

PRESS RELEASE

Title: COVID 19 Arrangements
Date: 17th March 2020
Prepared By: Interim Town Clerk



After consideration of a detailed risk assessment and the latest Government advice, the Council have reluctantly made the decision to close Victoria Hall, The Council offices and Southway Public Toilets until further notice. The Council must ensure that it protects its employees, Councillors and all members of the public that use the venue during these unprecedented times.

Office Closure

The Council offices will be closed from Wednesday 18th March. All office-based staff will be working from home and can be contacted on their relevant email addresses which can be found on our website www.middlewich.org.uk/your-council-2/

Whilst the office is closed all telephone calls to the office on **01606 833434** will be transferred to voicemail with messages then being emailed to the appropriate member of staff. Your message will be responded to as soon as possible and within 24 hours.

Victoria Hall Closure

All bookings save for NHS Blood and Transplant Service, are cancelled for Victoria Hall as a result of the virus, and hirers will receive a full refund. At this stage we expect this to include all bookings until the end of May. The Town Council Team will be in contact with you regarding your refund as soon as they are able.

The cancellation on bookings may be extended further dependent upon Government advice kept under regular review and all hirers will be updated regularly. In the event of any queries regarding bookings in the interim please email admin@middlewich.org.uk

Community Assistance

We are looking to establish a bank of volunteers who are willing to help those self-isolating with shopping delivery or telephone contact to reduce the feeling of isolation during what will be a very difficult time for Middlewich and the UK generally. If you are able to offer any time and would like to be part of that bank of volunteers please contact us on admin@middlewich.org.uk or telephone 01606 833434.

We will also be contacting local businesses to see what delivery services or assistance they can offer to residents who are self-isolating and promote these via our website, social media channels and a mailing campaign that we are developing. We would encourage all residents to support your local businesses, while staying safe, as much as possible as the restrictions, will hit small businesses more than most.

If you are a resident who is self-isolating and need some help with shopping, post or just a friendly voice to talk too please contact us and we will aim to match you up with a volunteer local to you.

Folk and Boat Festival 17th to 21st June 2020

A decision has not yet been taken as to whether the Folk and Boat Festival will take place in June at this time. Postponement of the event until September time is being investigated to reduce the losses that will be suffered by the Council and a wide range of local businesses should the event require full cancellation. Whilst this is investigated tickets will be taken off sale. If you have already purchased a ticket this will either be transferred to a postponement date or refunded in full if the event is ultimately cancelled.

Council Meetings

The currently scheduled Full council and Committee meetings will not be taking place until further notice. The Council took steps at its meeting last night to ensure the council can continue to operate in the intervening period by providing emergency powers to the Town Clerk.

Updates as we have them will be provided on all our social media channels – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and our website www.middlewich.org.uk

If you are not online, you are welcome to telephone us on **01606 833434** for any updates or with any questions and we will do our best to help.

This is an unprecedented situation but if we can all pull together we will get through this.

Any queries with respect to this statement should be directed to the Town Clerk on 01606 833434 or by email to clerk@middlewich.org.uk