

MANOR ROYAL BID CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Issued: 27/03/2020



Coronavirus: advice, help and mutual support

The recent outbreak will be more than a test of nerve. As well as the support the Government provides, the ability to pull together locally will also be important. How long this goes on for no one knows, but it will end. Our ability to keep going and do what we can to help each other will shape the way we recover. Here are some helpful messages and resources.

www.manorroyal.org/covid19

We have set up a page on our website to signpost to useful sources of information, national and local covering Government support, staying a home tips, mental health and wellbeing resources and advice from the local Business Rates team.

Government support for businesses

Things change quickly, so keep checking the websites. At the time of writing the key points are:

- statutory sick pay relief package for SMEs
- business rates holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England for the 2020 to 2021 tax year
- £25,000 grant will also be provided to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses operating from smaller premises, with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000.
- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR) – the Council will assess and contact those that qualify
- the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme to support long-term viable businesses who may need to respond to cash-flow pressures by seeking additional finance
- the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme, if you need help call HMRC's dedicated helpline on 0800 0159 559
- HMRC will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month.
- Self-employed able to claim 80% of their monthly wages capped at £2,500 per month, based on their average monthly profits from the last three years
- Deferral of VAT payments due from 20 March to 31 July until the end of the 2020-21 tax year

Working alongside Crawley Borough Council

The BID is working closely with Crawley Borough Council to assist businesses and be part of the response fielding questions about Government support and directing people to where they can get the answers they need.

If you need help email info@manorroyal.org and a member of the team will get back to you

Talking to our MP - Henry Smith

We have contacted Henry Smith MP for Crawley to discuss the importance of understanding and representing the concerns of Manor Royal businesses. He wants to hear from you what messages he needs to pass to Government on your behalf. You can contact Henry direct by email or message us so we can provide regular co-ordinated updates on behalf of Manor Royal Business District.

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Helping each other

It's great to see how Manor Royal companies have seized the initiative to tell us what they are up to and how they can help their neighbours. If you want to let your neighbours know you are still there, still open and still able to provide a service or have made arrangements to provide help to others – let us know about it. We will collate it and find a way to keep people posted on the great work you are still doing

Be social

It's easy to clam up and withdraw right now. Don't do it. Get social. On top of letting us know what you are up to by email (info@manorroyal.org), if you are posting on social media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn) tag us. We will retweet and repost your news – provided it's not rude!

Knowledge is power

We have set up a really simple online response form with four easy questions to capture your thoughts, ideas and feedback. We will use this to shape the work we do as a BID and to use the information you give us to inform our local authority partners and local MP. You can answer one or all of the questions as many times as you like for as long as the response form is live. So tell us:

- How is the coronavirus affecting you / your business?
- What help do you need e.g. from Government, that you're not getting?
- Are you still open for business and doing something you want us to share?
- Any thoughts on how the Manor Royal BID could help?

You can find the response form at <http://www.manorroyal.org/covid19>

Free online training

We can't run our face to face training programme, so have set up a free to access online training platform for Manor Royal companies and their employees. There are literally 100s of subjects covering everything from regulatory stuff to mental health and wellbeing courses and it can be accessed from anywhere, great for those working from home. www.manorroyal.org/microlearn

Online HR advice and support

Manor Royal businesses can freely access the Mentor *LIVE* service made available through our partnership with Natwest. This is a fantastic resource and especially useful at the moment.

www.manorroyal.org/mentor

Secure and maintained

Imposed restrictions may prohibit deliver of our Business Ranger and Maintenance Team services. Until they do we will continue to provide them. The Business Watch service will also remain in place and is free for Manor Royal companies to access. www.manorroyal.org/benefits

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Free job postings

This service remains in place allowing Manor Royal companies free and unlimited job postings. It's also a great resource for finding work on Manor Royal. We will keep working with our partners at lovelocaljobs.com to ensure this service remains in place and available. www.manorroyal.org/jobs

Planning for the future

While recent events have diverted attention somewhat we remain focussed on developing and delivering projects to improve the area. Work is still progressing on transport infrastructure improvements, enhancing security and improving facilities across the area – albeit the delivery timetable may change.

Bouncing back

We have had to postpone our events programme but we will come back with a bang later in the year. Of note are plans to combine our Know Your Neighbour and Manor Royal Matters events into one Mega Manor Royal Show at The Hawth Theatre on 14 October. Free to attend and exhibit. You can book now. Let's make it a big one!! www.manorroyal.org/events

Staying in touch

By email, by eBulletin, by Manor Royal News, online, via social media, on the phone, via Business Watch, on the digital screens. Please make sure you stay in touch. As a minimum regularly check the website but better still to make sure we have your up to date contact details and to sign up to the eBulletin mailing list. That way you will be sure to get the latest information as it becomes available.

Dedicated advice page We have set up a COVID-19 project page that we update regularly with a mix of local and national information. http://www.manorroyal.org/covid19	BID levy bills The billing process started before the virus outbreak. We are taking advice from the wider BID industry and local authority about what flexibility we can offer at this time.	Liaising with Government We are working with the Local Authority and have been in touch with the MP concerning pressures faced by businesses in Manor Royal. We will continue to be a conduit for key messages.
Security and maintenance As far as Government advice and individual's health allows, we will continue to provide these services to ensure the place remains as safe and clean as possible. We are also maintaining the free to access Business Watch service.	Training and support We can't deliver the training programme as planned so have put in place a free to access web-based training platform for all Manor Royal companies providing access to 100s of courses, including health and wellbeing http://www.manorroyal.org/microlearn	Listening and promoting you You are still trying to work and, in some cases, making offers of help to one another. We want to support that by sharing your messages. Share it with us and we'll share it with others. Email info@manorroyal.org

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