# Somerset West and Taunton

# **Newsletter to SWT Councillors and Parish Councils.**

# Issue 33. Week ending 8/11/20

# #StayAtHome #ProtectTheNHS #SaveLives

# Please remember: #Hands #Face #Space

It is so important to remember the coronavirus basics as we enter autumn and winter:

- **Hands** Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds
- Face Cover your face in enclosed spaces
- Space Keep 2m apart where possible

# **SWT Council priorities**

Somerset West and Taunton Council's updated priorities during the coronavirus outbreak are as follows:

- Preserve critical services;
- Safeguard the public;
- Ensure our most vulnerable residents are supported; and
- Planning economic resilience and recovery

The situation is being reviewed on a daily basis to ensure that the Council follows the latest advice from Public Health England.

<u>Click here</u> to read up to date information on how SWT continues to respond to coronavirus.

# **Key Messages this week**

# 1. New National Restrictions from Thursday 5 November

<u>Covid-19 case numbers</u> are rising rapidly across the whole of the UK and in other countries. Action must be taken now to control the spread of the virus. The single most important step we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home, to protect the NHS and save lives.

When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection. That is why, from **Thursday 5 November** until **Wednesday 2 December**, the Government is taking the following action:

#### 1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for :-

- a. education, work (if it can't be done from home),
- b. outdoor exercise and recreation.
- c. medical reasons,
- d. shopping for food and other essentials,
- e. or to care for others

#### 2. Preventing gathering with people you do not live with, except:-

- a. support bubbles for people who live alone and households of single parents and children.
- b. Individuals can meet one person from outside their household in an outside public space,
- c. but households will not be allowed to mix with others indoors or in private gardens.
- d. Children will be able to move between homes if their parents are separated.

#### 3. Closing certain businesses and venues:-

- a. All pubs and restaurants will have to close, although takeaways and deliveries can continue.
- All non-essential shops will have to close, including but not limited to clothing and electronics stores, vehicle showrooms, travel agents, betting shops, auction houses, tailors, car washes, tobacco and vape shops.
- c. Indoor and outdoor leisure facilities such as bowling alleys, leisure centres and gyms, sports facilities including swimming pools, golf courses and driving ranges, dance studios, stables and riding centres, soft play facilities, climbing walls and climbing centres, archery and shooting ranges, water and theme parks.
- d. Hotels will only open for people to travel for work.
- e. Entertainment venues such as theatres, concert halls, cinemas, museums and galleries, casinos, adult gaming centres and arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, concert halls, zoos and other animal attractions, botanical gardens;
- f. personal care facilities such as hair, beauty and nail salons, tattoo parlours, spas, massage parlours, body and skin piercing services, non-medical acupuncture, and tanning salons.
- g. Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies will not be allowed, except in exceptional circumstances
- h. Places of Worship will generally close but for funerals, with a maximum of 30 people attending.
- i. Workplaces will be asked to stay open if people can't work from home including construction and manufacturing

These new measures have been carefully judged to achieve the maximum reduction in growth in the number of cases, preventing the NHS from being overwhelmed, whilst ensuring that schools, colleges and universities stay open and that as many people as possible continue to work.

To find out what this means in more detail, please <u>click here</u>.

#### 2. SWT Offices Closed

SWT has closed its offices to protect our community and staff during the second national lockdown. Deane House in Taunton and West Somerset House in Williton are now closed, along with the Taunton Visitor Centre, satellite buildings and community offices across Somerset West and Taunton.

Staff are still working, and the council will continue to deliver services and ensure our most vulnerable residents are supported. Customers can help us by using our online services and not communicating via paper post as far as possible. Many of our services can be accessed online at <a href="https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk">www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk</a>

To read the full press release please click here

# 3. Democracy and Governance

#### **Committee Meetings**

You can search by Committee or by the monthly calendar for details of all Committee meetings. Here you can find the agendas and minutes of all meetings, as well as which Councillors sit on each Committee.

A number of Committee meetings are scheduled to take place over the next few weeks, which are as follows:

- Wednesday 11 November Special Scrutiny Committee, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Friday 6 November)
- Wednesday 18 November Executive, 6.15pm (deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Friday 13 November)
- Thursday 19 November Planning Committee, 1pm (deadline for public questions or statements is 4pm on Monday 16 November)

The meetings will all be live streamed so that members of the public can watch at home. To watch the live stream when the meeting commences please visit the SWT website by <u>clicking here</u>. If you are not able to watch the meeting live, you can also watch it after the meeting.

Members of the public are still able to participate in the meeting by submitting their questions or statement to the Governance Team via <a href="mailto:governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk">governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk</a> and these will be read out by an officer at the meeting. Please see the dates listed above re deadlines for submitting questions or statements.

# 4. The Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline

If you are self-isolating or need extra help, a single phone number is available for anyone in Somerset who needs coronavirus-related support from their

councils. The **0300 790 6275** number is available seven days per week 8am – 6pm.

Anyone who can't find help within their own local networks and volunteers, can use this number to get help and advice around:

- Personal care and support including food and delivery of prescriptions
- Support for the homeless
- Emotional support if you're feeling worried or anxious
- Transport to medical appointments
- · Waste collection and disposal
- Financial support

This number won't cover medical advice, for which people will need to continue to use the 111 NHS phone number if they cannot get help online. If you would like to find out more about the Corona helpers, offer assistance, or need support please <u>click here</u>.

# 5. Business Support Grants

Following the Government announcement of a new lockdown for England, SWT will be issuing grants to businesses. There will be two types of grants: one based on the business rates valuation of the business property and the other will be a non-business-rated discretionary grant fund.

SWT are currently awaiting Government guidance on the eligibility criteria of this scheme, and are working with partner authorities to ensure a consistent approach in their administration. Once details are available they will be published on the <a href="SWT website">SWT website</a> as well as Facebook and Twitter. Please do not contact SWT about the schemes at present, as they have yet to be launched.

Subscribe to SWT business email alerts by clicking here.

# 6. Furlough Scheme

The Government has announced that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), which was due to end on the 31 October, will now be extended, with the UK Government paying 80% of wages for the hours furloughed employees do not work, up to a cap of £2,500 for periods from 1 November.

To find out more information relating to this scheme please click here.

# 7. Government increases support for self-employed across the UK

The Government is increasing its support to the self-employed over the coming months and ensuring people get paid faster than previously planned. To find out more information regarding eligibility and how to apply, please <u>click here</u>.

# 8. Every Poppy Counts

Like so many things this year, the Poppy Appeal has had to adapt to the threat of Covid-19. The Royal British Legion (RBL) is calling on the support of the public like never before, because every poppy counts.

With many people unable to leave their homes as they normally would to find a poppy, and with many of the charity's collectors unable to carry out face to face collections, The RBL has unveiled a range of new ways for people to show their support remotely.

The Mayor of Taunton has a special message to commemorate Remembrance Sunday, which can be viewed <a href="https://example.com/here.">here.</a>

Get involved in Poppy Appeal 2020 by clicking here.

# 9. Somerset Waste Partnership Services (SWP)

Last weekend's announcement of a second national lockdown may prompt questions about the impact on Somerset Waste Partnership services, notably recycling sites which were closed during the first lockdown period earlier this year.

As things stand, the plan is that all 16 sites will remain open on standard opening hours. You may recall that the Government clarified near the end of the first lockdown that visits to recycling sites are considered 'permitted journeys.'

Somerset's sites already have measures in place to protect the public and staff and these include;

- no one with Covid-19 symptoms or those asked to shield should visit sites
- strict social distancing must be followed
- visitors are asked to wear gloves and are limited to a maximum of two per vehicle from the same household
- masks are discretionary
- site staff are not able to give their usual assistance in lifting heavy or large items

Collections, including Garden Waste and the roll-out of Recycle More, will continue as normal and SWP will be re-emphasising the messages about how people should dispose of personal waste if they, or someone in their household, has symptoms.

SWP, SUEZ and Viridor will continue to monitor the situation, guidance and any impacts on staff and will make changes if appropriate.

To keep up to date with recycling sites, sign up for the SWP e-newsletter at <a href="https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk">www.somersetwaste.gov.uk</a> and follow @Somersetwaste on Facebook or Twitter

# **10.Stronger Somerset**

You will find the Stronger Somerset campaign <u>microsite</u> contains recently updated information, as well as the proposal and executive summary. You can also sign up to receive the Stronger Somerset newsletter by <u>clicking here.</u>

All SWT Councillors have been invited to consider the Stronger Somerset business base at the Special Full Council scheduled for **Thursday 3 December 2020.** The business case will not be available to be published until **Wednesday 25 November**.

An all Member Briefing has been scheduled for **Thursday 26 November** so that Members can learn more about the contents of the Business Case and ask any questions.

# Partner Engagement – Key messages from other Public Service Areas

# Somerset County Council (SCC) Highway Maintenance Update

SCC Highways are currently focusing on the routine tasks of gully emptying, safety defect repairs and patching.

This week the team will be moving on to quite a rare type of highway work. This is the reconstruction of the cattle grid at North Hill Road, Minehead, as the road heads out of the town and onto the moor, towards **Selworthy Beacon**. The existing grid has guite steep road approaches to it. Recently, SCC has started to receive feedback from drivers that the change in gradients was triggering the radar controlled automatic braking systems on modern cars, causing the on-board computer control to stop them suddenly as they were approaching the grid. The scheme that SCC are carrying out is to completely replace the cattle grid with a new one and to re-profile the surface of the road in order to prevent this vehicle braking phenomenon. The grid and associated bypass gate and fencing will be widened to improve access to the camping and caravanning site further along the road. SCC Highways are also taking the opportunity to improve the highway drainage by modifying the kerb-lines and adding extra road gullies. In order to carry out this major work safely, the road will be closed for four weeks from Monday 9 **November.** The work has been timed for when the camping and caravanning site is closed, in order to minimise disruption.

The hedge cutting and dead tree removal work on the A39 between Dragon Cross, Bilbrook and the Washford Inn, that was mentioned last week, has been delayed slightly and will now take place on site between Monday 9 and Friday 13 November to take advantage of the predicted reduced traffic volumes due to Lockdown. Traffic management will be by temporary traffic signals, manually operated at busy times.

For more information on highway maintenance works and to stay up to date visit our website www.travelsomerset.co.uk or follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter.

# Important: Junction 25 Road Closures Monday 9 November 2020 (8pm – 6am)

- North bound entrance and exit.
- South bound entrance 1 lane and South bound exit.

# **Useful links to report faults:**

As the clocks have now changed and its getting dark earlier, we are getting queries about overgrown trees, verges or hedges, blocked drains and street lights that don't work. To report faults in the following areas, please click on the relevant link:-

Dangerous/Overgrown Tree alongside the public highway

Report an overgrown verge or hedge on the road

Street light not working

Blocked surface water drain on the highway.

# **Somerset Covid-19 Survey**

In light of the latest announcement on restrictions, it is even more important that your views and concerns about the coronavirus pandemic and what guidance, support and information you might need are noted.

The Covid-19 Engagement Board welcomes your feedback - it only takes a few minutes to complete and can be accessed if you <u>click here</u>.

# **Maritime and Coastguard Agency**

#### Flares are not Fireworks

Although things are different this year, The Coastguard's message remains the same: they would like to remind everyone that marine flares should only ever be used in distress situations and not for entertainment, so please don't be tempted to use them as fireworks for bonfire night celebrations.

If the Coastguard receives an alert at or near the coast where a flare has been launched, they will always respond and won't know the difference if they are being used as fireworks. This will tie up resources when it isn't necessary, putting the rescue teams at unnecessary risk and potentially diverted from a legitimate emergency.

So please, do not use flares as fireworks as they can easily be mistaken as an emergency situation at or near the coast. Also remember, please be safe around fireworks, respect your neighbours and the emergency services. Be Covid-19 safe and comply with local restrictions.

# Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (D&SFRS)

The Fire Service is continually monitoring and managing the impact of coronavirus on their staff and communities, so that they continue to deliver frontline services.

They are closely monitoring the Government response to coronavirus and have been making some changes to the way they do things to protect frontline services.

You can help by taking some simple steps to protect yourself and others, such as:

- Make sure you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home, and test your smoke alarms once a week.
- Ensure your chimney has been swept before lighting your fire or stove. Find out more about chimney safety
- Avoid having bonfires. If you can't avoid having one, please use an incinerator
  if you can, and make sure you light it well away from anything that could burn
  such as sheds, fences and your home. Keep a bucket of water or a hose
  nearby, and never leave it unattended.
- Avoid using fireworks, but if you insist on something small for bonfire night, read this advice first
- If there is heavy rain or flooding, slow down your driving. Never drive through floodwater.

# Somerset Skills and Learning (SS&L)

Under the new restrictions the Government does not require schools, colleges or universities to close, and that includes SS&L. They will be continuing to support all their existing and new students during the latest period of lockdown and will continue to provide high quality teaching. Courses will continue in person, via distance learning and blending learning as they have done since September.

With the lockdown bringing uncertainty to many, SS&L hope the community learning offers will provide improved wellbeing, improved confidence, and new skills and knowledge for learners at this uncertain time.

#### **Community Learning Workshops & Courses**

SS&L are also offering a bumper month of Community Learning Workshops and Courses which are free for anybody aged 19+ who lives in the Somerset area and has resided in the UK for at least three years. Please click on the relevant link to find out more and book your place!

#### 9 November

<u>Understanding stress, anxiety and low mood</u> Introduction to developing personal confidence and self-awareness

#### 11 November

How to get better sleep

#### 12 November

Career transition and employability programme

SS&L know the finances of a modern household can be a complicated and stressful equation to work out and that budgeting is a straight forward way to keep track of money. They are therefore running an online **Creating and Managing a Budget workshop** to help with just that, which may be of use to you or someone you know. To find out more and book a place, please click the relevant link below.

<u>Wednesday 18 November from 9.30am – 11.00am:</u> and, or Friday 20 November from 6.30pm to 8pm:

More courses will be published in subsequent newsletters.

#### Virtual Careers Fair for the Care Sector

A virtual careers fair for the **Care Sector** has been arranged for **24 November 2020 from 11am – 1pm**, via Zoom, where organisations, businesses and training providers will be sharing their opportunities.

Youtube videos from each participant are now available in preparation for the actual event, which can be accessed <u>here</u>. On the day of the event organisations, businesses and training providers will host a virtual room for discussions with those who are interested to have an informal chat

A promotional flyer is attached which provides details of the event and information for people to register. Tickets can be booked via this <u>Eventbrite link</u>.

# Somerset Education Business Partnership Building the Workforce of the Future

Somerset TalentED Academies help young people to gain an understanding of different key Somerset employment sectors by providing insights into and connections with a wide range of employers. The opportunity to do this in a different way was just too good to pass up, so they have gone virtual and teamed up with <a href="Learn Live UK">Learn Live UK</a> to deliver bespoke input on 10 industry sectors that can be found in Somerset.

Each industry will feature talks from employers, staff, apprentices and trainees who will share their experiences and give real world examples of the types of career that that you can aspire to in each sector. Alongside the broadcast there will be an opportunity for students to speak, via the live chat room facility, with the employers that are contributing.

The broadcasts start with **Construction on Wednesday 18 November at 4pm.**Students will also be able to access information on the potential next steps into that industry and other relevant information on the <u>Learn Live website</u>.

# **STEP-UP Employment and Skills Broadcast**

Thursday 19 November at 6.00pm

**New Futures – Employment and Redundancy Support** 

To find out more information about this broadcast and to register, click here.

# **Community Support – What help is out there?**

# **Voluntary and Community Sector Support Diversity Voice Resources**

Migrant communities are facing particularly difficult challenges just now. Being away from family, disproportionately engaged in low paid work and zero hours contracts and for some, lacking the language skills to navigate changing advice and rules have added to the vulnerability of some communities.

Diversity Voice (a Somerset based charity) has produced, or gathered together, a number of resources to help speakers of other languages within our communities access important information about Covid-19. These resources can be accessed here.

# **Surviving Winter Appeal**

# Help Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) to help more isolated and vulnerable older people this year.

As we head into winter, hundreds of our older neighbours are forced to choose between heating and eating. The coronavirus outbreak means that this winter will be even more difficult and worrying, as many older people will find themselves cut off from family and friends, facing higher costs to heat their homes.

# Shockingly, in Somerset, 10% of households live in fuel poverty.

SCF's Surviving Winter appeal encourages people who don't need their Winter Fuel Payment to donate some or all of it to help local older people. Surviving Winter helps around 500 elderly people living in Somerset through the cold winter months, thanks to generous local donors who, last year, donated over £100,000 to the appeal.

If you would like to donate to Surviving Winter, or find out more about the appeal please <u>click here</u> or call **01749 344949**.

#### **REMINDER - Grants of £250 to reduce loneliness at Christmas**

This Christmas Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) would like to support community groups that can help to reduce loneliness and spread Christmas cheer through food and festive activities.

SCF wants to fund groups who can help to bring festive food – and the spirit of Christmas - to people at home. The Festive Fund for Somerset offers a £250 grant to groups if they can tell SCF how their work can combat the isolation and loneliness that many people can feel in the winter months.

To apply, you will need to complete a short application form by **Friday 13 November**. For more information on how to apply for a Festive Fund grant please click <a href="here">here</a>.

# **REMINDER - SWT Community Chest Fund**

SWT continues to assess applications made to help communities recover from the effects of Covid-19. SWT has had a tremendous response in the first month and has already allocated £90,000 to local communities. There are a number of other proposals that are under consideration, which if granted would take SWT halfway towards allocating the £250,000. In a number of cases, SWT has been able to link to other funding providers to enhance the value of the Council's contribution. The grants are being allocated across the district area and for a range of providers.

The Community Chest of £250,000 is open to support one-off initiatives run by the voluntary and community sector, and wider community groups who have been unable to secure mainstream funding from the Council or other sources. Grants of up to £7,500 can be awarded to supplement activities and projects, covering up to 75% of the total cost with applicants needing to find at least 25% from their own or other sources. To apply and find out more information on eligibility, please click here.

# **Health and Welfare**

#### **NHS Services**

NHS services in Somerset are currently very busy but coping well with demand. Their dedicated staff are working very hard across all services to keep them running and make sure they remain open and here for you. For now, please continue to attend appointments as advised. You don't need to call to check that a booked appointment is going ahead. Your medical centre will be in touch if anything changes with your care.

GP practices, urgent care services, services that care for people at home, mental health services and hospitals are all very busy for the time of year. At present, the NHS are able to continue to offer planned care and operations are continuing without cancellations, but they do need your help to keep everyone as well and safe as possible and to keep the services running well.

- If you are experiencing coronavirus symptoms, please use <u>the government</u> <u>portal</u> to book a test. It is important that you and anyone you live with continue to self-isolate until you get a test result. You can find more <u>information</u>, <u>support and guidance on testing</u>.
- Think Hands, Face, Space washing your hands regularly, using a face mask in areas where social distancing is difficult, and keeping 2 metres' space between you and others will all help to reduce the spread of the virus.
- If you have a continuous cough or fever, self-isolate and contact 111 if you need further advice or help.
- If you need medical help, please contact your registered GP practice or 111.
   Support can be accessed online at <a href="https://doi.org/10.11/11/11.11">111.nhs.uk</a> or you can call 111 for free form your landline or phone.
- The Somerset Mindline is open 24 hours a day for mental health and emotional wellbeing support: 01823 276 892.
- Please only call 999 in the event of a medical emergency.

- For emergencies and life-threatening injuries please use A&E departments as needed.
- For minor injuries, the seven Minor Injury Units are open you can find the locations and opening hours by <u>clicking here</u>. For minor illnesses, please contact your GP practice or visit your local pharmacy.

# Please Download the NHS Test and Trace app

You can now <u>download the NHS Test and Trace app</u> and help control the spread of coronavirus and protect yourself and your loved ones as case numbers rise. The more people who download the app and contribute to the data will assist with monitoring and tracking the spread of the virus; this will enable Public Health England to allocate resources accordingly. The app will also advise you to self-isolate if you have been in close contact with a confirmed case. It will also enable you to check symptoms, book a free test if needed and get your test results.

#### **Travel Restrictions**

The guidance for travelling abroad is constantly being updated by Government. Please click here to read the latest information relating to the travel corridors.

# Please refer to the websites below for the latest advice, help and guidance:

Links to the most up to date Covid-19 guidance can be found here https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Public Health England
NHS – Help and Advice

# **FAQS**

# Q. Can I spend the lock-down in my holiday or second home?

**A.** Overnight stays and holidays away from primary residences will not be allowed, including holidays in the UK and abroad. This includes staying in a second home or caravan, if you own one, or staying with anyone you do not live with or are in a support bubble with.

If you were already on holiday when lock-down started, you should return to your home as soon as practical and comply with the 'stay at home' requirements in your holiday accommodation in the meantime.

- Q. My son/daughter is a University Student living away during the week, but comes home on alternate weekends. Is this still permitted during November?
- A. If you live at University, you must not move back and forward between your permanent home and student home during term time. You should only return home at the end of term. The Government will publish further guidance soon on how students can travel home safely at the end of term.

# Crime / Safeguarding EscapeLine

On **29 October**, youth workers from <u>EscapeLine</u> were out and about in the local communities across West Somerset talking to young people and parents about County Lines. Avon and Somerset PCSOs are working with EscapeLine to try and educate our communities on the early signs and impact of child exploitation.

Before Half Term, EscapeLine spoke to all students at the West Somerset College via a virtual presentation, to raise awareness of County Lines and how it affects smaller towns and rural communities. They will be returning to the college in the near future to do some further work. If you want to know more about EscapeLine and the work they carry out, please visit www.EscapeLine.org.uk

#### **Domestic Violence**

Deputy Police Crime Commissioner John Smith spent Friday 30 October meeting virtually with partners on the Southmead project to discuss the consequences of lockdowns on domestic abuse, sexual assault victims and survivors: including isolation replicating some of the trauma clients have experienced. They are encouraging victims and survivors to come forward and speak out. Despite these times of uncertainty, help is still available. A list of useful contacts and support can be found by clicking here.

# **Avon & Somerset Police (A&SP)**

# Multiple arrests made following unlicensed music event.

Multiple arrests have been made as an unlicensed music event which took place at a warehouse in Yate was closed down and sound equipment was seized by police on Sunday 1 November.

A&SP were made aware of a suspected event at about 10.35pm the previous night and the first officers arrived on the scene within 12 minutes. Hundreds of people were already at the event and surrounding roads were closed to prevent more people driving to the industrial estate. However, a large number of people continued to arrive on foot and were hostile to police, throwing items – such as bottles – at officers. Thankfully, all injuries to those officers are believed to be minor.

A&SP's dedicated team on duty to deal with unlicensed music events attended and were supported by teams from neighbouring forces. An estimated 500-700 people are believed to have attended the event, which continued despite power to the building being cut off. Officers entered the warehouse at about 1.50pm that afternoon and quickly seized the sound equipment. The building was cleared of people by 3.10pm, despite more attacks on officers.

Eight people have been arrested, including a man in his 30s on suspicion of being involved in organising the event.

To read the full press release please <u>click here</u>.

#### Facebook Live:

Last week, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner John Smith put your questions to Deputy Chief Constable Sarah Crew.

Topics covered included:

- Policing the pandemic.
- Additional Government Covid-19 response funding and how it will be used;
- Keeping police officers and staff safe and supported.
- · Supporting universities and students, and
- County Lines criminal gangs and the vulnerability of young people

In case you missed it, the replay can be viewed <a href="here.">here.</a>

A&SP welcome your questions for the next <u>Facebook Live</u> interview on **Tuesday 10 November at 11.30am** 

# **Nottingham Knockers**

There have been reports of "Nottingham Knockers" operating in the West Somerset area (TA24, TA23 and TA4). These are cold callers who usually tell residents that they are ex-offenders trying to go straight, then try and sell poor quality and overpriced cleaning products. They may also offer services such as roof repairs, driveway repairs and cleaning. The police want to remind residents they are under no obligation to answer the door to anyone they don't know or aren't expecting. If you do talk to them, they are supposed to be able to provide a valid Pedlar's Certificate and should leave your property when asked.

Remember with the current ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, you cannot guarantee a safe distance or cleanliness of any purchases made.

Police always recommend using a door chain and asking to see the identification of unexpected callers.

• If you are suspicious of a caller ring 999 straight away • keep your cash in the bank, not at home • keep windows and doors secured if you're not in the room

#### Remember, genuine callers:

- expect you to check their identification before opening the door,
- would never try to rush you by claiming there's an emergency, and
- will happily make an appointment to come back when you can have a relative or friend with you.

# **Finally**

It is important to keep up to date with the latest <u>information and advice from the</u> government.

For quick up to date information regarding SWT services please follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SWTCouncil/ or Twitter @swtcouncil Please see our dedicated webpage for updates.

If you have concerns about your own health and coronavirus please visit the NHS website.

# #StayAtHome #ProtectTheNHS #SaveLives

#### Attachments:

Virtual Careers Fair Poster Growth Hub Postcard (PDF) Business Growth Support Programme (PDF)