



BIZ BUZZ CRISIS UPDATE 29-6-2020

NEW LOCAL FUNDING HELP + THE LATEST THRILLING INSTALMENT OF THE MOBILE PHONE MAST MYSTERY

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL HAS LAUNCHED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND.

This is a new grant scheme to help all sorts of community projects post covid-19. It will provide grants of between £50,000 and £250,000 to groups wishing to invest in community facilities – including adaptations required to ensure social distancing. They are putting £1 million a year into it.

Wherever possible the County Council expects anyone applying to seek other financial aid via grants, loans etc. so that this SIF money can be stretched as far as possible. To ensure the fund reaches as many groups as possible, the county council expects groups to include a financial contribution towards the overall costs of their proposals, which could come from other grants, loans or fundraising.

All the details are here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding/norfolk-social-infrastructure-fund>

It could be the answer for local groups, clubs, village halls and community centres who now need urgently to restructure in the wake of the virus. Examples of previous community schemes supported by the county council include a £500,000 investment in community sports facilities at The Nest, a community hub in Horsford and £500,000 for EACH's palliative care centre for children, in Framingham Earl.



THE LATEST ON THE PHONE MAST SAGA... Episode 9,211,5146 (If you have a phone number which you feel could serve as an episode number, please get in touch!!)

At the beginning of the lockdown, Waldon (the infrastructure service providers for O2) told us that "progress is being made with regards to getting the Downmore Farm site built, but there are still legal matters to complete" .

During lockdown there was a prolonged silence despite regular approaches. Biz Buzz now has this statement from Waldon's Planning Manager: "The legal agreement with the landowner has yet to complete. This is unrelated to the current pandemic and is an ongoing process. Given the current status, it would be remiss of me to speculate on timescales for build and site integration, but I can advise that the intent is still to progress once this has completed."

Biz Buzz has been seeking updates from Waldon's managers, for more than 2 years. We have suggested that as residents we would be happy to help them complete the task ...even dig the trenches!

We have also reminded them of the Government promise in October last year when the Department for Culture Media and Sport declared: "Poor mobile phone coverage will be a thing of the past as the Government champions a £1 billion deal with the mobile phone industry to banish rural not-spots....The move will bring 4G coverage to 95 per cent of the UK by 2025" Sadly, a lot has changed. At that time Nicky Morgan was the

Secretary of State. Oliver Dowden was put in place in February. More promises have been made and the previous ones re-iterated. To see the government's latest plans look here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-digital-uk#current-mobile-infrastructure-projects>

GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES FOR NON-ESSENTIAL RETAIL OUTLETS FROM 4th JULY

Here are the Government's guidelines: Choose the sector that applies to you. It includes offices, labs, factories, warehouses, etc. etc

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

TO HELP YOU CARRY OUT A RISK ASSESSMENT OF YOUR BUSINESS, the government has this questionnaire: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-reopening>

If you need to get information, advice or need to apply for loans from **Breckland District Council** here is the link: <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/coronavirus>

All Biz Buzz crisis updates are to be found on www.np4nb.online