

Retford Business Forum (RBF) latest news – received 13th May, 2020.

The Retford Business Forum Meeting scheduled for Monday 1st June 2020 is cancelled.

The RBF AGM, also scheduled for Monday 1st June 2020, is postponed for up to one year and, in line with other organisations, may not take place this year. Accounts for 2019/20 are currently with our accountants and a summary will be distributed with a future update.

Regarding future meetings – it may be possible to hold a virtual meeting in July (6th) and/or August (3rd) if it is felt to be beneficial. Please let me know what you think.

UK Government:

Copy of the latest information from the UK Government outlining the guidance for the next steps from Wednesday 13th May, from 1st June and from 4th July 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

Details of the Chancellor's extension of the furlough scheme in its current form until end July then modified to be more flexible in partnership with employers until end October 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-furlough-scheme-until-october>

Details of working safely guidelines

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Grants for self-employed/those in partnerships

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

From The Independent news feed (abridged) about the Business Secretary, Alok Sharma's briefing on 12th May from Downing Street regarding safety during the return to work:

"Business secretary Alok Sharma promised that the government would be "looking out for" workers, and urged anyone who feels their workplace is not safe to contact the Health and Safety Executive.

And the HSE's chief executive Sarah Albon said her inspectors will be ready to issue enforcement notices requiring employers to cease dangerous practices or take additional protective action, with the sanction of criminal prosecution if they are ignored.

The government has allocated an additional £14 million to the HSE to enable it to carry out spot-checks on reopening work venues.

Companies aiming to reopen must carry out Covid-19 risk assessments, redesign workplaces to allow two-metre distancing and introduce more frequent cleaning. They are advised to consider staggering shift times, imposing one-way routes round premises and reorganising desks and work-stations so employees face away from each other."

From Northern Railway (edited):

[Note TOC = Train Operating Company – they run the sections of the railways – guided by HM Govt at present; RDG = Rail Delivery Group, essentially the TOC's professional association]

Government roadmap for easing lockdown

“We have been and are working hard on various different scenarios and we will continue to progress our plans for the operation of stations, trains and facilities across the network as and when guidance is available.

Your stations

Over the next three weeks will be looking in detail at our staffed and unstaffed stations to in preparation for any increase in passenger numbers over the coming weeks and months. The need to highlight the need to social distancing, remind customers to be as alert as possible to the risks of spreading COVID -19 and all the changes we have had to make on stations and trains as result. This is a priority for the industry and a range of actions has been proposed by RDG for all TOCs follow.

You will see a lot more directional information displayed on all our stations on what actions we have taken and the actions we need customers to take.

The need to do this is now, we will be using all interventions at our disposal to educate and inform customers via social media, trains and stations.

As a short-term interim measure, we may need to use some of the black community notice cases to do this if we feel it is necessary for COVID -19 displays as a short-term fix to raise customer awareness. This is a temporary measure to get over the industry over the next 8-12 weeks and any case used will be returned to the station adopters as soon as possible.”

From Kathy Cowbrough, Chair of Fairtrade in Bassetlaw:

“Sewing for Healthcare workers - Retford, Worksop and Surrounding areas.

A small group of people in Retford and Worksop are making PPE mainly for care workers in care homes, health centres and GP surgeries. They are making scrubs, face masks, scrub caps/hats, ear savers, scrub bags. **Items that are really needed include, fabric, elastic, buttons, thread, bias tape, cord, wool (for knitting/crocheting some items)**

If you have an of these items, would like to donate or want further information please contact Kathy Cowbrough, Chair of Fairtrade for Bassetlaw who attends Retford Business forum meetings and who is helping with the sewing- by email: kathy.Cowbrough@gmail.com text to 07745 811 172 or call 01777 706 880

We are raising money to help buy fabric for making scrubs, scrub hats, wash bags & headbands for the NHS & healthcare workers in our area. Support this JustGiving Crowdfunding Page.

[JUSTGIVING.COM](https://www.justgiving.com) “

From Tommy Davis at Retford Shop Local:

“During this lockdown, we had an idea... An idea that could help us all as both local businesses and customers.... We decided to build a new website! - A directory of ALL local independant businesses!

Due to obvious travel restrictions, we have created this directory from memory, with a 'virtual' walk through of the town, so if your business is NOT listed or the details are wrong, please contact admin@retfordshoplocal.co.uk with your details and we will add/update them for you.

All businesses get a FREE forever listing to include name and contact details. Furthermore each business will get live links to your social media pages and website (live links will be free until end Sept, and then a small donation will be required each year to keep the links live - this is to cover the hosting and the maintenance of the website, and create funds for Retford Shop Local to create offers and events in the future)

Our website is www.retfordshoplocal.co.uk have a look and feel free to give us your feedback :)

Many thanks to Irontree Design & Print for all their hard work building this website for free
<http://www.retfordshoplocal.co.uk/>

Take care everyone and stay safe

Best wishes

Rick

Rick Brand
Chair, Retford Business Forum