



Minutes

Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee

Held at:	Remote Meeting
Date	Thursday, 14 January 2021
Present	Councillors Graham Allison, Emily Arnold-Newing, Laszlo Dudas, Frank Hobbs, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Neil Matthews, Terence Mullard and Paul Thomas
Apologies for Absence	None
Officers Present:	Andy Blaszkowicz (Director of Housing and Operations), Kate Clark (Case Officer - Committee Services), Alastair Clifford (Operations Lead Specialist), Holly Godwin (Case Officer), Cheryl Ireland (Chief Financial Services Officer), Dean Pratt, Charlotte Spendley (Director of Corporate Services) and Steve Weakley (Systems Development & Projects Senior Specialist)
Others Present:	Leigh Poppy (Census Engagement Manager)

12. **Appointment of chairman**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Jenny Hollingsbee
Seconded by Councillor Paul Thomas

RESOLVED:
That Councillor Frank Hobbs is appointed chairman for the meeting.

Agreed by all members.

13. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

14. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020 were submitted and approved.

15. **Census in March 2021**

A presentation was provided to members from the Census Engagement Manager for South East Kent.

Points noted:

- Census start date – 21 March 2021.
- Census is carried out every 10 years.
- Accuracy is based on maximum amount of residents taking part.
- Town and Parish Councils asked to help raise awareness of the Census.
- Local Census Engagement staff to be on hand to help residents.
- Paper questionnaires to be available.
- Closing date is 4 May 2021.

Mr Poppy drew members' attention to the Census timeline which is contained within the attached presentation. He also confirmed that contact had been made with the district's three Community Hubs as they are keen to help.

16. **Brexit Transition Update**

The Operations Lead Specialist provided a presentation to members pointing out the various lorry holding sites. Members were advised that Covid 19 testing is mainly carried out at Sevington, however, lorry drivers were encouraged to arrange a Covid 19 test prior to coming into the county. There are 31 Department for Transport (DfT) testing sites outside of Kent and if lorry drivers utilised these it would put less pressure on local services.

Illegally parked lorries can be reported to Kent County Council online or councillors can report problems via the District Council.

Councillor Paul Thomas asked about littering, street cleansing and waste disruption due to the vast number of lorries in the area. The Specialist advised these problems had been mainly in the Dover area, however an update will be provided to this committee.

Although a member asked about actions taken in France to alleviate any issues caused by Brexit, it was pointed out that this is not an area that can be effectively discussed at this meeting.

Turning to the lorry stacking that occurred prior to 1 January 2021, the committee noted that some members of the public had been providing food to the drivers. The Specialist advised that welfare of the drivers falls to Kent County Council and DfT, but he pointed out that drivers are expected to be self-sufficient for 48 hours.

Armed Forces support had been requested, however, it is not an easy task to provide food and facilities to 5000 plus drivers. Lessons had been learnt, but it was noted that some media attention had been unfair.

The presentation for this item and the Covid 19 Vaccination update item is attached to these minutes.

17. **Covid-19 Vaccination Programme**

A presentation was given by the Operations Lead Specialist, who outlined the various sites within the district to be used for administering the Covid 19 vaccination. Members were advised that the Civic Centre Car Park will be a main site, hopefully delivering 400 vaccinations per day. Another proposed site is Folca in Folkestone Town Centre and discussions are underway for this site.

Lydd Airport will be the main vaccination site for the Romney Marsh and the intention is that Pfizer vaccinations will start shortly. Councillor Paul Thomas pointed out that volunteers are needed for meeting and greeting residents and providing transportation to the site. He advised that a call had been made to various organisations to help.

It was noted that there are smaller vaccination sites in the district which are mainly based at larger chemists and surgeries. For all vaccinations an invite is made to each resident based on priority and age and it may be that some residents will have to travel to their allotted vaccination site, this is based on the type of vaccine used, its shelf life and storage.

Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee kindly said that officers had worked tirelessly to help develop all vaccination sites within the district.

18. **'My Account' presentation and update**

'My Account' is the Council's personalised system for residents to give quick and easy access to services. A presentation was given to members which included updates and enhancements to this service.

The Systems Development & Projects Senior Specialist explained the improvements and enhancements to the My Account service and was happy to report that approximately 7050 residents have signed up to the service since its inception.

User updates have been made to Council Tax services, Housing Benefit services and Election information specific to wards with improved and intuitive connections to the Council website.

Prefilled forms are available for ease when making a request or reporting a problem. As an example, members were advised that 50% of waste enquiry transactions are carried out using the online forms.

Customer Services play an important role in providing the Business Support team with feedback from residents which means improvements can be made.

Customer Services can also help residents create an account, keeping in mind security and data protection.

A further social media campaign is to be launched which will coincide with the Council Tax Annual Billing. Posted bills will include a flyer promoting the My Account service. It is expected that the number of My Account registrations will be high in March and April of this year.

The Senior Specialist advised the next area to be launched will be Regulatory Services, eg Environmental enforcement; Food and Hygiene; and Licensing.

Members thanked the Senior Specialist for the presentation and were impressed with the customer intuitive system.

19. Budget Strategy 2021/22

Report FH/20/01 summarised the overall Budget Strategy for 2021/22. The report outlined the proposals being consulted upon.

The Chief Financial Services Officer advised members that the report shows a deficit of £3.5mn which is now reduced to £1.6mn due to growth and savings and a review of Fees and Charges and that the budget assumes a 2% increase in Council Tax.

Members asked about the Business Rates Grants. It was noted that this Council has been the most successful in processing and paying of grants, which is due to the hard work of officers, especially in the Finance Team.

The Director of Corporate Services gave a brief rundown of business grants issued during Lockdown 1, Lockdown 2, Tier 3, Tier 4 and Lockdown 3. It was pointed out that in all cases care is taken with robust checking and speed of payments being paramount.

Members agreed this was a fantastic service in helping to keep businesses in the District moving.

census
2021

Helping everyone take part in Census 2021

Every ten years, the census provides a unique snapshot of our society

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The next census is happening in March 2021. By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community is counted in decisions on services and funding.



Billions of pounds are allocated to local services using census-based information every year

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So that these funds can be allocated in the most appropriate and effective ways, it's important the census accurately captures everyone in our society.



No one knows your community better than you

We understand that building positive relationships with communities means more people understand the benefits of the census and are likely to take part.

We need your help to raise awareness and understanding of the census in your community.



Knowledge

Your unique understanding of your communities' interests and the challenges they face can help us plan and implement support that lets everyone join in.



Awareness

Your community links can help us spread the word about what the census is and why it matters. This will build trust in the processes and boost participation.



Access

Your networks can help us reach those members of your community who need support. This will help make sure they're included and counted too.

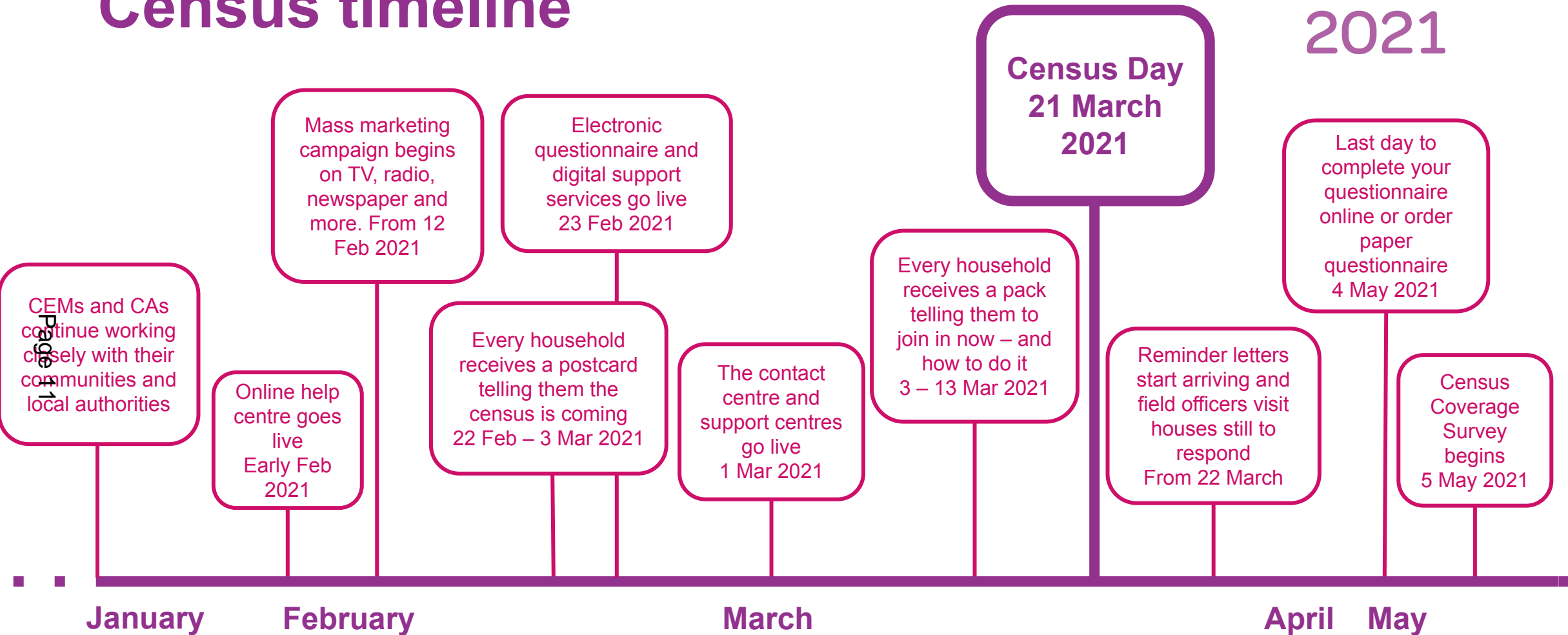
We will support you throughout the census process

Page 10 Our local community engagement staff will be on hand throughout the census process with resources, advice and practical support that enables everyone to join in.



Census timeline

census
2021

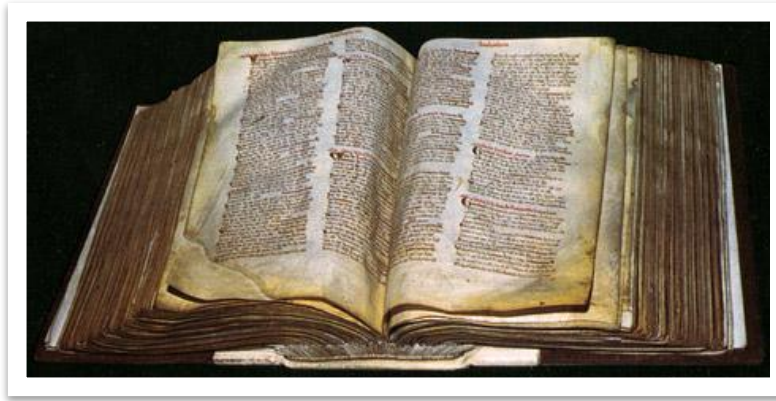


Census facts

The first modern UK census was in 1801. It collected everyone's name and address, and some age data...



A census enumerator in a Gray's Inn Lane tenement, London



... but the first thorough survey of England was in 1086 when William the Conqueror ordered the production of the Domesday Book. This detailed inventory of land and property was a massive undertaking at the time, taking many years to complete.



In 2011, the census captured more than **94%** of people in England and Wales.

The population on Census Day was **56,075,912**

census 2021

In 1911, Suffragette Emily Wilding Davison hid overnight in a cupboard, in a crypt in the Houses of Parliament. Her protest aimed to give her residence on the form as the Houses of Parliament.

In the end, she was counted twice, once in parliament and once by her landlady!



In 1841, English romantic painter William Turner, rowed a boat into the centre of the Thames so he could not be counted as present at any property in that year's census.



On Census Day in 2011, 1,586 babies were born in England and Wales...



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...6,242 people put their religion as 'Heavy Metal'...



census 2021

...and 176,632 people identified as Jedi!



(This was down from 390,127 in 2001)

Next Steps

Talk to your local Census Engagement Manager (CEM) or Community Advisor (CA) about the ways to help your community join in.

<<ADD EMAIL ADDRESS>>

For more information on the census visit www.census.gov.uk

Follow the census on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook @Census2021 @Cyfrifiad2021

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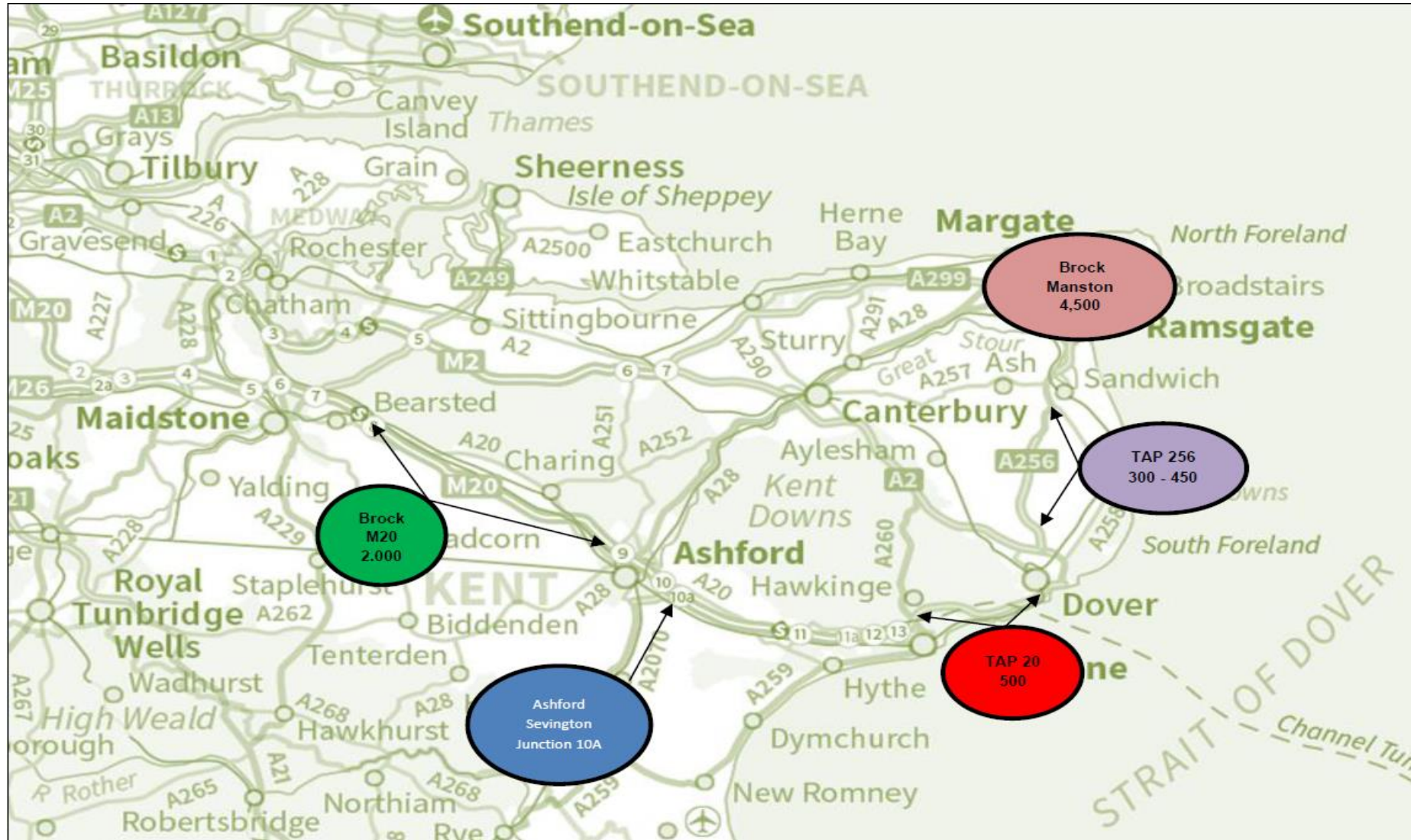
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Agenda

- EU Exit Transition
 - Kent Picture
 - Our Response
- Covid-19 Response
 - Kent Picture
 - Our Picture

Operation Fennel



Incident Status: Emergency declared

Kent Traffic Management:

Op Brock M20 continues to be active between junctions 8 and 9. The contraflow is open for local and tourist traffic. TAP 20 and TAP 256 are not active.

Levels of Disruption:

Congestion in Kent continues to remain low due to low volumes of freight. Passenger numbers also remain low. Freight flows are expected to increase over the next week and the KRF remains prepared to activate any traffic management and contingency measures to manage increased levels of traffic.

Op Fennel Stage		
	Active	Not Active
Brock M20 (J8-9)	X	
TAP 20		X
TAP 256		X
Sites in Kent		
	Active	Not Active
Ashford Sevington	X	
Ashford Waterbrook	X	
Manston	X	
Ebbsfleet	X	
Stop 24	X	

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Covid-19 Testing for Drivers:

Current testing arrangements for hauliers crossing the Channel are set to continue for the foreseeable future. The Sevington and Manston sites are still being used as a contingency for drivers who arrive in Kent without evidence of a negative Covid-19 test. A number of DfT information and advice sites are offering testing to HGV drivers outside of Kent.

The number of port-bound HGVs arriving in Kent having already had a negative Covid-19 test continues to increase, suggesting upstream testing across England is having a positive impact. A number of passenger vehicles are still arriving at ports without evidence of a negative Covid-19 test and are being turned back. Last 24 Hours-4329- 3 Positive, 1908 conducted upstream.

Consultation closes tonight regarding legal requirement for all HGV entering Kent to have evidence of a negative Covid test.

HGV Compliance:

HGV clamping is now active with KCC being the lead authority working with NSL as the contractor. KCC website has links to reporting illegally parked HGV's. We are holding weekly meetings with them to understand hot spots and numbers.

Any questions?

Kent Covid-19 Update:

Regional data shows the SE is still the third highest region in England. Dartford, Gravesham and Medway continue to have case rates that are among the highest in the country. NHS and SECamb remain under pressure and the Aylesford Temporary Place of Rest remains stood up.

Folkestone and Hythe numbers are beginning to drop across the District as are they are generally across Kent.

Community asymptomatic testing was rolled out across Kent last week with 14 sites now live. More information about the asymptomatic testing sites can be found here: [https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-](https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/symptom-free-testing)

[health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/symptom-free-testing](https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/symptom-free-testing). The two locations in Folkestone and Hythe are;

- Folkestone Library, 2 Grace Hill, Folkestone CT20 1HD
- Hawkinge Community Centre, Heron Forstal Avenue, Hawkinge, Folkestone CT18 7FP

A mass Covid-19 vaccination site is up and running in Aylesham. Another site is due to open in Sheppey on 11th January and a further site in Ashford is due to open on 18th January. Sites in Folkestone, Margate and Gravesham will be open by the end of January.

Folkestone & Hythe Covid-19 Update:

FOLCA is the designated mass vaccination site for Folkestone with an aim to vaccinate up to 3000 people per day. Works are on going to prepare the site for use with an operational aim date this month.

Lydd Airport is the designated mass vaccination site for the Marsh, works are ongoing to have the site operational as soon as possible.

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A vaccination site at the Civic Centre has started setup today for operations to start on the 18th January. This will be delivering vaccinations on behalf of the local surgeries.

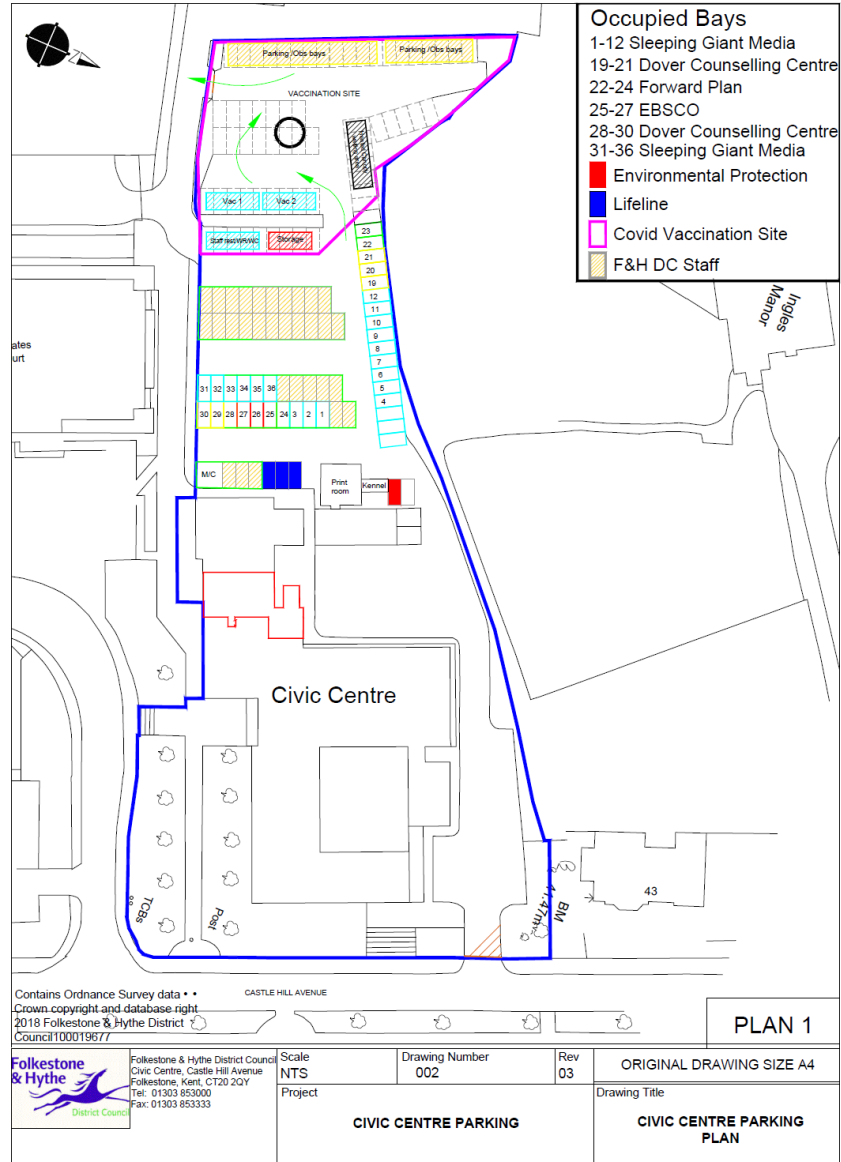
A vaccination site is operational at Oakland's, Hythe.

Symptomatic Testing:

The Stadium Car Park, Aldridge Road Folkestone CT20.

MTU: Moved from The Civic Centre – to Marine Parade Car Park (Folkestone Harbour Company).

LTS: The Stadium, Cheriton.



Any questions?