



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REF 20 06 15 Bounce

Council to offer businesses advice on how to bounce back as non-essential shops reopen

Gedling Borough Council will be visiting shop owners and businesses across the borough's towns and high streets this week as part of its coronavirus 'bounce back' plans.

From Monday 15 June, due to changes in government restrictions, businesses across the borough can reopen, if it is safe to do so. Gedling Borough Council is offering its support to get businesses back open with a series of visits to the towns and high streets this week.

The council wants to reassure residents that their local shops are safe to visit and that their town centres are ready for visitors. As part of the reopening week, officers from the council's street cleansing team will be carrying out 'deep cleans' in the town centres, this includes extra street cleansing as well as extra disinfecting and steam cleaning of benches, seats and other surfaces.

There will be an increase in neighbourhood warden presence in the town centres and villages during the week. The wardens will be monitoring the logistics of the social distancing measures in place and helping to make sure that there are no areas that could cause unnecessary pinch points or hotspots.

Over 550 businesses in the borough's town centres and villages have been affected by the coronavirus outbreak. Officers from the council's environmental health team will be visiting many of them to offer advice on how to reopen safely in accordance with the government's 'covid ready' guidelines. The team have

already made several visits to food outlets across the borough and have helped them to implement the changes to allow them to open to the public.

The council will be using a £100,000 grant to provide businesses with street markings and temporary banners displaying social distancing messages and measures as part of the reopening process. It will have access to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Reopening High Streets Safely Fund that is specifically being allocated to help businesses reopen safely.

In May, the council announced that it is creating two new job roles to support local small businesses and retailers with general business advice and guidance and to help them reopen in a way that is safe for them and for the public. They will be able to provide important information about the government's recovery strategy as well as signposting business owners to the different funding opportunities and organisations available to help them.

Leader of Gedling Borough Council, Councillor John Clarke:

“Our priority as we begin the recovery process from this terrible virus is to support our local businesses and reassure residents that they can shop locally and that it is safe to do so. This week we will have a presence in our borough's main centres and shopping precincts to help support businesses on how to reopen safely and we will be there for residents who have any questions, whilst adhering to social distancing measures.

This week of activity will be the start of a process to get local residents back in their local shops and stores and, by working together, we can support our local economy to bounce back. If any businesses and residents have any concerns, please get in touch with us and we will do what we can to help.”

- ENDS -

NOTE TO EDITORS

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