



Covid-19 - update

Support for reopening the high street

Free parking will be on offer in all Malvern Hills District Council car parks on every Sunday during July.

You can also buy 2 hour permits which will allow you to park for two hours, in any four hour period, in any council owned car park.

They cost just £25 and if you buy them during July and August, you will get 15 months for the price of 12.

They can be bought online at www.malvern hills.gov.uk/parking-and-streets. Terms and conditions apply.

The offers are part of Malvern Hills District Council's Economic Recovery Plan, which is designed to support businesses reopening, and give visitors confidence that the district's centres are safe places to visit.

Visitors are urged to stay **S.A.F.E** by:

Sanitising and washing their hands regularly

Always being kind and considerate to others

Following social distancing guidelines

Enjoying our environment but making sure they take litter home with them or put it in the bins provided.

Other ways we are supporting the reopening of our high streets include:

- Installing hand sanitiser stations in town centres (these will be in place shortly)
 - Reopening Tourist Information Centres. Malvern will be open from 6 July, Upton from 10 July and volunteers will be reopening Tenbury from 13 July.
 - Installing additional bike racks to encourage cycling
 - Working with Worcestershire County Council on the use of public highways to help food businesses serve diners
 - Promotional campaigns
 - Payment of more than £17.5million to small businesses - many in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.
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What's changing from 4 July 2020

From tomorrow (4 July) pubs and restaurants can reopen and a number of other changes to lockdown restrictions will be introduced.

Please read the official guidance that has been produced to help you understand what's changing and what you are now allowed to do.

[What you can and cannot do now](#)

[What you can and cannot do from 4 July 2020](#)

[Coronavirus outbreak FAQs](#)

Reopening of libraries

Worcestershire County Council has announced some of its libraries will reopen from 4 July, including Malvern Library.

[Read the full announcement on library reopening.](#)

MOT testing changes

Mandatory MOT testing is to be reintroduced from 1 August 2020.

All drivers whose car, motorcycle or van is due for a MOT test from 1 August will be required to get a test certificate to continue driving their vehicle.

Drivers with a MOT due date before 1 August will still receive a 6-month exemption from testing. However, all vehicles must continue to be properly maintained and kept in a roadworthy condition, and people are able to voluntarily get their MOT sooner should they wish, even if they are exempt from the legal requirement.

[Read the full announcement on MOT testing](#)

Rules on wedding ceremonies and civil partnerships

Guidance has been published to help you organise your ceremony if you are planning to get married or form a civil partnership in England.

Please note, we are still currently unable to take new bookings for weddings at the Council House in Malvern. If you have already booked your wedding with us, we will be in touch with you shortly.

[Read the guidance on small marriages and civil partnerships](#)

Driving lessons, theory tests and driving tests to restart

Theory tests will restart in England tomorrow (4 July). The tests will take place with social distancing measures in place to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

Car driving tests will restart in England on Wednesday 22 July. [Read the full announcement.](#)

Financial support for you

[Advice and support if you have lost your job](#)

Help paying your Council Tax

If you are struggling to pay your Council Tax, then check if you can apply for [Council Tax Support](#)

If you do not qualify for Council Tax Support please get in touch with our team and they will see if there is another way they can help you.

Email Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk to discuss your situation.

Ban on evictions extended

The Government has extended the ban on landlords being able to evict people renting their home until 23 August.

[Read the full announcement.](#)

Extra help for those in hardship

We have also been given just under £100,000 from the Government to ensure we are able to provide extra help to people facing severe hardship to allow them to pay for food and other necessities. We are waiting for guidance from the Government on how we should distribute the money.

Citizens' Advice is open for business

Citizens' Advice South Worcestershire also remains open to support you if you need it. They offer one-to-one advice by highly trained volunteers, now working from home. Many are specialists in their fields such as housing, employment and debt.

You can contact their branch based in Malvern on 01684 563611 and choose option 1 or email enquiries.malvern@citizensadvice.org.uk

The service is also part of the national **Advice Line telephone service**, open to the public Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm on 03444 111 303.

Money management help

If you would like help to make the most of your money then the two online budgeting toolkits below may be useful.

[Money Saving Expert Budget Planning Guide](#)

[Money Advice Service Budget Planner](#)

If you need help with debt management or restructuring your finances then contact the CAB using the details above or you can get [free help from The Money Advice Service.](#)

Help paying your utility bills

If you need help paying your water bill then please visit [Severn Trent's bill help payment page.](#)

If you need help paying your gas or electric bill then [read Ofgem's advice about the support on offer.](#)
