

Hi Everyone,

We hope you are all continuing to stay safe and well. As the vaccination program continues at pace, most of our readers should have received their first vaccination by this point. We have included information below on the progress of the vaccine program to date. We will also provide you with information on Voice of Experience Forum's activities during this time. This edition is supplementary to the quarterly newsletter which will continue as normal.



Second dose of Covid-19 vaccine have begun for Lanarkshire care home residents



NHS Lanarkshire has begun administering the second dose of the coronavirus (Covid-19) vaccine to eligible care home residents

The first health board in Scotland to vaccinate care home residents against Covid-19, NHS Lanarkshire has vaccinated more than 3,000 residents with the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

Trudi Marshall, Health & Social Care North Lanarkshire nurse director, who is managing the care home vaccination programme across the whole of Lanarkshire, said: *"Care home residents are amongst our most vulnerable residents so I know it will be greatly reassuring to residents and their loved ones that we are now administering the vaccine's second dose."*

Trudi again stressed the ongoing importance of physical distancing, hand washing and face coverings.

She said: *"This second dose for our most vulnerable residents is another important step to further protecting them...However, I must stress is that the vaccine is only one element in a wider range of ways we can keep ourselves and loved ones safe from – and cut down transmission of – Covid-19."*

"It is essential that everyone, who can, continues to follow FACTS guidance closely."

"This remains the most effective way of preventing COVID-19 transmission across the whole of Lanarkshire."

Blue badge renewal

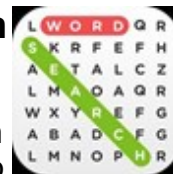
VoEF has been advised that parking wardens have resumed normal duties. Expired blue badges will be treated as such by parking wardens and enforcement will apply.



Applications can be made online by visiting the GOV.UK website where applicants can upload their supporting documentation and photograph at the same time.

And in other news

Voice of Experience Forum 2021 Calendar: Wordsearch Competition



We would like to remind everyone that the closing date for the Wordsearch competition is the 31st March, so get your entries in before then for a chance to win a £50 voucher for your local supermarket. On the reverse of the Wordsearch is a feedback questionnaire which we would ask everyone to complete and return as soon as possible.

Community Alarms



With regard to the costs of this service, VoEF has been advised that there are no exemptions to this service. However, a financial assessment will be provided, if a person feels that they cannot afford the charges, to ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to meet the continuing cost of having this service.

Waste Services Online

Did you know you can now request a range of waste services online?

Accessing waste services online is quicker and easier and can be accessed 24x7.

You can report issues with:

Missed bins 🏠 Household collections ♻️ Recycling Centres Communal bins 🏠 Special uplifts

If you need help with your bin, for health reasons you can:

[Request help with putting your bin out](#)

[Request an additional bin collection](#)

[Request a simplified bin collection](#) To access council services online you will need a Scot Gov Myaccount. You can sign up for one at <https://www.mygov.scot/myaccount/>



Progress for Town Centre Housing projects

Demolition plans for the Orrs building in Airdrie are now in place with construction beginning this spring. A contract has also been awarded for detailed design development work at the former Municipal Buildings in Coatbridge, announcing progress being made in two of the town centre housing projects.

The Orrs building is one of the most prominent locations in Airdrie town centre and its demolition will make way for a mixed development of new housing and commercial units, which the council hope will breath new life into the South Bridge Street site. NLC have committed to buying 20 new homes from developer, Wilson Developments Limited, as part of its new housing supply programme. Work on this site is expected to be completed by summer 2022.

The contract award for development work at the former Municipal Buildings will see detailed design proposals progressed for the conversion of this listed building to deliver around 49 new homes (including some new build) as part of the new housing supply programme. This development has also seen agreement that the former burgh chamber, committee room and associated offices will be retained and converted for touch down and office space for council employees and linked to the adjacent school hub. A more comprehensive report will follow in the April newsletter.