

## Sandwell Community Information and Participation Service

# Special Information update

As an organisation SCIPS publishes newsletters from information supplied to us by third parties.

The view expressed in any publication are not a reflection of any policy position held by SCIPS as an organisation.



**STAY SAFE!**

## New Government Guidelines

### Update from SCIPS

All of the staff are working from home, we are all very busy and are still working as normal, so, if you have any queries or need to speak to any of the staff we are still taking calls on the usual number:

**0121 544 1230**

We look forward to seeing you all very soon

### Email:

Enquiries @scips.org.uk

SCIPS is a registered charity No 1097702. If you would like to find out more about us and the work we are involved in, please visit our website at [www.scips.org.uk](http://www.scips.org.uk)

## CORONAVIRUS

# NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

5 November to 2 December

### National restrictions apply to England:

<b>Meeting Indoors</b>  <p>You cannot meet anybody socially indoors unless they are in your household or support bubble.</p>	<b>Meeting Outdoors</b>  <p>You can meet with 1 person from another household in outdoor public spaces, following social distancing. Children under 5 and anyone dependent on continuous care do not count towards the 2 person limit.</p>	<b>Weddings and Funerals</b>  <p>Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies can only take place where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover. Funerals can take place with up to 30 people in attendance.</p>	<b>Working from home</b>  <p>You must work from home if you can. If you cannot work from home you should continue to go to work (unless you are clinically extremely vulnerable).</p>
<b>Essential Shops</b>  <p>Open. Essential shops should follow COVID-secure guidelines.</p>	<b>Non-essential Retail</b>  <p>Closed. Can only open for click-and-collect and delivery services.</p>	<b>Exercise</b>  <p>You can exercise outside on your own or with your household; your support bubble; or one person from another household.</p>	<b>Leisure and Gyms</b>  <p>Closed. Except for allotments and outdoor playgrounds.</p>
<b>Hospitality</b>  <p>Closed except for takeaway, click-and-collect, drive through and delivery services. Takeaway not permitted after 22:00.</p>	<b>Education</b>  <p>Early years, schools and FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.</p>	<b>Healthcare Services</b>  <p>You can leave home for any medical reason.</p>	<b>Residential Care</b>  <p>Care homes are encouraged to provide safe, COVID-secure visiting opportunities. See the guidance for details on how to keep visits safe.</p>
<b>Travel</b>  <p>You must not travel in the UK or overseas other than for permitted reasons, including work, education, medical reasons, caring responsibilities or for essential retail.</p>	<b>Public Transport</b>  <p>You may still use public transport, but should only travel for permitted reasons and should look to reduce the number of journeys you make, avoid travelling at peak times, and walk or cycle where you can.</p>	<b>Overnight Stays</b>  <p>Overnight stays and holidays away from primary residences are not allowed, except for work and other exempt purposes.</p>	<b>Entertainment and tourism</b>  <p>Entertainment venues are closed. Public gardens at visitor attractions are open.</p>
<b>Vulnerable People</b>  <p>If you are 60+ or clinically vulnerable, be especially careful to follow the rules and minimise contacts with others. If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you are advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend essential health appointments.</p>	<b>Worship</b>  <p>Closed. Except for: funerals, broadcasting acts of worship, and individual prayer.</p>	<b>Childcare</b>  <p>Registered childcare and childcare activities open to enable parents to work, or for respite care. Parents can form a childcare bubble with another household for informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under.</p>	<b>Youth Clubs and Activities</b>  <p>Some youth services are able to continue, such as 1-1 youth work and support groups, but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.</p>

For more information and detailed guidance visit:  
[gov.uk/coronavirus](http://gov.uk/coronavirus)



The HCBL Partnership have continued to adapt to lockdown measures and deliver their projects where possible and identify new ways of progressing projects that may have otherwise halted. As of May 2021 the project will require a new Community Plan, which will span the next 6 years. To enable this to be achieved an independent plan writer has been commissioned, who will review their achievements and work with their local community to plan the future, as well as creating a 'Legacy Statement'. In the forthcoming months following support and training, the Partnership hope to undertake their first meeting via Zoom, to enable continuation of the programme.

The Green Spaces Sub Group had their first meeting via zoom, with some members loaning tablets from the SCIPS tablet loan scheme to achieve this. The group continue to work with the Council's Parks and Countryside team to develop and promote the green spaces across the HCBL area. More on this in the forthcoming months.



As you are all aware we secured funding for a 3 year digital project, partnering with St Albans Community Association. Within the first six months of the project, we have developed policies, procedures and protocols, training packages, a new website, which we shall launch in the very near future. We have also recently appointed an independent evaluator and began delivering training on a one to one over the phone and with the use of step by step guides.

We continue to assess the delivery detail of this project to compliment the current environment we are working in to ensure we support our communities in becoming digitally engaged and embed learning into local community centres in the longer term.

### Tablet Loan Scheme

Since the September Newsletter, we're happy to announce that the Tablet Loan Scheme has successfully launched. The aim of the project is to enable residents of Sandwell, to be more digitally engaged to grow their confidence in digital technology. We will assess whether you have access to the internet, as well as providing you with a guide of how to undertake the basics of using the tablet.

A number of video calling Apps are preinstalled onto the tablet, to help people stay connected. All that is required to participate within the scheme is that the lender is 18+ years old, and a resident of Sandwell.

Many of the tablets are currently out on loan, but we are operating a waiting list. Tablets are expected to become available in January, if you wish to participate in the scheme, please get in touch with a member of the SCIPS team.

