when it mattered, plus those who are staying in and maintaining social distance to prevent the spread of the Covid19 disease.

It is great to see everyone doing their bit to tackle this unprecedented health issue as part of a huge combined effort.

The Council is also playing a key role in helping **support the vulnerable** and **continuing to deliver our services**. This has included redeploying staff to help with critical services and to support the community.

Our **dedicated web page** - [www.harborough.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/coronavirus) - is helping keep everyone up to date with the latest news, advice and information during this fast-moving and rapidly-changing situation.

This web page includes up-to-date information about which **Council services** are affected, as well as **health information**, useful web links, and **information for businesses**.

Our **Community Hub** has a key focus on targeting and assisting the **most vulnerable** and can be accessed via this page or directly at [www.harborough.gov.uk/hd-community-hub](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/hd-community-hub)

People who are vulnerable and do not have a local support network can contact Harborough District Council and fill in an online form if they:

- need supplies of food and essentials
- are feeling lonely or would like a friendly phone call or text message
- would like to connect with a local community group
- need transport to medical appointments
- would like advice about staying active and exercising

People can also **volunteer**, via this page, to help support their local community.

If you have internet access we encourage you to use the online form. If you cannot use the online form please email [communityhub@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:communityhub@harborough.gov.uk) or call 01858 821 232 from 9am-5pm.

Inevitably some Council services and events have been affected as we consolidate our efforts to respond to the current challenges. To this effect, and in line with Government health advice; we have:

- Closed our face-to-face customer services
- Suspended parking charges at all Council-run car parks in the district
- Closed all our plays areas
- Postponed events such as the VE Day 75 celebrations, Classic Car Show and other events
- Suspended all Active Harborough District sport and physical activity sessions
- Cancelled Farmers' markets on The Square in Market Harborough
- Closed all Council-run public toilets

We are currently continuing to accept and consider **planning applications**.

We would urge you to continue to follow Government health advice to **Stay at home, protect the NHS, and save lives**.

Please keep viewing [www.harborough.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/coronavirus) for the latest updates, and listen to updates on Harborough FM (tune in to radio frequency 102.3 MHz) and BBC Radio Leicester.

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## Contact us

Online - [www.harborough.gov.uk](http://www.harborough.gov.uk)

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