# Coronavirus Community Support

# Keeping Safe in the Countryside

With few options for visiting attractions or outside recreation an increasing number of people are accessing the local countryside to take their officially sanctioned one walk per day. We are fortunate in Westbury to be surrounded by beautiful countryside which gives a wide choice of destinations. It is worth remembering however that there are dangers in the countryside and also that increased visitor pressure can inadvertently harm what is so special about our natural environment.

1. Please remember that **you can pick up the coronavirus from gates, fences and stiles** if an infected person has been there before you. With increasing numbers, particularly at the most popular sites, this is a real risk. Follow the normal hygiene rules – wash hands, don’t touch your face, carry sanitiser etc.
2. Using your car to get to a distant site to walk is not essential travel according to government guidelines and should not be undertaken. If you have an accident or simply break down, you put others at risk. However, a short drive to a place where you can have a good walk may be acceptable.
3. With more people walking footpaths it is important to remember the key elements of the country code - leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available; leave no trace of your visit and take all your litter home.
4. At this time of year, it is particularly important to keep dogs under effective and CLOSE control. In many fields, sheep are lambing and can be panicked by even a harmless dog. Many cows are calving and can become defensive, particularly if you have a dog with you. *If cows get aggressive let the dog go to* keep yourself safe. On the nature reserves along the scarp and on the levels ground nesting birds have begun nesting and can desert eggs if dogs get too close.
5. Finally, do remember to keep 6 feet away from anyone outside your immediate family. Stand back while others pass along footpaths; wait while others pass through stiles etc. Just being outside in the fresh air is good, but it doesn’t automatically protect you from the virus