

Tourism Matters - Coronavirus Update 3rd April

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague,

We hope you are keeping safe and managing to navigate your way through the ever-changing developments caused by COVID-19. We are also trying to keep abreast of things relevant to the tourism industry and our businesses and below is a message from Councillor Rick Everitt, Leader of Thanet District Council plus a summary of what we have picked up this week, from the government, VisitEngland, other national and Kent associations and more local news.

Message from Cllr Rick Everitt, Leader of Thanet District Council

“Supporting local businesses is a key priority – these are unprecedented times and the situation has been changing rapidly. I want to reassure you that we are working hard alongside partners at Kent County Council, Kent Chamber of Commerce, Visit Kent and the South East LEP to do everything possible to shore up our economy during this period of worry and challenge. We have, for example, just contributed to bolster the Kent Growth Hub and provide a dedicated support line for COVID-19 related issues.”

“This is an extremely uncertain period and we are mindful of the countless number of residents who are unable to work from home and apply their valuable trades. We know how vitally important you are to our economy and to our district. We understand that you still have mortgages, rent and bills to pay so will continue to push to get you all the support possible.”

– Cllr Rick Everitt, Leader of Thanet District Council

To make it easier for you to find quick answers to the key questions you may have, Thanet District Councils has prepared some [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Government Information

Latest information following the announcement on grants and business rates packages on the [Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund](#)

- Chancellor Rishi Sunak has announced a package of measures to support the self-employed, who were not covered in previous packages. Details can be found [here](#) along with [FAQs](#)
- There has also been an update on financial support with further details on the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#), including details on which employees you can claim for, what you'll be able to claim and what you'll need to prepare to make a claim.
- The Government also announced [extra protection for businesses](#) with a ban on evictions for commercial tenants who miss rent payments
- Plus there is [more specific guidance](#) for food and drink businesses
- [Guidance for accommodation providers](#)
- Further guidance on the [deferral of VAT payments due to coronavirus](#) has been published.

- HMRC has produced guidance to [help employers find out what equipment, services or supplies are taxable if your employees are working from home](#) due to coronavirus.
- Rules on [carrying over annual leave are to be relaxed to support key industries](#) during COVID-19, workers will be able to carry it over into the next two leave years.
- A minor update to the [guidance on closing businesses and venues](#) has been made to reflect updated regulations.

On a lighter note, across the UK, arts organisations, museums and theatres are unveiling innovative digital plans to ensure culture and creativity is accessible to all www.gov.uk/government/news/culture-at-your-fingertips-from-home

[VisitBritain/VisitEngland](#)

VisitBritain/VisitEngland has launched a social marketing campaign to keep Britain top of visitors' minds during international and UK travel restrictions . The campaign aims to share information for our area and we will be in touch soon with further details.

We have been planning our social content for the coming months, which will link into the VisitBritain/VisitEngland initiative.

[Kent Information](#)

The Kent and Medway Growth Hub have launched a COVID-19 Business Support Hotline.

Open from 08:30-18:30, Monday to Friday, they can provide information, support and advice for your business.

Business Support Hotline 03333 602300

For any other queries on how the Chamber can support businesses, contact them through their website <https://www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk/> or email info@kentinvictachamber.co.uk

Kent Police has produced a [guide to securing building premises](#) designed to help protect businesses that are remote or may be deemed to contain items of high value or demand, or have plant, tools or vehicles on site, which could make them a target for thieves. Security must be pre-planned and site specific. Whether you have an industrial unit on a business park or a corner shop in a village, these steps will help you to review your business security.

Produced in Kent and digitalbeans have fantastic initiatives that have come out of the current COVID-19 situation that are designed to help local businesses - Help Kent Buy Local and Your Local Delivery. There is a joint [webinar](#) on Friday, 3 April at 2pm to 3pm where you can find out more from Produced in Kent's Chief Executive Floortje Hoette and Ben Pearce from digitalbeans.

[Visit Kent](#)

Virtual Event

Visit Kent will be hosting their first virtual networking event on Wednesday 8th April at 10:30am via Webinar Jam and would be delighted if you are able to join them.

During this event, their CEO, Deirdre Wells OBE will provide an update on the latest information on Coronavirus (Covid-19), share Visit Kent's revised B2C communications through this time and how they can look forward to rebuilding businesses in the future. They will also be joined by their Destinations and Marketing Partnerships Director, Hollie Coffey who will address the support available for you during this time and Floortje Hoette, Chief Executive of Produced in Kent who will talk about their new #HelpKentBuyLocal campaign.

There will also be the opportunity for you to ask any questions and raise any concerns during a Q&A session at the end of this virtual event.

You can download the Agenda [here](#) and if interested you can register [here](#).

Sleeping Giant Media Guide To Business Resilience Using Digital

The information in this [pack](#) includes advice on how to use digital marketing to strengthen your business during these uncertain times, along with how-to's so you can get started yourself.

Every week Sleeping Giant Media is also hosting a Wednesday lunchtime show and Friday beer o'clock (4:30pm for the Business as Unusual Show!). www.sleepinggiantmedia.co.uk

MHA MacIntyre Hudson - COVID-19 News Feed

MHA MacIntyre Hudson has set up an online [COVID-19 news feed](#) providing useful business guides, highlighting key issues businesses will need to work through and details of the latest Government support.

[Other Coronavirus support and funding](#)

Thanet District Council helpline for vulnerable people

And lastly, but by no means least, Thanet District Council has set up a dedicated helpline for residents who are vulnerable and are self-isolating or social shielding in line with NHS advice. The helpline is open from 9am to 5pm every day of the week and the number is **01843 577330**. Please pass this onto anyone you know who falls into this category to ensure they get the help they need.

All other general enquiries should still be directed to the main switchboard number **01843 577000**.

Arts Council England (ACE) Emergency Funding Package

ACE will offer individuals and organisations working in the cultural sector new financial support during the crisis, totalling £160 million. They've re-purposed all investment strands to be able to offer this support for the following types of organisations:

- £90 million funding for National Portfolio Organisations to reboot their creative work and alleviate financial pressures
- £50 million funding for organisations not in receipt of regular funding from the Arts Council but with a track record of delivering publicly funded culture. You can apply for

up to £35,000 in one of two rounds. First round applications will open on 9 April and will close on 16 April. The second round will open on 16 April and close on 30 April.

- £20 million funding for individuals working in the cultural sector. You can apply for up to £2,500 in one of two rounds. First round applications will open on 9th April and will close on 16 April. The second round will open on 16 April and close on 30 April.

Read [more](#)

Sport England

Sport England has [announced up to £195 million of funding](#) to help the sport and physical activity sector through the ongoing Coronavirus crisis. The package which is a combination of National Lottery and government funding is made up of the following:

- [Community Emergency Funding](#) to support community organisations suffering financial hardship.
- Sector Partner Fund for active partners of Sport England and National Governing bodies.
- £55m Sector Stimulation to support and stimulate the sector by adapting to changes while restrictions are being lifted.

[Read more](#)

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The [National Lottery Heritage Fund has put together a £50million fund to support the heritage sector](#) as an immediate response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The £50m Heritage Emergency Fund will be available for grants of between £3,000 and £50,000. It is available to organisations across the full breadth of heritage, including historic sites, industrial and maritime heritage, museums, libraries and archives, parks and gardens, landscapes and nature.

[Thanet District Council Business Advice](#)

[Visit Kent Business Advice Hub](#)

[Visit England Business Hub](#)

Remember to follow us on social media and share content @visitthanet. Our content and messages will be focusing on reminding people on what is wonderful about the Isle of Thanet. It will include some did you know facts, midweek mystery and virtual content. Please do share with us any images, videos or 'virtual tour' footage you may have at this time, to enforce our messaging. Please send details to tourism@thanet.gov.uk

As ever, we are here to support you wherever possible and will continue to share the latest official advice and support.