

This newsletter is being produced by Birchfield Big Local and Birchfield Neighbourhood Forum to provide a source of local news and information during these challenging times.

The aim is to provide news and information about what is going on in the local area that may help people to find the support that they need and also to encourage and inspire. If you have information, news or a story that you would like to share then please send it to us at:

Email: andrew@birchfieldbiglocal.org

Post: Birchfield Big Local, 16 Grosvenor Road, Birmingham B20 3NP

Please feel free to share this newsletter with other people or print a copy out for friends or neighbours who don't have access to the internet.

Emergency Community Response Hub

The council has launched an emergency response hub to provide support to the most vulnerable citizens.

The service will prioritise those in critical need who have received a letter from NHS England stating they are in a priority group; or those that are self-isolating for shorter periods but are unable to rely on family or friends for adequate practical support. This may be in relation to:

- emergency food supplies
- social contact

Please spread the word to the appropriate people on how to access this support:

By phone: 0121 303 1116—Open Monday to Friday: 9am-5pm

Online: [birmingham.gov.uk/coronavirus_advice](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/coronavirus_advice)

The Active Wellbeing Society

If you are unable to access food, but have not been asked to 'shelter' by the NHS you can register with the Active Wellbeing Society. They are working with food banks and food charities to get food out to people's homes. They are also providing a befriending phone service for people that would like a friendly chat or advice.

By phone: 0121 728 7030 (office hours)

Online: <https://theaws.co.uk/coronavirus>

Birchfield Big Local and Covid-19

Since the lockdown on 23rd March, Birchfield Big Local has been working to keep in contact with residents—especially those that are having to self-isolate. We are contacting elderly residents by telephone to ensure that they have what they need and for a friendly chat.

With the help of two local social enterprises—Golden Sparkle CIC and Athac CIC—and food from FareShare West Midlands, we have been able to distribute food parcels to families and elders in the Birchfield area. We plan to continue this weekly for as long as needed.

If you need help or know a neighbour who needs help, then please contact us on:

Tel: 0121 448 5594 (Mobile: 07421 994 752)

Email: info@birchfieldbiglocal.org

Please also see our Facebook page for information and regular updates.





Mental Health Support

Birmingham Mind can help people access psychological support from specialist providers. Current opening times: 7 days a week from 9am - 11pm. Telephone: 0121 262 3555
Email: help@birminghammind.org

Support for Young People

Kooth is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop and free at the point of use. <https://www.kooth.com>

Covid-19 Mutual Aid

There are a wide range of citizens' groups offering support at a local level to people impacted by the coronavirus. You can find details of local mutual aid groups on the website: <https://covidmutualaid.org/>

If you are looking to support your local community you may wish to contact the groups to find out how you can get involved.

Bus services

National Express West Midlands have issued further updates about bus services after the bank holiday weekend. From the 14th all buses will still be operating on the same routes as they do now, but the timings of buses will be revised on some services to make journeys quicker.

For an update on the timetable please see—<https://nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/information/service>

Implications for local bus services

There is currently a 30 minute service on the 33, 51 and 16 bus routes.

The 11A and 11C is to have a more frequent service—every 20 minutes— as it serves both City Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The 54 is running every hour, but there is a gap of about two hours around midday.

Beware Coronavirus Scammers

Following an increase in frauds, West Midlands Police have provided the following advice to prevent fraudsters from taking advantage of older and vulnerable people during this time. Please pass this advice on to elderly relatives or friends.

- Never let unsolicited callers into your home or hand over bank cards or cash.
- If someone claims to be from the police, NHS or other organisation ask to see their identification. If in doubt call the organisation they claim to represent to make checks. If they are genuine they won't mind waiting while you verify who they are.
- Don't click on links or attachments in suspicious emails.
- Do not respond to unsolicited messages asking for personal or financial information.
- If you are looking at making purchases on sites you don't know or trust then research the company beforehand.
- If you decide to make a payment use a credit card as the majority of credit card providers insure purchases made online.

Planters at the junction of Calthorpe and Grosvenor Roads

