

These are the lockdown rules you must now follow

Only leave your home for the following very limited purposes:

1. Shopping for necessities, as infrequently as possible
2. One form of exercise a day, such as running or cycling, alone or with household members only
3. For medical or care needs, for example to help a vulnerable person
4. Travelling to and from work, but only if you cannot work from home

Meeting friends, shopping for anything beyond essentials, and gathering in crowds are now banned.

Updates from the District Council

Council tax

We have received a few enquiries as to whether or not we're reducing council tax for people whose income has been affected by the pandemic. Last week, the government confirmed that it has set up a £500m hardship fund. We are still waiting for details of this but anticipate it will provide support for people either using our existing Council Tax Reduction schemes, or an additional scheme. As soon as the government has confirmed the details, we will make any adjustments we need to so we can begin helping people as soon as possible.

Anyone facing immediate difficulties paying their council tax should contact us via:

South - sodc.counciltax@secure.capita.co.uk / [0345 302 2313](tel:03453022313)

Vale - vowh.counciltax@secure.capita.co.uk / [0345 302 2315](tel:03453022315)

Garden Waste

We will not be taking on new customers for the Garden Waste Service until further notice. This is so we can make sure we're focusing on regular household waste collections as much as possible as we're currently experiencing staff shortages due to illness or staff needing to self-isolate.

Parks and play areas

To protect our residents and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, we are closing all play, sports and exercise areas. Our parks and open spaces are still open so that people can stay fit and active. We are also asking anyone that uses these open areas to follow government guidance by staying at least two metres apart, and if the parks are busy, to not use them.

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