

# **Ruthin Community Update**

**Week 16 Saturday 11th July**

Welcome to the Ruthin community update on **SATURDAY 11th July** 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](http://www.rhuthun.com)**

## **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](http://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.

## **Welsh Government [www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales).**

The key messages from Welsh Government has adjusted to reflect some easing of lockdown regulations:

### **Keep Wales safe:**

- **always observe social distancing**
- **wash your hands regularly**
- **if you meet another household, outside your extended household, stay outdoors**
- **work from home if you can**

**Stay at home if you or anyone in your extended household has symptoms.**

The '5 mile' stay local guidance has been relaxed and a variety of lockdown rules have been eased, and subject to the continued decrease in Covid cases, other relaxations look set to follow.

The BBC have a useful summary of what regulations and relaxations mean:

**<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-52416541>**

People in Wales can now do more after a further easing of lockdown measures.

From Monday 13 July beer gardens and hairdressers will be able to open for the first time.

In recent weeks lockdown measures have been gradually eased, with non-essential shops reopened, travel restrictions lifted and people now able to **form "extended households"**.

During lockdown pubs, cafes, restaurants and bars have been shut, but you might be able to enjoy a pint, or a soft drink, **in your local again from 3 August**.

It may be some time since your child saw their grandparents, uncles and aunties and this was one of the main considerations behind "extended households". Since the 6th July similar to "support bubbles" elsewhere in the UK, people can have physical contact, exercise, cook and eat together, and also stay in homes of **one** other household. There is no limit to the number of

people that can be in the two households, but they cannot be changed once they are formed and all members of both households must self-isolate if someone becomes ill.

From Monday, 13 July people will be able to exercise in groups, with up to 30 people being allowed to play sport outside at once.

People are now able to go to places of worship for private prayer, as long as social distancing is maintained and gatherings do not take place.

From 13 July faith leaders will be able to gradually resume services, once they feel ready to do so safely, and services can be held outside.

## **Public Health Wales**

key messages are repeated relating to staying local and keeping Wales safe. 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](http://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](http://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. Local authorities are playing a key part in the Test, Trace and Protect strategy and we are pleased that DCC and their officers have been communicating and contacting affected businesses and our town centre communities to offer advice and support.

and also **DVSC - Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council.** . [www.dvsc.co.uk](http://www.dvsc.co.uk)

## **Ruthin Town Council**

Ruthin Town Council have their next full council meeting this Monday which will be streamed live, and agenda and can be seen on the Town Council website.

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

During the last community update I noted the awarding by Welsh Government of nearly £1 million in funding to make short-term, temporary changes to town centres that will help to make them feel safe and welcoming. This funding has been secured for Ruthin, Denbigh, Llangollen and Rhyl.

Ruthin Town Council have welcomed this initiative.

**In summary, the proposals for Ruthin are to:**

- 1. Support social distancing in Market Street and Well Street by introducing a one-way traffic system to the town centre along the upper short portion of these routes. This will enable pavements to be widened in problem areas**
- 2. To support pubs, cafés and restaurants in Ruthin town centre to create outside seating areas where it is safe and practicable to do so.**
- 3. To acknowledge the increased interest in active travel and associated health benefits, and to encourage and support people to choose active travel as a means of getting about in the town centre by implementing infrastructure changes which make active travel easier**

Ruthin Town Council's Ruthin Future community place planning initiative that was developed through years of consultation with the Ruthin Community up to 2012 and again in 2018, includes ambitions for a one-way of this nature, as it will improve access and the amenity and environment of the town centre whilst maintaining convenient access with vehicles and on foot, bike, with pram or assistance vehicles and wheelchairs. Some commentators have referred to the ideas proposed as the Mayor's vision', but I can assure you that the ideas were developed with and by the community through consultations, workshops and weeks long exhibitions etc as part of this initiative, and it was recognised for its efforts by winning an Action for Market Towns award in 2012, and it has since formed the basis for how towns should establish place plans and community driven projects. My passion and vocal support for these ideas is solely based on the desire to see them delivered for the Ruthin Community. This has included improvements to the entrance to Cae Ddol Park, The Ruthin Art Trail, improved cycle and pedestrian active travel routes and the creation of a community hub at The Old Courthouse which whilst impacted by the lockdown, is being prepared to open later this year.

**The full documents that illustrate the communities ambitions for improving the town are contained in documents that can be downloaded from [www.rhuthun.com](http://www.rhuthun.com)**

We are supporting this Sustainable Transport response to Covid-19 scheme through organising the maintenance of landscape planters with support from the Tidy Town Team and other organisations. On that basis, Ruthin Town Council have been able to advice of a preferred style of planter that responds to the sensitive context of Ruthin, and to choose plants such as lavender and rosemary that can add colour and fragrance, whilst being low maintenance and require less watering. The scheme is to be installed on a temporary basis utilising smart yet unobtrusive elements that can be easily removed or utilised elsewhere. This will also allow any adjustments or tweaks to be made during the 18 month period to allow a test and learn trial, and to inform any potential future permanent scheme or otherwise. It is a unique opportunity to trial changes out with a fully funded temporary scheme.

RTC have had some images created to illustrate how the proposals could look, and I also share images of preferred styles of bollard, planters and plants that we have liaised with DCC to ensure a sensitive and attractive design.

It is critical that as a community we share our views, support or otherwise via DCC's consultation portal. May I emphasise that this project is fully funded by Welsh Government and if it does not proceed the funds will be spent either in other Denbighshire towns or be returned to Cardiff unspent.

The consultation is open for another 8 days via

**<https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/KMS/DMart.aspx>**

**Please help us support our town centre businesses and make a safer town centre by supporting this initiative. Thank You - Diolch**