

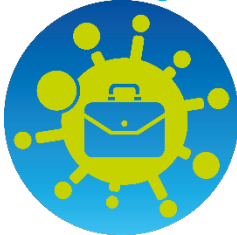
Business Newsletter – Issue 5

Newsletter update

This business newsletter has been well received and successful in keeping local businesses informed on matters regarding COVID-19. Now that we are moving ahead on our roadmap to recovery following the pandemic, we would like to extend the newsletter service to include other business news and important information.

If you would not like to receive this additional information, you can unsubscribe at any time.

Continuing business support



Fareham Borough Council is pleased to announce that it has established a framework of training providers to offer FREE support to businesses operating in the Borough.

This programme has been fully funded using Government COVID-19 grants and will cover a number of topics, such as:

- General business advice
- Scaling up (business growth)
- Diversification
- Digital support (such as creating a website, creating a click and collect process, or marketing via social media)

Businesses can take part through a range of learning tools such as webinars, face to face events (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) or one-to-one support, either as a one-off or over a period of time.

To be eligible, businesses must be based in and have customers in the Borough. More information is available on the business pages of the [Council's website](#).

The Council will also be setting up a voucher scheme to help fund personalised legal and financial advice for businesses. For more information on the scheme, please contact economicdevelopment@fareham.gov.uk

Council extends grant scheme for local good causes

Grants for businesses affected by Coronavirus

Fareham Borough Council has extended its 'Special COVID Grants' scheme for charitable or voluntary organisations by an additional year.

Following the first COVID lockdown, the Council approved the allocation of £30,000 to provide small voluntary organisations with a one-off payment of £250. The focus of these grants was to reduce the financial burden posed by additional costs and lost income experienced because of the COVID restrictions.

While this funding was originally approved for the financial year of 2020/21, the Council has agreed to extend the scheme for a further year due to the continuing need for support by small organisations.

Charitable and voluntary groups that are experiencing financial difficulty can apply for the grant via a quick and easy online application which can be found on the [Council's website](#).

Applications are open for groups which meet the following criteria:

- The group is based and provides a service in Fareham Borough.
- The requested funding is to help meet additional costs, or to cover lost income experienced as a direct result of the COVID-19 restrictions.
- The group is able to supply a copy of their constitution and annual accounts.
- The group hasn't yet received financial support for COVID from the Council.

If you would like to discuss further please contact the Leisure and Community Team on 01329 236100 or email leisure@fareham.gov.uk.

Important changes for food businesses



On 1 October 2021, the law on allergen labelling for prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) foods will change. This means that any food business selling PPDS foods will have to include full ingredients on the product label with allergenic ingredients emphasised within that list.

Also known as 'Natasha's Law', the changes come following the death of teenager Natasha Ednan-Laperouse from an allergic reaction caused by a prepacked baguette which, at the time, did not require allergen labelling.

PPDS foods can include salads and sandwiches that customers select themselves as well as pre-wrapped foods kept behind a counter, as well as some products packaged and sold at mobile or temporary outlets.

To help support food businesses, the FSA has launched a PPDS Hub featuring helpful information including new labelling guidance for PPDS foods and sector guides. The guides for bakery, butchers, fast food and takeaways, mobile sellers, restaurants, cafes and pubs, and schools each give practical information on PPDS and how these changes could impact a food business.

For more information please go to the [PPDS Hub](#).

Would your business benefit from being 'Buy With Confidence' Trading Standards approved?



The 'Buy With Confidence' scheme was put together by a partnership of Local Authority Trading Standards Services in response to concerns about 'rogue traders'.

The scheme provides consumers with a list of businesses which have given their commitment to trading fairly. Fareham aims to encourage more local businesses to register with this scheme to help instil confidence in prospective customers and shows you run a business that takes fair trading seriously.

Membership also gives businesses access to advice from qualified Trading Standards personnel, to ensure that if they are ever uncertain of the law, the answer is easy to get. Buy With Confidence members also get:

- A public profile on the Buy With Confidence website (including an SEO-valuable link to the business's website)
- Permission to use the Buy With Confidence Trading Standards Approved logo and wording on their stationery, websites, vehicles etc.
- Ongoing support and advice from qualified Trading Standards personnel
- Membership of a scheme supported and promoted by over 50 Trading Standards services and local authorities
- Benefit from the growing profile of a national reputable trader scheme
- Help and mediation from Trading Standards professionals during customer disputes
- And much more

If you would like to register your business, particularly if you are in the business of waste disposal or clearance, please go to the [By With Confidence website](#).

Useful links

- [Federation of Small Business](#)
- [Hampshire Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Solent LEP](#)
- [Business Support Finder tool](#)