

24th March 2020

Dear Beddington BID members,

Beddington BID understands that we are in unprecedented times and that local businesses and their workforce are experiencing both disruptions and uncertainties.

To support our businesses, we have compiled the information that directly affects you and your business, and we will continue to keep you updated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have, email:

*Michelle@beddingtonforbusiness.co.uk*

### [Beddington Business Improvement District \(BID\)](#)

Beddington BID continues to operate, and we are here for your business during these changeable and challenging times. As an organisation that represents 200 businesses in Beddington Industrial Area, we are focusing on how best to prepare for the recovery and rebuilding phase of COVID-19.

An update for you:

- To gather data on the impact of COVID-19 on businesses in Beddington Industrial Area we will be sending all businesses a **Business Impact Survey** this week, please complete this.
- Jeremy John, Beddington BID Chairman and Director of Chelsea Artisans will be writing to the Treasury on behalf of all 200 Beddington BID members regarding **Business Rates**. The recent announcements that there will be 100% business rates relief for all businesses of all sizes within the retail and hospitality sectors is to be applauded, but the BID believes that **all** businesses should benefit from the business rates exemption including warehousing, manufacturing, logistics, distribution, industrial, utilities, vehicle and machinery hire.
- 30 businesses sent letters of objection to oppose Sutton Council's proposed **HGV restriction** on Beddington Lane. Sutton Council have acknowledged receipt of these objections and have said:

*"HGV restrictions are being duly considered by the Council...we are currently studying up to date HGV monitoring data and it's findings will soon be shared with the BID Board as soon as it is validated and processed. However, in the given circumstances, it is likely to be in early April".*

The BID strongly objects to the HGV restrictions. In the event that the Council do decide to proceed with the restrictions we have asked that these changes are postponed until 2021. The impact of the Coronavirus on businesses will be significant and imposing a restriction to all vehicles above 3.5 tonne on the Beddington Lane / Hillier's Lane junction would cause unnecessary disruption and costs for businesses.

- The **Beddington Industrial Area signage** scheme is taking much longer than we anticipated. This is a project joint funded by Beddington BID and Sutton Council, yet

we are frustrated by the time it is taking to complete. We have appointed a specialist Highways consultant who is liaising with the Council, Highways and our contractors to help progress this. We have made it clear that this project must be completed this calendar year.

- We have informed Sutton Council that we wish to proceed with the installation of **Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras** and that we wish to place an order; the Council are in talks with the Met Police to progress this. We are awaiting an update from Sutton Council. These cameras will be key for the Police to track stolen / untaxed vehicles and vehicles that have been involved in a crime / break-in / fly tipping.
- **Beddington BID security** patrols continue across Beddington Industrial Area 7pm-6am, 7 nights per week. SWL Security undertake the nightly patrols for the BID and they use the Beddington BID branded electric van for each shift. They are also offering a key-holder service for all Beddington BID members. If you are interested in this service, please contact email [Michelle@beddingtonforbusiness.co.uk](mailto:Michelle@beddingtonforbusiness.co.uk)
- **Police patrols** in the Beddington BID funded Police patrol car are also continuing.

### [Latest News, Coronavirus Update](#)

On Friday 20 March, the Chancellor announced additional measures to help businesses and the self-employed affected by COVID-19. The new measures announced are:

- A new **National Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**: HMRC will provide grants to businesses, charities and not for profit organisations to cover the wages of people not working or furloughed and this will be 80% of salary to a maximum of £2,500 per month. The help will be backdated to 1st March 2020, be available within weeks and grants will be issued before the end of April. The grants will be for three months and extended as necessary and there is no limit set to the amount of funding available.
- The **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan scheme** will have its interest free period extended from 6 to 12 months and is available now.
- Immediate cashflow support for businesses by **deferring this quarter's VAT** to the end of June 2020 and businesses will have to the end of the financial year to pay bills.

An enhanced 'safety net' for workers was also announced, including new measures for the unemployed and self-employed:

- Universal credit will be increased by £1,000 per year and Working Tax Credit by the same amount.
- Suspension of the minimum income floor for the self-employed. Self-employed workers will be able to access the full Universal Credit equivalent to Statutory Sick Pay for employees; this is £94.25 per week and will be payable from day one instead of day four for affected individuals.
- Taxes – the next self-assessment payments have been deferred to January 2021 for the self-employed.

The Chancellor said a major advertising campaign was planned and asked businesses to look at it carefully before making any decision to lay staff off.

The government has set up a business support helpline, which is open Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/business-support-helpline>

The latest UK Government business advice can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

### **London Councils Lorry Control Scheme suspended**

London Council's is suspending enforcement of the London Lorry Control Scheme with immediate effect to help the freight and logistics industry cope with increasing pressures and demands from the rapidly developing situation with coronavirus – press release at:  
<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/press-release/17-march-2020/london-lorry-control-scheme-suspends-enforcement>

The Ministerial Statement on this calling for relaxing planning restrictions for the delivery of goods is at: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2020-03-13/HCWS159/>

### **Closures**

The businesses allowed to remain open during 'lockdown' announced on 23<sup>rd</sup> March:

<b><u>Establishment</u></b>	<b><u>Exceptions</u></b>
Restaurants	Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational
Cafes, including workplace canteens	Cafés, including workplace canteens Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational. Cafés or canteens at hospitals, care homes or schools; prison and military canteens; services providing food or drink to the homeless.
Pubs / Bars / Nightclubs / Hotel bars / Member's Clubs / Hair, beauty & nail salons / Tattoo & piercing parlours	NO EXCEPTIONS – CLOSED
All other retail	Supermarkets and other food shops, health shops, pharmacies including non-dispensing pharmacies, petrol stations, bicycle shops, home and hardware shops, laundrettes and dry cleaners, garages, car rentals, pet shops, corner shops, newsagents, post offices, and banks.
Outdoor and indoor markets	Market stalls which offer essential retail, such as grocery and food.
Car showrooms / Auction houses	NO EXCEPTIONS – CLOSED
Hotels	Hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites and boarding houses for commercial use where people live in these as interim abodes

## Establishment

## Exceptions

Caravan parks/sites for commercial uses

whilst their primary residence is unavailable, they may continue to do so. Key workers can continue to stay in hotels or similar where required.

Caravan parks/sites for commercial uses where people live permanently in caravan parks or are staying in caravan parks as interim abodes where their primary residence is not available, they may continue to do so.

Libraries

NO EXCEPTIONS – CLOSED

Community centres, youth centres and similar

Facilities may remain open for the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services.

Places of worship for services

Funerals following the social distancing guidance; places of worship should remain open for solitary prayer. Live streaming of a service without audience would be permissible.

Cinemas, theatres and concert halls

Live streaming of a performance by a small group could be permissible with social distancing observed

Museums and galleries

NO EXCEPTIONS – CLOSED

Bingo halls, casinos and betting shops / Spas / Skating rinks / Fitness studios, gyms, swimming pools, leisure centres / Arcade, bowling alleys, soft play

NO EXCEPTIONS – CLOSED

Enclosed spaces in parks, including playgrounds, sports courts and pitches, and outdoor gyms or similar

NO EXCEPTIONS – CLOSED

- Businesses must remain vigilant regarding the social distancing guidance. Government guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

### Support for businesses that pay business rates

- A business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England for the 2020 to 2021 tax year (state aid rules have been dropped to allow support to larger firms).
- Businesses that received the retail discount in the 2019 to 2020 tax year will be rebilled by their local authority as soon as possible.
- The 100% business rates relief does not apply to offices, industrial, manufacturing, logistics, distribution or warehouses.
- A £25,000 grant will be provided to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses operating from smaller premises, with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000.
- Any enquiries on eligibility for, or provision of, the reliefs should be directed to Sutton Council.

### Support for businesses that pay little or no business rates

- The government will provide additional funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBRR). This will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to businesses currently eligible for SBRR or rural rate relief, to help meet their ongoing business costs.
- If businesses are eligible for SBRR or rural rate relief, you will be contacted by your local authority – you do not need to apply.
- Funding for the scheme will be provided to local authorities by government in early April.

### Support for businesses through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

A new temporary Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, delivered by the British Business Bank, has launched to support businesses to access bank lending and overdrafts. The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs. The government will not charge businesses or banks for this guarantee, and the Scheme will support loans of up to £5 million in value. Businesses can access the first 12 months of that finance interest free, as government will cover the first 12 months of interest payments.

### Insurance

- Businesses that have cover for both pandemics and government-ordered closure should be covered, as the government and insurance industry confirmed on 17 March 2020 that advice to avoid pubs, theatres etc is sufficient to make a claim.
- Insurance policies differ significantly, so businesses are encouraged to check the terms and conditions of their specific policy and contact their providers. Most businesses are unlikely to be covered, as standard business interruption insurance policies are dependent on damage to property and will exclude pandemics.
- In addition, a package of measures to support for businesses who are paying sick pay to employees was also announced.

### Benefits

The Government has issued advice about coronavirus and claiming benefits, which will continue to be updated at: <https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

The key points are:

- If you cannot work due to coronavirus and are eligible for Statutory Sick Pay you will get it from day one, rather than from the fourth day of your illness.
- Statutory Sick Pay will be payable if you are staying at home on Government advice, not just if you are infected by coronavirus. This will apply from 13 March 2020.
- In light of the current coronavirus outbreak, the Department for Work and Pensions has taken the precautionary decision to temporarily suspend all face-to-face assessments for health and disability-related benefits.
- If you have a jobcentre appointment but are staying at home on Government advice or have been diagnosed with coronavirus, you will not be sanctioned if you tell DWP in good time.
- If you are staying at home as a result of coronavirus, your mandatory work search and work availability requirements will be removed to account for a period of sickness.
- If you are self-employed and claiming Universal Credit and are required to stay at home or are ill as a result of coronavirus, the minimum income floor (an assumed level of income) will not be applied for a period of time whilst you are affected.
- If you are affected by coronavirus you will be able to apply for Universal Credit and can receive up to a month's advance upfront without physically attending a jobcentre
- If you employ people, you are urged to use your discretion about what evidence, if any, you ask for when making decisions about sick pay.
- If you have fewer than 250 employees, you will be able to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay for employees unable to work because of coronavirus. This refund will be for up to 2 weeks per employee.

It is expected there will be further announcements made this week regarding the self-employed and the financial assistance available.

We hope that the information in this email is useful.

Kind regards

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