



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Coronavirus Bulletin 21

5th March 2021

Dear Bro Secretary,

I would be grateful if you will please note the following and circulate to your members including Honorary Members and also to your Visiting Officer.

1. Lifting of Restrictions

Following the recent Government announcement, we now have some clarity on the timescales for lifting Coronavirus restrictions. The Province remains in suspension following the notice in Bulletin 16 on 2nd December 2020 (including the Isle of Wight), however subject to any unforeseen changes in Government policy, we expect the following timetable to apply to lodge openings:

- i. From step 3, which is not earlier than 17th May, we are allowed to meet indoors following the rule of 6. This means from this step we can resume meetings and dinners (under the rule of 6).
- ii. From step 4, which is not earlier than 21st June, all COVID restrictions are removed. This means that normal meetings and dinners may resume without any restrictions.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Masters in Charge for both Craft and Royal Arch, under their implied powers, will therefore lift the suspension from 17th May to allow meetings within the above government guidelines.

Full details of the Government's 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>

2. We Care Notice

Please find the attached 'We Care' notice from the Provincial Almoner including donations to the MCT and help for the NHS.

3. A Message from the Company Secretary of Albion Place Masonic Hall

Southampton City Council is in the process of developing an £18.5 million project to overhaul transport and public spaces in the City Centre. Plans that directly affect our building are due to start during Autumn next year.

One element of the plan involves Albion Place where it is intended to convert the Albion Place Car Park, to the side of the Masonic Hall, into a bus hub, whilst Castle Way Car Park, in front of the Masonic Hall, will become a landscaped pedestrian area. If this element of the plan goes ahead it will have a devastating effect on your Masonic Hall. All immediate car parking will disappear which will cause hardship to many of our Brethren, especially those in their senior years, and will greatly limit the appeal of the hall to potential external users who constitute a useful additional revenue stream for the hall.

Many Hampshire Masons visit Lodges at Albion Place and will be similarly inconvenienced by this new development. I would respectfully ask all Hampshire Lodges to feed back their views to the City Council. Details of the scheme can be found using the following link:

[Southampton City Council unveils game-changing plans to transform transport and public spaces in city centre](#)

This site has the facility to complete a short survey to give your feedback on the scheme. Such feedback must be given by 19th March. It is vital that as many replies as possible are made to this survey and we urge all local Freemasons to make their views known by this means.

Fraternal Regards
Frank Milner
Provincial Grand Secretary