



# Northumberland County Council

To all Town and Parish Councils

By email

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:** PJ/SC

**Enquiries to:** Paul Jones

**Email:**

paul.jones01@northumberland.gov.uk

**Tel direct:** (01670) 623432

**Date:** 20 May 2020

Dear Colleague

## **Update on Reopening of Coastal and Visitor Car Parks**

I am writing to keep you updated on the latest position with regard to the re-opening of our coastal and visitor car parks.

As you will understand, public safety remains our top priority and that is why the car parks were closed in late March at the start of the national lockdown.

And while lockdown is easing slightly, the pandemic is by no means over. That is why we took a cautious approach, and kept our car parks closed until we fully assessed whether it is safe to open them.

The feedback provided by Town and Parish Councils on whether or not to reopen the car parks in their local area has been very helpful and formed part of our decision making process. As I'm sure you will agree this has been a very difficult decision for the County Council as we have tried to balance a range of considerations and take into account different viewpoints, with public safety being the overriding objective. We have considered factors such as the ability to socially distance both within the carpark and the surrounding area, the impact on and the views of the local community and where vehicles might otherwise park and cause problems if the car park remained shut.

I can now let you know that of the 53 car parks currently shut, 41 will be re-opened by Friday, May 22. The remainder will remain closed at this time.



# Northumberland County Council

For those car parks that are being reopened the signage will be updated to remind people that they must maintain social distancing measures at all times, that meeting in groups is not permitted, and to maintain good hand hygiene. In line with the government's policy our wider communications message will still urge people to stay at home as much as possible at this time.

Further work is being undertaken to ensure that the public toilets which are in some of the car parks meet safety and social distancing standards before they are reopened - so some may not be open on Friday, but we are working hard to ensure where possible the reopening of the car park coincides with the reopening of the adjoining public toilets.

For those car parks which remain closed for the time being the public toilets will also remain closed and the public will be advised not to visit these locations.

Our key message, and one we would ask you to share, is that if people do go out to exercise they do so with caution, keep their distance and respect the local communities.

We would also ask that if people do travel somewhere to exercise, to be respectful and sensible and not block roads where people live.

Car parks that charge to park will continue to do so. The changes to car parking are detailed in the lists below and we will be issuing a press release and information through our other communication channels later today to confirm which car parks are open and which remain closed.

As a council we will keep the car park openings under review and the situation may change depending on local or national developments. May I therefore thank you for your continued understanding and support during this difficult time.

Yours faithfully

**Paul Jones**  
**Services Director - Local Services**



# Northumberland County Council

## **Car parks opening by Friday, May 22:**

Amble, Island View  
Amble, Beacon Hill  
Amble, Togston Links  
Amble, Links  
Amble, Dunes  
Amble, Braid  
Ashington, Blackclose Dene  
Ashington, Hirst Park  
Ashington, Wansbeck Riverside Park  
Berwick, Pier Field  
Berwick, Sandy Beach  
Spittal, South Greenwich road  
Spittal Point  
Spittal, Sandstell Road  
Blyth, Beachway  
Blyth, Mermaid  
Blyth, The Ranch  
Cambois, Buccaneer  
Cambois, Outfall  
Cambois, Level Crossing  
Cambois, Beach House  
Blyth, Ridley Park  
East Cramlington LNR (both)  
Cresswell, Dunes  
Cresswell, Pond  
Cresswell, Golden sands  
Boulmer Village  
Newton-By-The-Sea, Newton Steads  
Newton-By-The-Sea, Low Newton  
Seaton Sluice, Holywell Dene  
Seaton Sluice, Old Hartley  
Seaton Sluice, Fountain Head  
Warkworth, Dunes Road  
Warkworth, Beach Road



# Northumberland County Council

Bedlington Country Park (both sites)  
Hadston Scars  
Dunston Steads  
Beadnell  
Corbridge Village

**Car parks remaining closed:**

Amble, Paddlers Park  
Bamburgh, Links Road  
Berwick, Castlegate Overflow  
Craster, Quarry  
Holy Island, Green Lane  
Holy Island, Chare Ends  
Newbiggin Church Point  
High Newton, Newton-By-The-Sea  
Seahouses, Station Yard  
Rothbury, Beggars Rigg  
Rothbury, Cowhaugh  
Wylam (Tyne Riverside Country Park car park)