

PPP Members Briefing Bulletin #6

Public Protection Partnership

Bracknell Forest
West Berkshire
Wokingham

New Regulations

On 5 November 2020, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.4) Regulations 2020 came into effect. These new regulations are the UK government's response to a second wave of COVID-19 cases and enforce a new national lockdown for England until 2 December 2020. After the 28-day lockdown period, the government may impose a local tier system again, but there is currently no information available how this will work in practice. Further information on this is expected this week.

The new regulations are largely a reinstatement of the March lockdown rules, albeit with a wider list of exceptions.

The new regulations state that "no person may leave or be outside of the place where they are living without reasonable excuse."

As in the March lockdown regulations, there are extensive provisions on the closure of businesses. Familiar rules cover businesses that serve food or drink to be consumed on the premises, with exceptions. Notably, the sale of food or drink for consumption off the premises is still permitted.

Non-essential businesses are also subject to restrictions and exceptions. For instance, places of worship must remain closed except for limited circumstances, such as the provision of essential voluntary services or to broadcast an act of worship.

Enforcement of hospitality rules / patrols across the areas

As in the March lockdown legislation, "relevant persons" (police officers, community support officers or individuals nominated for the purpose by local authorities or the secretary of state) have extensive powers to enforce the restrictions set out in the new regulations.

Penalties for offenders who are deemed by a relevant person to have breached a restriction under the new regulations include:

- a fine on summary conviction; or
- a fixed penalty notice, which may be issued by the relevant person if they reasonably believe:

As with previous COVID-19 regulations, fines may be increased for repeat offences. The maximum fine is £6,400 for the sixth or subsequent offence, or £10,000 for the fourth or subsequent repeated offence in respect of business restrictions offences.

Enforcement of hospitality rules / patrols cont ...

Over the past month alone the PPP patrols have monitored nearly 400 premises (385) with regards to current Covid regulations. Patrols are taking place across Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire and Wokingham both day and night 7 days a week.

During the patrols our officers are supporting businesses and offering advice, and where appropriate, enforcing Covid regulations. When enforcement measures are undertaken we are not only acting on regulations but the need to create a fair environment for all businesses to operate in, and public reassurance that these rules we are all subject to are being enforced.

Patrols, across the three partner areas, are both during the day and late into the evening to make sure we're capturing a broad cross section of businesses.

Prior to the recent changes in regulations most of our Covid related patrols involved advising business on their Covid Security measures, such as signage, QR codes, social distancing and closing times or just making sure businesses were adhering to measures, which in the majority of cases they were.

Since the 5th November, and the change in regulations and closure of certain businesses, our patrols have been two-fold.

Firstly responding to intelligence from members of the public, or previous intelligence on 'hot-spots', on potential breaches of regulations. This might involve businesses who should be closed continuing to trade or open businesses not been Covid secure. In some cases there's genuine confusion on behalf of the business owners as to if they can or can't be open. As in the previous lockdown they could, or they were able when the first lockdown was gradually eased. Any business who has been witnessed breaching Covid regulations will be continued to be monitored as part of our ongoing patrols until officers are comfortable that regulations are now being adhered to and in some cases enforcement is necessary. There has been one prohibition notice served in West Berkshire since 5th November at a car wash facility and three served within Wokingham also at car washing facilities.

Secondly our officers will generally look at all businesses as they're patrolling areas. They're able to offer support to businesses who are unsure of the current regulations and chat through their measures and where improvements can be made or congratulate them on a job well done! So many businesses have gone to a huge amount of effort, on ever changing rules, that are officers appreciate the over whelming effort to comply and keep people safe.

We're also working closely with Thames Valley Police in a joined up approach with regards to enforcement of Covid measures.

Types of businesses we have visited include:

Car Washes / Kebab Vans / Supermarkets / Local 'corner' shops / Pubs / Cafes / Opticians / Fish & Chips / Wine merchants / Warehouses / Retail

**A shared service provided by
Bracknell Forest Council, West
Berkshire Council and
Wokingham Borough Council.**



Events

Although we're currently in a second 'lockdown' with further restrictions on businesses and events outside of the tier system we are preparing for when these restrictions lapse, and we assume, we're back into a tiered system.

If that is the case events will be allowed to happen, within the relevant Covid regulations and guidance.

At this moment in time we are liaising with Lapland UK (Bracknell) who are planning on going ahead from 2nd Dec depending on what is announced.

Our team have been working with them since June on their modified Covid plans.

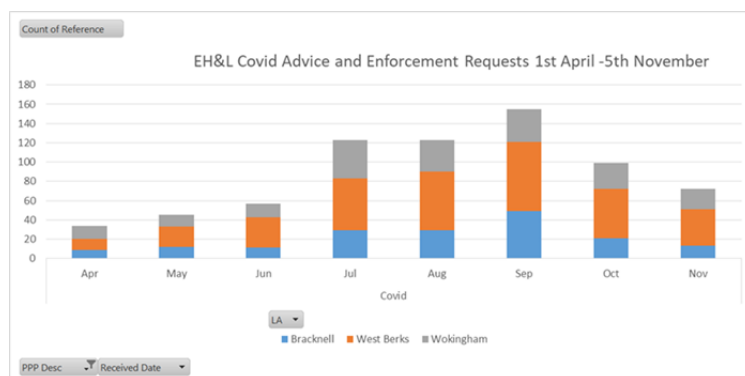
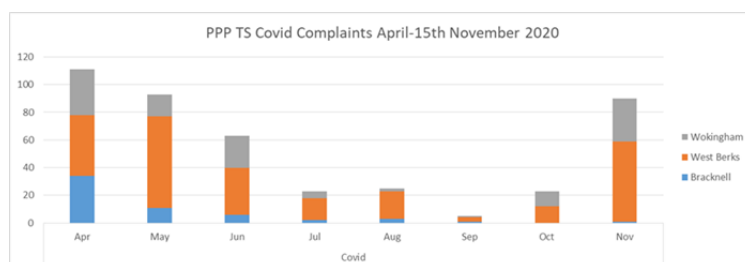
Leander Club in Henley were also planning a Christmas market. We're in touch with them to discuss their options.

We've also had various Christmas lights switch on, Santa dashes and Christmas extravaganzas provisionally scheduled in which have all currently cancelled or postponed. Many event organisers are awaiting clarification on the 2nd December.



Advice & Complaints

For complaints made to the PPP we've not seen some of the spikes in complaints in noise or bonfires as we did in the lockdown back in Spring/early summer but this is reflective of more premises open, schools and the weather (people aren't sat out trying to enjoy their gardens as much). We're seeing an increase in trading standards/holiday cancellations queries. In relation to Covid complaints (shown below) we are seeing a shift from risk assessment and health and safety advice (EH&L) to more enforcement about premise opening and non compliance (TS).



Wokingham Borough Campaign on Bonfires Results

In October PPP were asked to proactively monitor areas which had seen complaints of bonfires, on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council. The Public Protection Partnership Community and Trading Standards team undertook a daily patrol exercise for a period of two weeks (commencing 12th October) across the Wokingham borough to ensure an enforcement presence where bonfires are causing either dark smoke or a statutory nuisance to neighbours.

11 officers took part in the monitoring exercise between 12th and 25th October and visited each of the identified sites/areas based on the information packs we produced on the 17 areas within the District.

In visiting the sites officers would be able to witness any burning by sense of smell as well as visually, at any specific site identified or at premises in the vicinity. We also looked out for bonfires en-route between identified areas. In this way the monitoring became less targeted and wide ranging.

Monitoring commenced from around 10.00am each day (which included both weekends), with 2 officers involved per session—one monitoring one half of the sites, the other officer the second half of the sites. This took approximately 2 hours. Upon completion, and after a lunch break, the officers would swap areas. Therefore observations were completed twice per day per area, with a total period of some 5 to 6 hours per day. Therefore some 70 to 90 hours spent in total.

No burning was observed or found during the period, except on one instance at Barkham Road—the source was burning wood from building works, but there was little smoke and no nuisance to others. They were advised by the Environmental Health Officer that they should dispose of such building waste by using a licenced tip rather than burning the waste. Following that advice on 13th October, no further burning was observed at this address.

Over the period the weather was often very inclement with heavy rain. With lockdown restrictions eased, and licenced tips open, disposal of rubbish was easier and households were less likely to be burning rubbish whilst the weather was so poor.

Any residents witnessing illegal fires, or who are being affected by bonfire smoke should contact the public protection partnership on 01635 503242 or via our online form below:

<https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/make-a-service-request/>

If residents are experiencing burning of trade waste, they should also contact the Environment Agency on 0800 807060.

Animal Warden Service

Data below for the period 10th September to 9th November show fewer dogs to rescue for the same period this year with a similar number of strays. Part of the education and communications role of the Animal Warden team is about the importance of microchipping and having ID with addresses on dogs.

These messages are a constant in our social media with some recent videos explaining the importance of these simple steps that dog owners should take to ensure the safety and quick return should their dog become lost.

When strays are collected, and the dog is not microchipped, it may result in a prosecution.

10th September - 9th November 2019

	Bracknell	West Berks	Wokingham
Handled	7	13	4
To Rescue	3	7	4

10th September - 9th November 2020

	Bracknell	West Berks	Wokingham
Handled	7	8	7
To Rescue	3	3	2

And finally...we're delighted to say that our Animal Warden team was awarded the RSPCA Gold Paw Award for our Animal Warden Service.



GOLD STRAY DOGS 2020

Fly-Tipping Update

Within Bracknell Forest we have received 15 notifications of fly-tipping instances recently. These reports come direct from the public, Councillor's or other stakeholders. Our officers within PPP liaise directly with the delivery team and the team of specialist contractors for removal. Response times vary depending on size and complexity of the dumping (i.e. may contain hazardous materials etc.) however it averages within 24-36hrs.

Bracknell Forest currently had 2 Fly tipping 'hotspots' in Warfield and Owlsmoor. We are at present working with our delivery partner and other agencies for evidence of repeat offenders that use these areas and will look to take legal action against them.

In the past two months we have issued 2 fixed penalty notices, 1 court case (see below in case management examples). We currently have 7 on-going cases, which may result in a fixed penalty notice or a prosecution.

Case Management Update

28.9.20 - Tesco fined £160,000 for out of date food, Warfield Bracknell.

23.10.20 - Wokingham Dog owner ordered to pay £400 for failing to keep microchip data up to date

23.10.20 - Fly-tipping (Warfield, Bracknell) costs offenders £1,890

23.10.20 - Co-op (Crowthorne) Foodstores Ltd fined £40,000 for out of date food

23.10.20 - Overloaded Vehicles cases x 2 drivers & 2 operator companies. Found guilty and fined

06.11.20 - Underage Alcohol Sales In Hungerford

06.11.20 - Bracknell Traders plead guilty to 3 consumer protection offences

6.11.20 - Wokingham trader convicted of four offences in relation sale and installation of conservatories

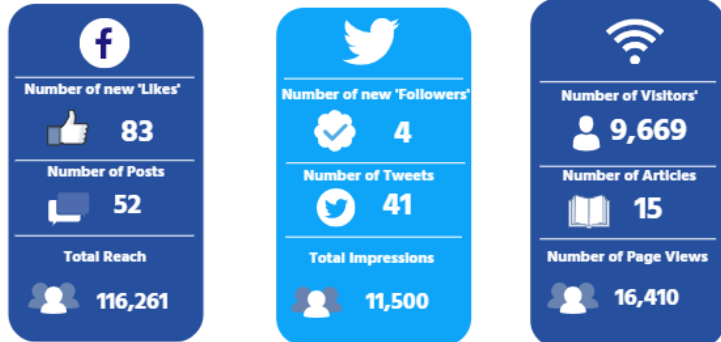
24.11.20 - Underage Firework and Alcohol Sales in Thatcham

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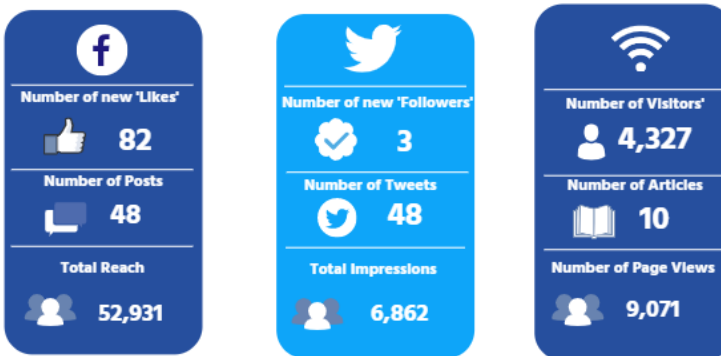
Communication

PPP Social Media Update 1st Oct - 31st Oct '20



Total combined reach for October is 144,171

PPP Social Media Update 1st Nov - 22nd November



Total combined reach for November to date is 68,884

Comms Summary

Social media and website engagement continues to grow. Although there was a drop off in the November figures after a surge in October.

The PPP Facebook page reached 1000 likes in November and is steadily growing in reach. The top performing posts on Facebook over October and November are shown to the right. Those with local relevance always out perform more generic messages.

Top 3 Facebook October & November Posts

Public Protection Partnership
Published by Lisa Barnes [?] · ★ Favourites · 19 October · 🌐

Congratulations to Kaspas in Bracknell for scooping a five hygiene rating following work with PPP and council health professionals.

Kaspas Desserts has scooped a five rating for hygiene and praise from environmental health experts for its new and updated COVID-19 control measures.

Congratulations Kaspas - Reach 13,508

Last month, Kaspas in Bracknell town centre (located under Royal Winchester House) voluntarily agreed to close temporarily following concerns by the council's environmental health and public health...
See more



Warning - Supermarket Distraction Thieves - Reach 12,243

Public Protection Partnership
Published by Lisa Barnes [?] · ★ Favourites · 7 October · 🌐

⚠️ WARNING - Supermarket Distraction Thieves Operating in Bracknell Town Centre ⚠️

We've recently been notified by Thames Valley Police that during the past week fraudsters are operating in Bracknell town again. They are targeting supermarket shoppers, who used either a credit or debit card to make payments by way of entering a 4 digit PIN at the point of sale.

The offenders sometimes appear to be on their own but are likely to be working in small teams.... See more



Public Protection Partnership
Published by Lisa Barnes [?] · ★ Favourites · 12 October · 🌐

New Look Halloween for 2020?

As with many things this year our usual Halloween traditions will need to be rethought in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are advising families to rethink the tradition of 'trick and treat' where you'd normally be knocking on doors and receiving a treat of sweets or similar on Halloween. Instead perhaps get involved in many of the local 'pumpkin' trails where you go out as a family (all dressed up to scare) and look out for houses with Hall... See more



Halloween Guidance - Reach 10,541

Who to Contact

Reporting of complaints relating to Covid-19 can be made on the website via the Enforcement Form on the front page. [Link here](#).

Trading Standards:

Concerned residents or anybody with information about coronavirus related scams are being asked to contact Trading Standards directly via: TSadvice@westberks.gov.uk

Environmental Health:

Environmental Health matters are to contact us by emailing: ehadvice@westberks.gov.uk

Licensing:

Bracknell Forest Licensing matters are to contact us by emailing: Licence.All@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk

West Berkshire Licensing matters are to contact us by emailing: Licensing@westberks.gov.uk

Wokingham Licensing matters are to contact us by emailing: Licensing@wokingham.gov.uk

Keeping in Touch With Updates



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www.publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk