



Community messaging

Wednesday April 8th 2020



Guidance for local allotment owners

Visiting the allotment is essential for the physical and wellbeing of many local people however allotment owners across the Cleveland area are being reminded of their responsibilities in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Allotment owners should be aware of the guidelines set out by Government restricting all non-essential travel and the need to stay at home to combat the spread of the virus.

Allotments are a great way of both getting exercise and obtaining food during this crisis and it is further appreciated that some owners may have animals on their plot, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 directs that the person in charge of the animals/livestock must be responsible for their welfare (which includes feeding them) so that they are not caused any distress. If the tenant cannot do this it would be recommended they delegate this duty to their partner on the plot or a fellow tenant. It may be prudent to amend feeding regimes, if possible, to avoid unnecessary visits to the site.

Local Authorities are suspending plot inspections across sites until further notice, no warning or eviction letters are being processed either, please check with your council for the precise information.

It is advised that tenants adhere to government advice and stay at home, however if you are required to attend your plot please consider the following points to reduce the spread of Covid19:

- Keep hand sanitiser in your shed and wash your hands regularly/use hand sanitiser before opening and closing any gate locks
- Do not stay at the site for longer than is necessary
- Observe “Social Distancing” with each other by staying 2-3 metres apart
- Do not share tools/associations should cease use of ‘communal tools’
- Minimise contact with each other, for example no handshakes
- Do not wash your hands in water troughs
- If you have communal buildings on site avoid using them as much as possible. Cancel all allotment association meetings until further notice.
- Stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible

Coping during the pandemic

To help staff in all areas, patients, families and the general public, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Trust (TEWV) have developed a new course “Coping during the pandemic” via their Recovery College Online. The course includes information on preventing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), advice on managing concerns and supporting wellbeing, and advice on supporting children and young people. This course is free to access via this link:

<https://lms.recoverycollegeonline.co.uk/course/view.php?id=373>

Do you think you've had Coronavirus?

A new Coronavirus Status Checker is asking members of the public who feel that they have had potential symptoms to answer a short series of questions to help the NHS coordinate its response and build up data on the Covid-19 outbreak.

It is open to anyone in the UK to use on the NHS website and in its initial phase the NHS is particularly keen for anyone who thinks they may be displaying potential coronavirus symptoms, no matter how mild, to complete it. The Status Checker will not identify users from the information they provide.

Status Checker users are clearly told at the beginning and the end of the survey that it is not a triage or clinical advice tool, and that they should visit 111 online for medical advice about their symptoms.

The information gathered will help the NHS to plan its response to the outbreak, indicating when and where more resources like oxygen, ventilators and additional staff might be needed and will provide valuable insight into the development and progression of the virus across the country.

The survey can be accessed on the NHS website at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-status-checker

