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Is your company Open for Business? Let potential customers know via a new platform

Fenland firms which are open for business during the coronavirus pandemic are being offered a new online platform to spread the word.

Fenland District Council has launched Fenland Open for Business to help link people with local businesses and tradespeople who are still operating in the face of the outbreak.

Around 100 businesses have already registered for the service, which will help potential customers know where they can go for goods and services across the district.

The platform has been launched on the Council's Fenland for Business website. To sign up for free, or find out more about which local companies are still open, visit: www.fenlandforbusiness.co.uk/coronavirus

Businesses can also use the site to advertise any job vacancies they have.

Councillor Ian Benney, Fenland District Council's Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, said: "The coronavirus pandemic is having a profound impact on local businesses, which are the lifeblood of our economy. Business owners and self-employed people are soldiering on despite the uncertainty, thinking of new ways to reach their customers in the light of the unprecedented precautions we all have to take.

"The new Fenland Open for Business platform makes it quick and easy for people to find out which businesses in Fenland are still open. It's free for businesses to sign up and get listed, so I'd urge as many as possible to get registered and make the most of the platform."

Cllr Benney also urged residents to try and shop local where possible. "As a Council, we want to encourage people to think first and foremost about buying goods and services from our Fenland based businesses before going to large internet retailers. The vast majority of Fenland businesses are owned and run by people who live locally and are also valued members of the community."

The Council is also working hard to distribute the Government's business support grants in Fenland to help businesses through the coronavirus crisis. So far more than £13.8million in grants of £10,000 and £25,000 has been paid to over 1,240 businesses.

However, around 450 businesses in Fenland have yet to claim the grant they are entitled to.

Council Leader, Cllr Chris Boden, said: "The Government's business grant scheme has provided much needed financial support to many of our businesses. However, many businesses we have contacted have still not responded. I would urge small businesses, community building and village hall committees, and those in retail, hospitality and leisure to claim these grants. They are there to help and do not have to be repaid."

If you think your business might be eligible for a grant, don't delay – you can complete a declaration form online at: www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinessgrants. Any businesses needing advice to complete their declarations can contact the Council for help on 01354 654321 or email: covid19.businessgrants@fenland.gov.uk

To find out more about the support available for businesses, visit: www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinessadvice

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For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226