

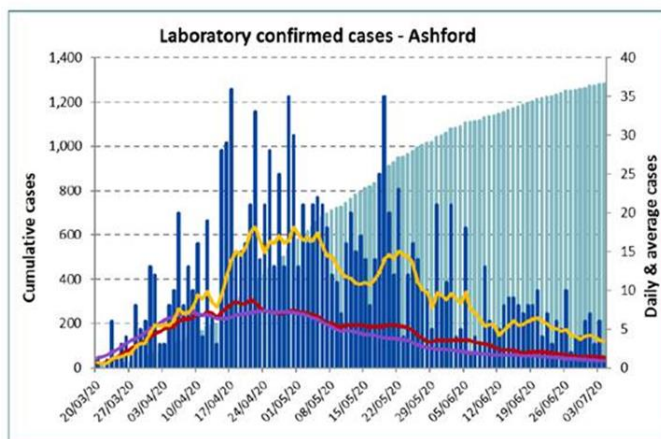
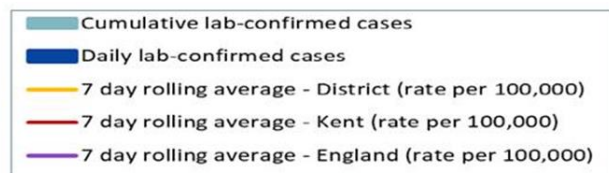
Dear Colleagues,

Confirmed Coronavirus cases in Ashford

Members will be interested to see the latest Ashford COVID-19 case information which now includes both pillar 1 and pillar 2 data (i.e. the community-based testing). As can be seen, although there is a jump in numbers with the addition of the pillar 2 data, the trend is reducing as is the gap with the Kent and England average. As at 3 July, the 7 day rolling average (daily) total positive laboratory tests was down to 4.6 cases per 100,000, which is a greatly improved position.

KCC Public Health receive exceedance reports on a daily basis from Public Health England and therefore can investigate as necessary. Thankfully at present Ashford is not a concern for them. We are also receiving weekly reports on both pillar 1 and pillar 2 data so we can continue monitoring the local situation and work to support of our public health colleagues. If members have any queries they are welcome to contact Sheila Davison.

Ashford cases 03.07.20



Testing statistics include laboratory confirmed cases from NHS laboratories (pillar 1) and commercial partners (pillar 2). Positive case numbers are frequently revised historically, and this is reflected by the fact that accurate data is assured up until 3rd July 2020

A reminder about Social Media Guidance

During the recent lockdown, and as we move into the recovery phase, it is perfectly understandable that the use of social media should be a key communication tool for councillors. However great care is needed when using social media in order to avoid the many pitfalls which can lead to problems for the council and for individual members.

Last year the council adopted new Social Media Guidance in order to help members avoid these pitfalls. We are aware that some complaints are still being received about social media use by councillors. So we believe it is appropriate to urge colleagues to refresh their memories on the contents of the guidance which is part of the council's Constitution ([please see the pdf document attached to this Briefing](#)). The Code of Conduct for councillors also contains provisions regarding proper use of social media.

Key issues for members are making sure we do not use abusive, offensive or immoderate language in posts; that we do not use social media to disparage the council or make false or misleading statements; and that we make clear in our profiles or posts whether we are acting in a personal capacity or as an councillor.

It is also important to draw attention to the fact that the council's Constitution at Article 2.06 makes all councillors responsible for ensuring that any public views expressed in a personal, ward member or political group capacity are not only expressed in temperate language but also are based on accurate facts in order to maintain the reputation of the council and avoid the risk of individual members bringing their office into disrepute.

If in doubt about the contents or accuracy of any statement you propose to make please check with officers first. Help is always at hand in the press office or in the relevant service area.

Chloe is our latest Ashford Applause winner

Ashford Applause is more than half way through its ten week campaign, and we are delighted to have showcased so many fabulous Ashford community champions. We have seen selfless volunteers support our community in a variety of inspirational ways. We are pleased to announce our sixth Ashford Applause champion as Chloe Falder.

Chloe founded and co-ordinated *PPE Team Tenterden*, a group of volunteers who have made more than 15,000 items of PPE since the start of lockdown. These items have been sent to frontline workers at the William Harvey Hospital, as well as care homes, GP surgeries, community support groups and the Ashford Police. Some of the items have even been received as far afield as Scotland and the West Country.

Alison Miles nominated Chloe for the award. She said: "Chloe is very modest about her work and always praises the whole team for this astonishing achievement. If it wasn't for her drive, tireless determination, organisation and enormous heart, this would not have become the phenomenon that it is today."

If that wasn't enough, Chloe has continued to deliver online lessons in her role as a science teacher at Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre, plus home schooling her four children.



There is still time to nominate your local community champion for an Ashford Applause to give them the recognition they deserve. Visit www.ashford.gov.uk/ashfordapplause. For top tips on how to submit a great application visit Loveashford's blog at www.loveashford.com

Discretionary grants scheme pays out

The third batch of discretionary grants payments were made this week to 109 applicants. This means the council has so far paid out £770,000 to 180 applicants.

From bins to business grants, the messages of thanks keep pouring in...

The council continues to receive positive feedback for our work during the Coronavirus outbreak. For example, when Cllr Neil Bell posted a comment regarding how well waste collection services had performed during the pandemic on a couple of Biddenden's social media sites he was delighted by the overwhelmingly positive feedback.

"Personally I think they are doing a brilliant job, much like the supermarket staff, local shop owners, delivery staff and everyone else who has continued to go to work to keep the country running. Lockdown would be an awful lot worse without their commitment and work ethic."

"They deserve a medal and much more!!"

"Yes, the refuse and recycling service has been brilliant - those guys have kept going all through lockdown, despite staff shortages sometimes. Thank you!"

"I agree the guys who look after us in Smarden have been fantastic as usual and they always pop our bin back over the fence. We always give them a smile and wave in appreciation."

“These guys work extremely hard as individuals and together as a team, in short, they perform. If more people in our wonderful country performed as well we would have a world beating economy. Please pass my thanks to these guys who do a really important task, really well under some really tough conditions.”

“The team that looks after Biddenden are excellent and very professional, thank you.”

“Thank you to all the refuse men. You are doing a great job in difficult circumstances. It’s much appreciated.”

“They have been doing a brilliant job and always so friendly.”

“We’ve had a perfect service the whole time. They’re terrific hard workers.”

“Three cheers for the dustbin and garden rubbish men, all stars and doing their very best. I always shout out of the window thanking them or putting my thumbs up to them. Where would we be without them?”

Messages of thanks received from our small businesses who have received financial support:

“Thank you so much for this, you’ve no idea how helpful this will be at this difficult time. I look forward to being back at the markets as soon as it’s safe to do so.”

“Just like to say a very big thank you from the bottom of my heart for the grant.”

“Thank you so much for the grant. You have no idea how much this means to me, and to the future success of the business for the benefit of my staff, my customers and ourselves.”

“Thank you for sorting our grant out. It will be so helpful and we are very grateful. This will save our business as with no income for 4 months we could not afford to open safely. We are looking forward to being able to welcome people to our lovely village and continue trading.”

“Just received an email confirming you have given us a grant. Thank you so much, it means a great deal to us. We really appreciate your consideration and how much work you must all be doing to get grants like ours delivered.”

Here’s a lovely message we received on social media from Debbie Greaves, Curator at the Tenterden and District Museum:

“I would like to extend my thanks to the team at Tourism, Heritage and Nature Conservation for all your extraordinarily hard work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I know that all the extra planning, administration, and execution of measures to keep the public safe and informed at the same time supporting the tourism sector goes generally un-thanked. So, from myself and the Tenterden Museum team I cannot express how grateful we are for your ongoing effort.”

Finally, this is the last of the weekly joint COVID-19 briefings. After today, updates on the Coronavirus outbreak, or any other issues, will be provided to colleagues in a Leader’s Briefing.

Gerry Clarkson CBE, BA (Hons)
Leader – Ashford Borough Council

Tracey Kerly
Chief Executive – Ashford Borough Council

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