



24 July 2020

## Your chance to give a 'Big Thank You' to our local COVID-19 heroes

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Love Basingstoke and Basingstoke Voluntary Action are calling on residents, groups and businesses to send in their messages of thanks to local heroes who have gone above and beyond throughout the pandemic either by volunteering or by carrying out thoughtful and kind deeds.

Everyone recognised will be celebrated during Basingstoke and Deane's Big Thank You Week, from Monday 10 August to Friday 14 August.

People can take part by nominating others for their support and acts of kindness during lockdown until Friday 31 July by:

- tweeting @lovebstoke using #thebigBDthankyou
- visiting [www.thebigbdthankyou.co.uk](http://www.thebigbdthankyou.co.uk)
- calling the council on 01256 844844
- posting a letter to The Big Thank You, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH.

As well as encouraging people to share their thanks, a young people's project on kindness has also been launched.

Open to anybody under the age of 18, it aims to inspire young people to focus on acts of kindness they may have seen or carried out during the past few months, and to interpret it through art, a poem or spoken word. All artwork will be displayed as part of a digital art projection project taking place later this year and will be available to view on the website as a lasting memory.

Submissions can be made by email to [mypart@thebigbdthankyou.co.uk](mailto:mypart@thebigbdthankyou.co.uk) or post to The Big Thank You, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke RG21 4AH. For more details visit [www.thebigbdthankyou.co.uk](http://www.thebigbdthankyou.co.uk)

## Weekly waste collections to resume mid-August

Weekly waste collections in Basingstoke and Deane are set to resume from **Monday 17 August** as staffing for the bin collection service stabilises during the pandemic.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and its waste and recycling contractor Serco have reviewed staffing and are happy the weekly service can be resumed. The day residents' bins are collected will not change.

New subscriptions to the garden waste service will also be available from Monday 3 August but residents are being advised it may take over a month for bins or bags to be delivered and collections to start.

The council and Serco will continue to review staffing levels and will take measures to protect the core waste and recycling services during the COVID-19 crisis if required.

This means all of the council's waste and recycling services will be back online by mid-August, following the difficult decision to stop garden waste and bulky waste collections in March and temporarily move to a fortnightly waste collection late April.

While some residents will be pleased to see the return of weekly waste collections, the council is aware many residents are supportive of a fortnightly collection and made great efforts to reduce their waste and recycle more during this challenging period.

Cabinet Member for the Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus has urged those residents who have managed on the fortnightly waste collection to keep up their efforts, which have resulted in an unaudited increase in recycling of around 800 tonnes – the equivalent to around 63 double decker buses.

For more information on waste and recycling collections during the pandemic visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-bins-and-recycling](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-bins-and-recycling)

### **Don't forget to wear a face covering when shopping local**

Shoppers across the borough are being reminded to wear face coverings from 24 July

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has been helping retailers to safely reopen by ensuring they have the appropriate measures in place, as well as working with Basingstoke Together BID, Festival Place and The Malls to ensure the town centre is a safe and pleasant experience for shoppers.

Several measures have already been put in place including walking on the left-hand side of walkways, an increased cleaning schedule of public areas, hand sanitising units and extensive signage reminding shoppers what they need to do.

This new measure will help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 from droplets from coughs and sneezes when visiting smaller areas where social distancing may be more difficult, alongside other measures such as regularly washing your hands.