

Ruthin Community Update

Week 14 Saturday 27th June 2020

Welcome to the Ruthin community update on **SATURDAY 27th June** from Yr Hen Lys in Ruthin. The update is prepared each fortnight and is streamed live and recorded every other Saturday at 5.30pm in Welsh and 6.00pm in English, with transcript and recordings then posted online at **www.rhuthun.com**

Firstly - may I note that the Ruthin and Efenechtyd community will be mindful today of the 1 year anniversary of the tragic incident last year that led to the death of Olivia Alkir, and that the Alkir family will be in our thoughts today. With their approval, can I encourage parents to read the personal plea that they have shared through the article in The Daily Post to ensure this tragedy is not repeated.

<https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/parents-olivia-alkir-killed-boy-18467838>

Back to Covid-19

As noted previously advice please make use of the various websites from our governmental, public health and public protection agencies.

UK Government www.gov.uk

The UK Government website does hold key information on the pandemic, and in particular links to UK wide financial advice etc from HMRC.

As previously mentioned, the nature and timeframe for lockdown easing varies across the UK according to devolved governments, and lockdown measures in England have and are being eased much more quickly than in Wales or elsewhere, and this seems to dominate the UK media, however for us in Wales the website to go to for lockdown information is the Welsh Governments site:.

Welsh Government www.gov.wales.

The key messages from Welsh Government remains to

Stay local and keep Wales safe:

- ***always observe social distancing***
- ***wash your hands regularly***
- ***if you are meeting one other household, stay outdoors and stay local***
- ***work from home if you can***

Stay at home if you or anyone you live with has symptoms.

The '5 mile' stay local guidance remains.

Since the last community update, previously announced lockdown easing have taken place - most notably the opening of non-essential retail on Monday 22nd July. I was pleased to visit

and welcome back so many of Ruthin's fantastic shopkeepers and to see many of the changes our local shopkeepers have made to both keep customers safe and allow Covid aware shopping, and also many who have taken the lockdown closure as an opportunity to repaint, refurbish or alter their stores. I would encourage all those that can now venture out to the shops to support our local retailers as in this challenging time it will be a case of "Use them or Lose them".

Public Health Wales

key messages are repeated relating to staying local and keeping Wales safe. With recent outbreaks within meat processing plants on Anglesey and in Wrexham, Wales's Test, Trace and Protect processes have been in action with large scale testing taking place. It is possible for anyone with symptoms to apply for a test, or Key Workers, and those identified in the Trace process as at risk. Information on how to apply for a test and other guidance is available on the Public Health Wales website.

phw.nhs.wales

Denbighshire County Council

General enquiries - 01824 706000

Concerns about welfare of residents (SPOA) on 0300 456 1000

Out of Hours emergencies 0345 053 3116 www.denbighshire.gov.uk

As well as offering a variety of links to various websites and information on grants, support, volunteering and help available etc, the DCC website is currently highlighting Welsh Governments Test. Trace. Protect strategy.

and also **DVSC - Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council.** . www.dvsc.co.uk

Ruthin Town Council

Ruthin Town Council are now back to following our 2020 programme of meetings, with full council and committee meetings taking place via zoom. Our Full Council meetings are streamed live on Facebook, and as always minutes and agendas for all meetings are available at the town council website:

<http://www.ruthintowncouncil.gov.uk>

Many of you will have heard this week of the announcement of nearly £1 million funding for Denbighshire County Council to invest in Covid-19 related improvements for active travel and safe social distancing etc in our town centres and near schools. Ruthin is in line to benefit and proposals are currently in development by DCC highways to introduce some temporary - medium term traffic flow changes that will allow pedestrians and cyclists to visit the town centre, and to safely shop and make use of town centre services in a safe way. Our narrow streets and pavements prove difficult for many people, either as pedestrians, pushing buggies

or those with accessibility vehicles, and it will be a welcome step forward to see improvements that will enhance safety for everyone and allow people to social distance when passing in the town centre. Vehicular access for properties, deliveries, and to come to the town centre will be maintained but some changes will be needed which adjust approaches and priorities. Ruthin Town Council have welcomed the funding and will be liaising with DCC, as well as the business community and those impacted during the development and implementation of proposals, and as they are based on moveable temporary elements, it will be possible to review, adjust and tweek any changes if required to achieve the best outcome. This is also an opportunity for the temporary changes to be evaluated and to inform any more permanent improvements that can then be made in line with ambitions of the community through the Ruthin Future initiative to see the town centre and square to be made more accessible and a vibrant place to visit.

Ruthin Town Council will also be discussing how we can support initiatives, such as DCC's Town centre Recovery group and other organisations to ensure our community and local businesses can recover from the lockdown and adapt to a new socially distanced normal for the foreseeable future.

Ruthin Future - Sports, Recreation and Wellbeing

We have now created an online questionnaire for those clubs, groups and organisers of any sports, recreation or wellbeing activity / club / class etc and kindly ask that you can fill-in the form (only 10 questions) and help us better understand what is available in Ruthin. This will help us develop ideas or support improvements, as well as allow the promotion of all sports and recreation activities in Ruthin to the community via digital means and through the Yr Hen Lys Community Hub.

Ruthin Carnival / Festival and Ruthin Panto Society

At the time of year we should have been enjoying Ruthin Carnival and Ruthin Festival, and as all our annual events are organised by invariably small but dedicated teams of volunteers and I know that Ruthin Forward and Ruthin Festival Committee will be feeling at a loss to do at the moment with both their events cancelled due to Covid. However it's great to see the dedicated members of Ruthin Panto society work to produce a lockdown version of their usual colourful performance at Ruthin Carnival. A fun way for them to keep in touch together and to remind us all of what a fabulous community group they are. Well done to Polly, Dave and all at Ruthin Panto for their efforts throughout the year.

I will leave you with a taster of Ruthin Panto and Dancing Queen - watch the full version yourself at the Ruthin Panto Society Facebook page or via the Fans of Ruthin page.

Happy #GlobalPride to you all! 

Many thanks.