

# WINDSOR TOWN FORUM

WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 2021

At 6.15 pm

by

VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE ACCESS, ON [RBWM YOUTUBE](#)

## SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

### PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
4.	<u>TOWN MANAGER UPDATE</u> To receive the above item.	1 - 4

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### Town Centre Update report for Windsor Town Forum - March 2021

The following report provide an update on the activity and areas of concerns predominantly in Windsor Town Centre but in additional Dedworth and Clewer.

### Road Map to reopening High Street

RBWM's Town Centre reopening group has a borough wide remit and following the recent Government Road Map to reopening the economy has met to review and outline a new programme of works and activity to ensure the whole of the borough reopens in a safe and confident way

Headline summary of Road Map to reopening

- Step 1 - 8 March** Schools reopen.  
**29 March** - Outdoor gatherings permitted (Rule of 6).  
**Step 2 - 12 April** Pub, Restaurants outdoor serving only or take away, Outdoor sport for children.  
**Step 3 - 17 May** Outdoor gathering (up to 30) pub, restaurants indoor serving, Gyms .and outdoor theme parks open  
**Step 4 - 17 June** All legal limits removed (Data permitting)

### Key issues raised in the town centre since January 2021

- Social distancing in town centre.
- Street Activity - begging small number of individuals
- Cycling in pedestrianised spaces.
- Graffiti in Clewer and in and around Windsor Town Centre.

### Actions

Community Wardens have increased attendance in hot spots to provide advice and support to visitors. In addition, undertaken some survey work to understand where people are travelling in from.

Working with the housing team , TVP and the community wardens preparing to launch "Streetwise" which seeks a more direct and increased enforcement approach to begging on the borough streets. This is expected to be launched in the coming weeks.

Tap and donate programme was launched in Windsor and Maidenhead libraries with an additional location opened in Windsor Yards Shopping centre in February. Donations going towards supporting Windsor Homeless project who have opened a new service in Alma Road.

### Business Financial Support

Business Rates team continues to work to ensure as many businesses are accessing government grants. Majority of these schemes will come to end on 31 March and so communication this month has focussed on ensuring that those businesses who may not have taken advantage of grants do so quickly.

Below is an update on the current status of grants and the amounts issued across the whole of the Royal Borough:-

<i>Beis Scheme Name</i>	<i>Number Of Grants Paid</i>	<i>Value Of Grants Paid</i>
ARG	2	£ 6,668.00
ARG	15	£ 40,020.00
ARG	9	£ 36,000.00
ARG	3	£ 18,000.00
ARG	14	£ 54,008.00
ARG	6	£ 50,000.00
ARG	77	£ 515,000.00
ARG	79	£ 470,000.00
ARG	4	£ 20,000.00
ARG	51	£ 385,000.00
	260	£ 1,594,696.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum & CBLP	357	£ 2,890,629.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum & CBLP	333	£ 4,043,619.00

## Windsor Town Forum Update

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum & CBLP	94	£ 1,712,116.00
	784	£ 8,646,364.00
Christmas Support Payment for wet-led pubs	57	£ 57,000.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	9	£ 6,003.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	7	£ 1,333.99
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	3	£ 2,001.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	16	£ 16,000.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	12	£ 3,428.52
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	2	£ 2,000.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	2	£ 3,000.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	2	£ 857.14
	53	£ 34,623.65
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open)	118	£ 102,014.52
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector)	4	£ 5,142.84
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector)	3	£ 858.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector)	0	£ -
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector)	4	£ 7,714.28
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector)	4	£ 1,716.00
	15	£ 15,431.12
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum	338	£ 450,892.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum	316	£ 632,000.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum	102	£ 306,000.00
	756	£ 1,388,892.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	276	£ 210,389.28
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	273	£ 312,000.78
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed)	73	£ 125,143.17
	622	£ 647,533.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>2665</b>	<b>£ 12,486,554.52</b>

### Review of Businesses in Clewer and Dedworth

Following the Town Forum meeting in January it was requested for some further work on businesses who operate outside the town centre. I have undertaken a number of site visits to understand and gauge the number of businesses who are based in and around Clewer and Dedworth areas and assessing how many of them are operating.

Number of businesses in Clewer and Dedworth – 115\*

Number of businesses currently open during lock down - 36 (30%)

\*This number is not a complete and will increase as we undertake further site visits to corner shops and small parades not on main roads.

### My Royal Borough

Majority of businesses that have been identified above and are currently open are now listed on My Royal Borough under the "What's Open". Further work will be done in the coming weeks to engage more with these businesses and encourage and include them in

- Free online lunch time social media training sessions – 31 March 12pm
- Invitation to Retail and business forum - April 9<sup>th</sup> 9.30am
- Share and promote social media content of businesses in the borough.

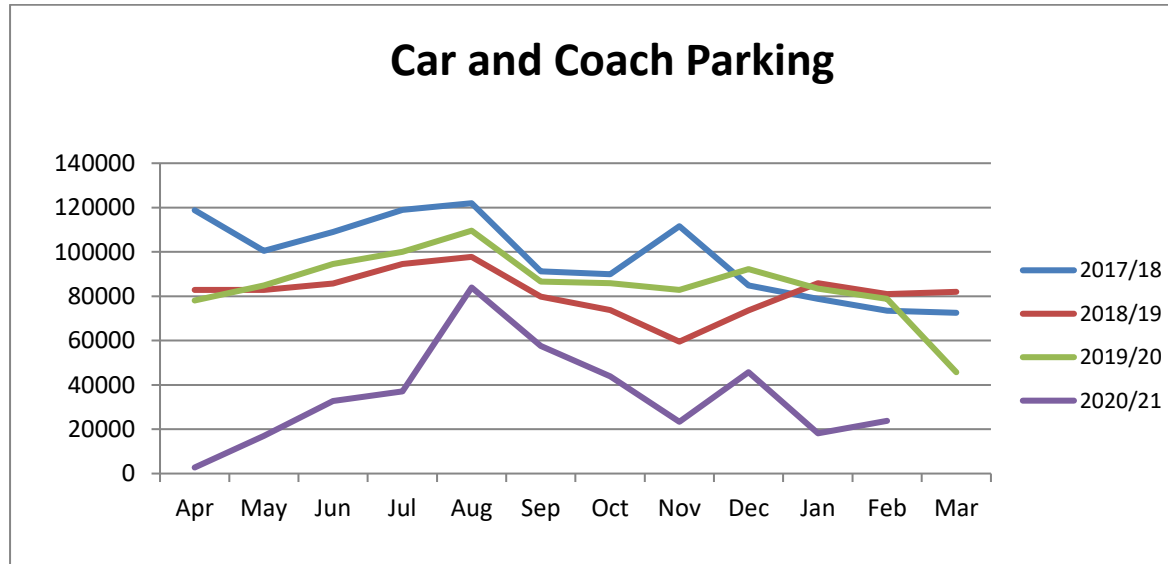
## Windsor Town Forum Update

- Support Services including. COVID testing, Social Media Resources, Royal Borough Unlocked

Key message we need to get out to businesses is that they need to engage and provide content for us to share and support them.

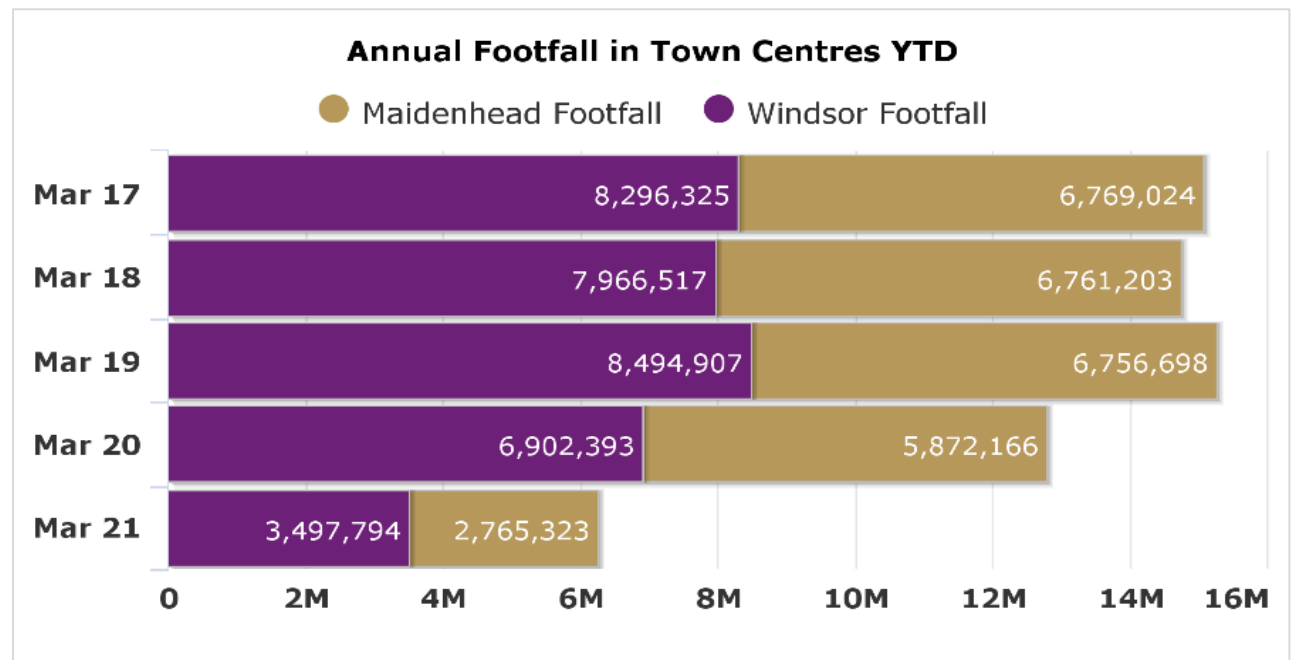
Vacancy rates, Car Parking and footfall are not currently monitored in these areas

### Health check for the town centre



Car parking usage across the town down by 70% for the year and is unlikely to see a full recovery for the end of the financial year.

### Footfall



The above table shows comparison footfall figures between Windsor and Maidenhead. Across the last 12 months we are likely to see a total of around 40% reduction on footfall in Windsor. The figure for March 21 is currently the predicted forecast and it is expected that the actual figure will be slightly higher..

### Vacancy Rates

## Windsor Town Forum Update

	Dec	Jan	Feb
Current vacancy	<b>12.63%</b>	<b>12.63%</b>	<b>12.72%</b>
*Expected Vacancy	<b>21.24%</b>	<b>21.44%</b>	<b>21.24%</b>
**National Average	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>13.7%</b>

\*this includes businesses that have indicated they are in danger of closing permanently.

\*\* Data provided by British Retail Consortium

Vacancy levels have continued to remain level through the last quarter with a number of businesses now being refurbished in advance of new tenants coming into the town centres. We have again seen some positive movements in the town centre with new businesses taking over empty units in the town and will see new stores join the town centre offer in the coming weeks.

### Units under development

Rex Bakery - Peascod Street

Paul Alexander – High Street

Craft Coop – Windsor Yards

Mama Mia - Windsor Royal Shopping

### Communications

Developed a reopening communications strategy which is linked to the road map and sending out a range of different messages for different sectors as they unlock.

A successful European funding BID will allow the borough to design a set of branding designs for high streets, Key messages:-

- Staying Local
- Visit **other** locations in the borough
- “Don’t let your guard down”
- Unlocking Royal Borough

**Paul Roach**

**Windsor, Eton, and Ascot Town Manager**