

RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021



**HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



Inside:

Chance to name your new leisure centre

Explained: The roadmap for lifting lockdown

COVID-19 one year on

Don't miss your chance to vote by post

THE ROADMAP FOR LIFTING LOCKDOWN

From Monday 8th March, we'll see COVID-19 restrictions start to lift and the Government's four-step "roadmap" offers a welcome route back to a more normal life.

The ultimate aim is for all restrictions to be lifted, which will happen by Monday 21st June at the very earliest.

Before each step proceeds, four tests must be met:

1. The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
2. Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
3. Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
4. The Government's assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new variants of concern.

STEP 1

From 8 March and 29 March

EDUCATION

8 MARCH

- Schools and colleges open for all students
- Practical higher education courses

SOCIAL CONTACT

8 MARCH

- Exercise and recreation outdoors with your household, support bubble or one other person
- No household mixing indoors
- Care home residents allowed one regular visitor

29 MARCH

- Rule of six or two households outdoors
- No household mixing indoors

BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES

8 MARCH

- Wraparound care, including sport, for all children

29 MARCH

- Organised outdoor sport (children and adults)
- Outdoor sport and leisure facilities
- All outdoor children's activities
- Outdoor parent and child groups (max. 15 people, excluding under 5s)

TRAVEL

8 MARCH

- Stay at home
- No holidays

29 MARCH

- Minimise travel
- No holidays

EVENTS

8 MARCH

- Funerals (30 people)
- Weddings and wakes (6 people)

STEP 2

No earlier than 12 April

EDUCATION

- As previous step

SOCIAL CONTACT

- Rule of six or two households outdoors
- No household mixing indoors

BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES

- All shops
- Personal care including, hairdressers and beauty salons
- Libraries and community centres
- Most outdoor attractions
- Indoor leisure including, gyms (individual use only)
- Self-contained accommodation
- All children's activities
- Outdoor hospitality
- Indoor parent and child groups (max. 15 people, excluding under 5s)

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays (household only)
- No international holidays

EVENTS

- Funerals (30 people)
- Weddings and wakes, receptions (15 people)

STEP 3

No earlier than 17 May

EDUCATION

- As previous step

SOCIAL CONTACT

- Maximum 30 people outdoors
- Rule of six or two households indoors (subject to review)

BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES

- Indoor hospitality
- Indoor entertainment and attractions
- Organised indoor sport (adult)
- Remaining accommodation including, hotels and B&Bs
- Remaining outdoor entertainment, including performances

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel (subject to review)

EVENTS

- Most significant life events, like weddings and christenings (30 people)
- Indoor events: 1,000 people or 50% capacity
- Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25% capacity
- Outdoor other events: 4,000 people or 50% capacity

STEP 4

No earlier than 21 June (all subject to review)

EDUCATION

- As previous step

SOCIAL CONTACT

- No legal limit

BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES

- Remaining businesses, including nightclubs

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel

EVENTS

- No legal limit on life events
- Larger events

Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health at Hartlepool Borough Council, said: "As we move through each of these phases in the roadmap, we must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives and we must continue to get tested, and to carry on with practising hands, face, space and letting fresh air in.

"Small steps like this really do help save lives and it is vitally important we all continue to take these basic safety precautions but we need to do it as a collective measure – it is not a case of one or the other."

Denise McGuckin, Managing Director of Hartlepool Borough Council, added: "We welcome this roadmap for lifting lockdown and allowing some normality to return to life.

"It's now vital each and every one of us plays our part by sticking to these new rules to ensure we are able to hit these dates.

"If everyone continues to pull together we will be able to make a big difference."

Find out more at www.gov.uk/coronavirus



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Your chance to name new leisure centre

Residents of Hartlepool are being offered a chance to name the town's new multi-million pound leisure centre.

The Council, which is building the flagship development at The Waterfront, adjacent to the town's marina, has launched a competition for local residents.

It is inviting them to submit suggested names and the winning entry will be picked by a judging panel which will include World Champion boxer Savannah Marshall and Keith Thomas, the Chair of Hartlepool Sports Council.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of the Council, said: "The day the leisure centre opens will be a proud moment for the town and a significant milestone in its history.

"As this is a development for the people of Hartlepool, it is only right that they should be given the chance to come up with its name.

"The competition is a fantastic opportunity for a person or a group of people to stamp their mark on the development and play a key role in

shaping what is one of the biggest investments in the town in recent times."

Entries can be submitted in the following ways:

- By email to yoursay@hartlepool.gov.uk
- On Facebook to www.facebook.com/hartlepoolcouncil
- Via Twitter to @HpoolCouncil

The closing date for entries to be received is Friday March 12th and the winner will be announced the following week.

We've already had some great entries, but please keep them coming.

The launch of the competition follows hot on the heels of the appointment of architects to design the new leisure centre.

GT3 Architects, which works nationally from studios in Newcastle and Nottingham, has 25 years' experience of specialising in the delivery of award-winning wet and dry leisure facilities, and its project team boasts some of the UK's leading experts in sport and leisure design.



Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council, on the site of the new leisure centre.

Restoration of historic landmark moves step closer

The restoration of the Headland Amphitheatre has taken a major step forward with the appointment of Seymour Civil Engineering as principal contractor.

Also known locally as “The Bandstand”, the amphitheatre is on the promenade next to the Heugh Battery Museum.

The restoration scheme which has been designed by the Council’s in-house Engineering and Architecture Team, involves constructing a new retaining wall to the rear of the site and replacing the existing stepped seats around a feature paved area to provide an events space. Once complete, the amphitheatre will accommodate around 500 spectators.

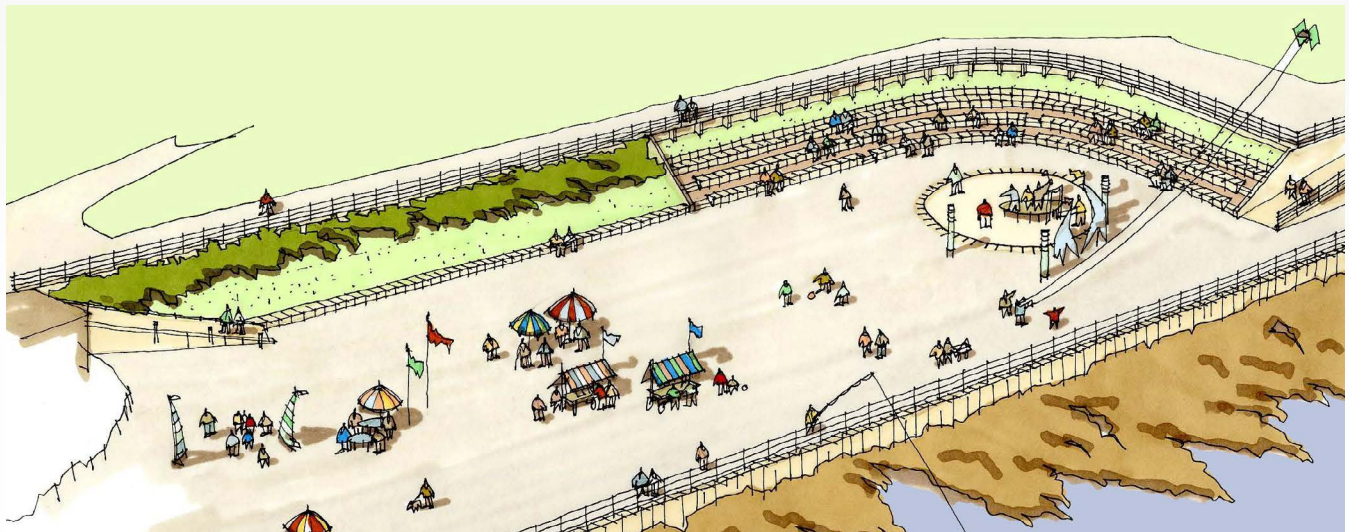
Photographs dating back to the early 1900s indicate it was used for a range of public events,

community celebrations and entertainment with seating built in to the retaining wall, a Victorian bandstand and a café.

The announcement of Seymour Civil Engineering as principal contractor comes after a tendering process and follows last year’s decision to postpone on-site works for six months to safeguard seabirds which feed nearby.

Construction work is now due to start in April and it is expected to be completed by autumn.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of the Council, said “I’m delighted that we are now in a position to proceed. It is also great news that we have a local company of the calibre of Seymour Civil Engineering leading the project to bring this important landmark back to life.”



Artist’s impression of how the restored amphitheatre will look.

Free town centre parking launched

You can now park for free for up to three hours in Council-run town centre pay and display car parks.

The offer, part of a Tees Valley-wide initiative, applies to the Westside (behind York Road), Eastside (adjacent to Wilko), Roker Street, Basement, Waldon Street, and the multi-storey car parks (although the latter is currently closed due to coronavirus restrictions), as well as the parking spaces adjacent to the King Johns Tavern.

Motorists are still required to obtain a pay and display parking ticket from a machine – the machines have been calibrated to issue tickets

free of charge for parking of up to three hours – in the car park they are using and display it within their vehicle in the usual way, otherwise they will be liable for a fixed penalty notice fine.

The free parking offer does not extend to permit-controlled parking bays.

Councillor John Tennant, Chair of the Council’s Neighbourhood Services Committee, said: “When the free parking initiative was agreed last year, we had no idea we would be in a national lockdown. However, when lockdown does end and businesses begin to reopen, it will have a key role to play in the town’s economic bounce back.”

COVID-19: PLEASE PLAY YOUR PART BY GETTING A TEST

With Community Testing now underway in Hartlepool, it's just as important for you to get a test if you **DON'T** have any symptoms as if you do.

Why do I need to get tested if I don't have symptoms?

Up to a third of people with COVID don't have any symptoms and so can spread it without knowing, so testing as many people as possible without symptoms to find out if they have it and then helping them to self-isolate if they do is an important way of bringing the virus under control.

That's why Community COVID Testing for people in Hartlepool who **DON'T** have symptoms is being done at Mill House Leisure Centre in Raby Road.

Anyone aged 18 or over who lives or works in Hartlepool and who **does not** have COVID symptoms can get a free test and is encouraged to do so (except people who are shielding).

Tests are available every weekday but must be booked - you can't just turn up.

You can find out more and book a test online at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/community-testing or by calling **01429 523330** during normal office hours.

You don't have to get a test, but the more people who get tested, the faster we can get case numbers down in Hartlepool.

If you are booking a test, you must ensure that you have your own mobile phone, which you will need to bring with you to the testing centre because you will receive your test result by text.

Because of the data protection laws, you can't use someone else's mobile phone. If you don't have a mobile phone, please speak to our friendly booking team on the number above.

The test at Mill House is simple and quick and involves you coming along to the testing centre, where there is free parking and disabled access.

Particularly encouraged to get a test are those people who are unable to work from home, come into contact with the public and have no access to other rapid testing – for example taxi drivers, supermarket and other shop staff, tradespeople, takeaway staff, carers, social workers and nursery staff.

Because they are coming into frequent contact with other people, they are advised to get two tests a week, 3-4 days apart.



You'll be given a swab and sent to a sample collection booth.

You'll be asked to take a swab of your tonsils (or where they would have been at the back of your throat) as well as one nostril. It's simple to do and trained staff will be on hand to explain to you how to do it.

The test only takes a few minutes and you will receive your result by text. You will get your result within 24 hours, and in most cases within an hour. You will also be given advice on what to do if your test comes back positive.

The testing at Mill House Leisure Centre is only for people who **DON'T** have COVID symptoms.

You **must not** come to the centre if you have any of the COVID symptoms, including:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.

If you have any COVID symptoms you must self-isolate and book a different test straight away, as follows.

What do I do if I DO have symptoms?

If you have any of the COVID symptoms - including a new, continuous cough, a high temperature and/or a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste - you must self-isolate and book a different type of test at a different location. **Don't come to Mill House Leisure Centre.**

Book a test straight away - don't 'wait and see' because during that time if you do have the virus you could very well be spreading it to other people and you could also become more poorly yourself.

Tests are available at the Department of Health and Social Care's mobile drive-through testing unit at the Hartlepool Waterfront site, the walk-through testing facilities in the Grayfields car park off Jesmond Gardens and at the Headland Town Square.

Tests must be booked - you can't just turn up.

To book go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call **119** - don't use 111.

When your turn comes please get your jab



Vaccination is one of your most effective defences against COVID-19



All steps in the usual vaccine development process have been rigorously followed for the COVID-19 vaccine.

This includes clinical trial phases that are standard in the UK.

Find out more at www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine

Thank you, schools and care homes



We want to place on record our thanks to all schools and care homes in Hartlepool for their efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

We recognise the amazing support that has been provided since the announcement of the first lockdown almost one year ago.

Councillor Leisa Smith, Chair of Hartlepool Borough Council's Children's Services Committee, said: "We fully appreciate the importance of reopening our schools safely and – just as we have been throughout the pandemic – we're working with head teachers across Hartlepool to plan for this and to support the changes around testing for secondary pupils.

"Schools across Hartlepool have provided outstanding support throughout the pandemic – from the development of online learning and physical resource packs, to maintaining provision for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers."

We know it also hasn't been easy for families not to be able to visit loved ones in care homes and we welcome the first step of allowing residents one regular visitor.

Again, Hartlepool Borough Council is working to support care homes to prepare for this important development.

Councillor Sue Little, Chair of Hartlepool Borough Council's Adult and Community-Based Services Committee, said: "Staff in care homes across Hartlepool have provided extraordinary service over the past twelve months in what has been the toughest of years.

"We also know how important visiting a loved one is and we're pleased to be supporting our care homes to be in a position for people to be carefully and safely reunited with loved ones.

"This is just the first step to getting back to where we want to be, but a very positive development nonetheless."



Tees Valley Warm Homes Fund has secured £6.1 million of funding to offer home improvements, including an efficient new gas boiler and radiators. Stockton Council are administering the scheme for the Tees Valley area.

How do I qualify?

- The property must not currently have central heating installed i.e. it does not have a heat generator connected to radiators
- You must live in one of the Tees Valley local authority areas (Stockton-on-Tees, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, or Redcar & Cleveland)
- You must either own the property or have the permission of the owner



If you think you qualify call us on **01642 526 100** to check your eligibility

Coronavirus one year on

As this newsletter went to print, plans were being finalised to mark the occasion of one year since the Prime Minister announced the most significant set of restrictions in living memory.

On March 23rd 2020, Boris Johnson announced a nationwide lockdown in a bid to stop the Coronavirus outbreak. A swathe of businesses were also ordered to close as part of the measures and it has certainly been one of the most challenging years many of us have ever experienced.

Six beams of light, dubbed The Hartlepool Six, illuminated the sky over Hartlepool on Bonfire Night with the aim of providing some solace to local residents in difficult times.

Then on Wednesday 23rd December 2020, Jackson Dock was bathed in a pool of colourful light for an installation called Reflections to allow residents the opportunity to process their experiences and look forward to more positive times.

We'll soon be announcing plans for the evening of Tuesday 23rd March 2021 and will be setting up a dedicated webpage at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/coronavirus-one-year-on

You'll also be able to find out more via our social media platforms at www.facebook.com/hartlepoolcouncil and www.twitter.com/HpoolCouncil



Armistice Day 2020



The Hartlepool Six



Don't get bitten by a loan shark

As people grapple with the financial impact of COVID, they are once again being warned not to fall into the jaws of a loan shark.

Loan sharks often:

- offer you a cash loan but don't give you any paperwork
- take your benefit or bank card as security on the loan
- don't tell you when you will finish paying
- increase the amount you owe even if you are making regular payments
- threaten or use violence to get money from you

If you've borrowed money from a loan shark, you haven't broken the law - they have.

Contact the England Illegal Money Lending Team straight away any time of day or night - you can talk to them in complete confidence and they will help you.

Visit www.stoploansharks.co.uk or call **0300 555 2222**

Are you eligible for a Test & Trace Support Payment?

Hartlepool residents unable to work whilst self-isolating can apply for help from the Government's Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme.

Those meeting the eligibility criteria will receive a £500 lump sum.

Payments are subject to income tax but not National Insurance contributions, and they are not taken into account for benefit purposes.

The scheme which is being administered locally by Hartlepool Borough Council, runs until June 30th

For more information and to apply go to www.hartlepool.gov.uk/test-and-trace

Anyone not able to access digital services or who is having problems completing the online application form can call **(01429) 284188**.



Application to vote by post

The
Electoral
Commission

Voting by post

Voting by post is an easy and convenient way of voting if you do not want to vote in person at a polling station.

You can use this form to apply to vote by post for a particular election or referendum, for a set period of time or for all future polls. Postal votes can be sent to addresses in the UK and abroad.

You must be registered and eligible to vote.

How do I apply to vote by post?

- Fill in the postal vote application form.
- Make sure you complete all sections of the form and supply your date of birth and signature. Your date of birth and signature are needed on this application form, and again when you use your postal vote. This information is needed to prevent fraud. If you are unable to sign this form, please contact your local electoral registration office.
- Return your form to **Elections Office, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY**
or email: elections@hartlepool.gov.uk

Please do not return your form to The Electoral Commission.

The deadline for returning your postal vote application may vary depending on which country you live in. Please visit electoralcommission.org.uk/postalvote for more information about deadlines.

If you are not already registered to vote, you must register before applying for a postal vote. The deadline to register to vote is **midnight, 12 working days before the poll**. Register to vote online at gov.uk/register-to-vote

What happens after I've returned this form?

- When an election or referendum is going to be held, your ballot paper will be sent to you in the post. To find out when your ballot paper will be issued you can contact the elections office at your council.
- Make sure you return your postal vote so that it arrives by the close of poll, otherwise it will not be counted. A Freepost envelope is included in your postal ballot pack. But, if you are sending it from overseas, you may need to pay the postage.
- If it is too late to send your vote back by post, you can hand it in on polling day to the elections office at your council, or drop it off at certain polling stations.

Privacy statement

We collect information under the legal basis of a task carried out in the public interest, as set out in the Representation of the People Act 1983 and related regulations. We will look after personal information securely and follow data protection legislation.

If you opted-out of the open register we will only use the information you give us for electoral purposes, including matching it against other sources of data to support the electoral register. We will not give personal information to anyone else, unless we have to by law. The law requires us to share your information with candidates, political parties and campaigners for democratic engagement purposes and credit reference agencies to check your identity when you apply for credit.

If you have not opted-out of the open register your name and address can be bought by anyone and used for lots of purposes, including direct marketing.

The Electoral Registration Officer is the Controller. For further information relating to the processing of personal data you should refer to their privacy notice on www.hartlepool.gov.uk.

