

NORWICH RESEARCH PARK IN FOCUS

Changing Lives & Rethinking Society



FOCUSING IN ON THIS ISSUE:

1. Where to Next? some questions
2. Practicality and Planning



WHERE TO NEXT? some questions

Week six is now behind us. For each of us those weeks will have brought different things: for some it will have brought the most terrible of tragedies; for others fear and worry, isolation and loneliness. Beyond the very real and awfulness there continues to be the acts of kindness and the stories of inspiration, a great example being Captain, now Colonel, Tom Moore who we will all remember for a long, long time and whose legacy will do some lasting good for our brave frontline NHS workers. As I write, I am minded by his instruction to us all, "To remember that tomorrow will be a lovely day".

What of tomorrow then? In last week's bulletin I talked about exit strategies and asked the question "exit to what?". There are two parts to this, and this week I want to focus on just one part - the practical part of planning to be ready for a gradual easing of lockdown. It is still early days and so, as the way becomes clearer over future days and weeks, I will add more detail.

Next week, I will focus more on the second part, which I posed last week - "exit to what?". I ask this - with sincerity

and to prompt conversation, positive conversation about exiting to a better future than going back to where we left off. What is it about tomorrow that will make it lovely? What can we do to not leave this to chance?





Practicality & Planning

One by one doors begin to reopen, social distancing remains, and will do so for some considerable time yet (we may assume), but gradually some activities that have been in hibernation are restarting. Lockdown has not been lifted as yet, but its lifting may be in our sights. Clearly, we all need to continue to do our part in ensuring the all-important infection rate remains low. We must continue to work at home where we can and to maintain social distance. However, and informed by official advice, we will see a gradual increase in business activity. For Norwich Research Park this is no different, some elements of our Park have not stopped – most notably our wonderful Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital - and other areas have been temporarily repurposed

such as part of the Centrum car park which is currently in use as a drive through testing facility. Across the Park plans are well underway to ensure that the areas that have had to be silent can be activated again, but that for as long as they are needed the temporary use of facilities and people to secure the successful fight against COVID-19 can continue.

Conversations are actively happening between those people across the various organisations on our Park who have responsibilities for ensuring that services and facilities are available when they are needed. These activities are being well coordinated, that same collaborative model

which has served us so well during the crisis is now also serving us well as we move forward. We all communicate with our staff and our wider communities routinely to convey the detail necessary for personal, team and organisational planning. For those of you whose home is Norwich Research Park, you will have your normal communication channels and these are being used. For friends beyond our Park, there will be announcements in social media, and I will use these weekly bulletins to keep you informed. We are a part of the region, we do care very much about our region, and our science will continue to play a major part in securing the future – for everyone.

Tomorrow will indeed be a lovely day!

