

Parish Council's Weekly Briefing

5 February 2021

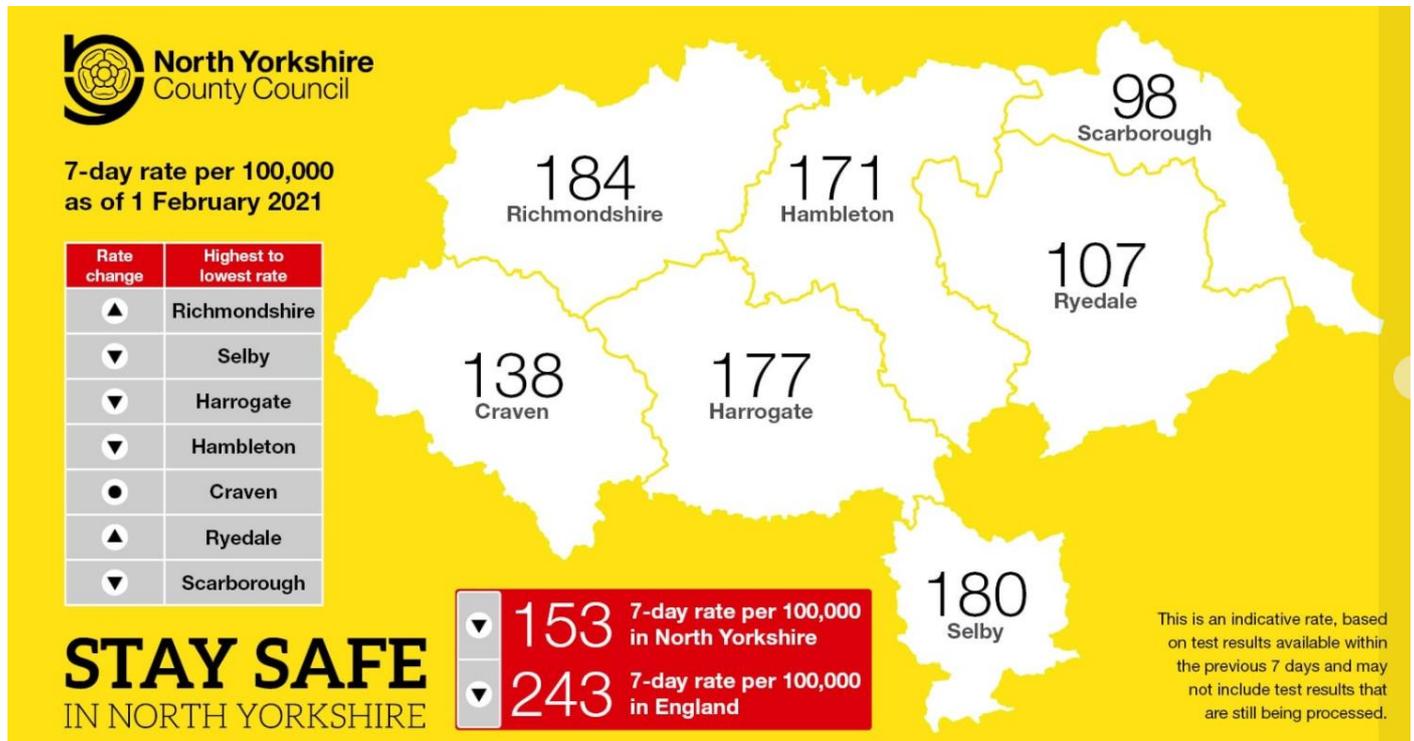
Welcome to this week's briefing with the latest key messages and COVID-19 update.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- With cases remaining high across our district and in surrounding areas and with the new variant being extremely easy to catch, we must all remain vigilant and redouble our efforts to follow the guidance.
- Remember to:
 - Wash hands often and for 20 seconds.
 - Keep a safe distance from anyone you don't live with (two metres where possible).
 - Wear a face covering in shops and in crowded outdoor spaces where keeping two metres apart is not possible.
- Please remember you **MUST** stay at home other than for essential purposes which include:
 - To shop for essentials.
 - To work (if you absolutely cannot work from home).
 - To exercise locally, with your household, support bubble or one other person, once per day.
 - To seek medical assistance.
- More information on the rules can be found <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#summary-what-you-can-and-cannot-do-during-the-national-lockdown>

COVID-19 LOCAL PICTURE

Figures continue to be generally on the decline across North Yorkshire, but progress is slow, and figures remain high.



BUSINESS GRANTS

- The Covid-19 Business Grant schemes, that the Council is currently administering in line with Government guidelines, are listed below.
- The table also shows the amounts paid out and the number of businesses paid. It should be noted that the table holds information where payments will be made today.
- This information can be found on the Council's website: <https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus-covid-19/6>.

Scheme	Amount paid	Number of businesses
LRSB Closed Addendum scheme – Lockdown 2 November - 05/11 to 01/12 and	1,288,458	856
Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) – Lockdown 2 November - 05/11 to 01/12	219,358	172
Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) – Tier 3 - 31/12 to 04/01 and Lockdown 3 January 05/01 to 15/02	347,866	327
Local Restriction Support Grant (LRSB) Closed and Open – Tier 2 - 02/12 to 15/12	56,410	98
Local Restriction Support Grant (LRSB) Closed and Open – Tier 2 - 16/12 to 29/12	56,877	99
Local Restriction Support Grant (LRSB) Closed – Tier 3 - 31/12 to 04/01	110,391	396
Local Restriction Support Grant (LRSB) Closed and Open - Tier 2 - 30/12 and Open Tier 3 - 31/12 to 04/01	Under Review and design	
Local Restriction Support Grant (LRSB) Sector – 01/11 to 04/11, 02/12 to 15/12 and 16/12 to 29/12	3,964	1
Christmas Support Payment – 02/12 to 29/12 Final application to be received before 28/02/2021 and processed in due course	38,000	38
LRSB Closed Addendum scheme - Lockdown 3 January – 05/01 to 15/02	1,836,150	812
Closed Business lockdown payment – Lockdown 3 January – 05/01 to 15/02	3,671,000	812

BUSINESS SUPPORT – The Test & Trace Self Isolation Support Payment

- The Test and Trace Self Isolation Support Payment scheme was introduced by the Government on 28 September to support people with low incomes who are unable to work due to self-isolating as they've tested positive for COVID-19, or because they've been identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of someone else who has. If applications are successful, then each claimant receives £500.
- There are two elements to the Test and Trace Support Scheme:
 - Mandatory Scheme where 82 cases have been paid at £41,000
 - Discretionary Scheme where 45 cases have been paid at £22,500 with a fund of £31,000.
Further top-up funding from the Department of Health and Social Care to follow in February.
- 58% of the applications that have been submitted have received a support payment where nationally it's been reported that on average 30% of self-isolation grants have been approved.
- Further funding is to be received from Government to continue to support this initiative until the end of March 2021

THIRSK LEISURE CENTRE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- The main contractor (ISG) for the Improvement project took over the building and car park on Monday 1 Feb as planned and continue to install their site compound, erect hoardings, and clear the site.
- Work on the gym extension is due to start w/c 15 February. For health & safety reasons and to ensure the site remains COVID secure, access is restricted, and all visits are by prior arrangement and agreement.

REBOOT NORTH YORKSHIRE

- A new scheme called Reboot North Yorkshire is due to be launched to recycle any old or unwanted IT devices so they can be handed back out to those in need, such as school children.
 - North Yorkshire County Council's technology and change service, stronger communities' team and library service are working with community groups to receive donations, clean them and get them to those in need.
 - If you have a device you can donate, you need to remove any data from it by doing a factory reset.
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- You can find out how to do this on the new website www.rebootny.co.uk . Once your device has been reset, you can take it to one of the participating libraries' drop off points.
- Thirsk and Northallerton are participating libraries in Hambleton which are shown on a map on the website so please use this to check their opening hours.

DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

- The Council has teamed up with Citizens Online to recruit volunteers to become digital champions who can support individuals to get online.
- There is also a small supply of tablets that can be loaned to people for an eight-week period to help get them started.
- The project is in its infancy, but a helpline has been set up for those who are struggling to get online.
- If you are aware of anyone who would find this service useful please refer them to the helpline number 0808 196 5883.

HERITAGE ACTION ZONE PROJECT

- A series of short films to promote a new funding stream for Northallerton town centre will be launched this month.
 - Four two-minute videos have been shot to highlight the cash available through a £386,480 Historic England grant.
 - Northallerton is one of nine Yorkshire towns to receive funding through the body's High Street Heritage Action Zone scheme which aims to boost high streets. The scheme covers:
 - Shop front improvements – cash for this scheme will benefit local businesses that have a historic shop front.
 - Under used space above buildings in the High Street - a feasibility study will be carried out to look into the potential for reuse as residential.
 - Augmented reality Heritage Trail – this will be created to take in the High Street and surrounding area.
 - Made by local cinematographer Finn Varney, the films will be posted on social media over the coming weeks.
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TREADMILLS UPDATE

- Hambleton District Council secured £1.8m of Local Growth funding from York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership towards developing the digital hub element of the Treadmills development in partnership with development company Wykeland.
- We have worked in close partnership with Hull based C4Di to develop a Northallerton centre focusing initially on the agriculture and food sectors.
- The work so far has generated lots of interest and there will be news on the first companies signed up soon.
- Work started on site in springtime last year.
- The refurbishment contract is being carried out by local firm Moody Brothers.
- Chameleon have now been commissioned to complete the interior fit out on the digital hub building, they are on site and working towards the handover in a few weeks' time.
- Work has begun on producing a digital hub brochure and web page.
- Social Media accounts including Facebook, Twitter (both HDC & HambletonBiz) and Instagram will all be coordinated with planned tweets and messages.
- Work is underway with the Interior Design team to bring some of the historical content to be used on the internal walls as written quotes and information portraying the history of the build.
- Modern day quotes and information about the digital journey by founders and successful businesses from the digital sector will also be incorporated.



ROTARY GARDEN

- A plaque is now in place on the stone post in the Rotary garden at the front of the Civic Centre.
- The remainder of the stone post will be used to acknowledge good work by organisations and people in support of the Rotary Clubs' good works.

THIRSK FARMERS MARKET

- The farmers market returns to Thirsk Market Place on Sunday.
- This is an opportunity for local food producers to sell their produce to local communities.
- Stalls are spaced out, social distancing applies, and stewards are on hand to make sure it goes well.

Thank you everyone, enjoy the weekend, stay home, and stay safe.

