

Guernsey Estate Agents

Swoffers

Guernsey

A rock of stability
in testing times



#GuernseyTogether



The world will be a different place following the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Wherever you are, you will have been touched by the impact of this virus, and we want you to know we are thinking of you and your family at this time.

Our message to you is that we believe Guernsey will continue to provide a safe haven as the global economy struggles to adjust.

The island has not been immune to the impact of the virus, but being a small, self-governing jurisdiction has allowed our leaders to be fleet of foot, decisive and above all open and transparent with all information and communications.

As Guernsey begins to implement its lockdown exit strategy, we thought it would be a good time to share with you how the island has dealt with the challenges and how the community has come together over these past few weeks, ensuring Guernsey can bounce back as quickly as possible.

The island went into lockdown on Wednesday 25th March. Guernsey's Chief Minister Gavin St Pier (a former accountant and tax adviser) announced the measures at a live-streamed community briefing, supported by Director of Public Health, Dr Nicola Brink (a virologist) and President of the Committee for Health & Social Care, Heidi Soulsby. Over the last month such briefings have been both regular and reassuring for islanders.

The community was quick to adjust to the restrictions and heed the advice to 'stay at home and save lives'. But more than that, the community was even quicker to find ways to ensure the most vulnerable islanders were helped and supported throughout lockdown and into the future.





Under the banner of #GuernseyTogether, businesses, charities, other organisations and individuals have all played a massive part in keeping spirits high and the community together.

The team at Swuffers volunteered and was soon delivering shopping, meals on wheels and even iPads and Wi-Fi devices to those self-isolating or struggling to cope.

Guernsey's leaders were quick to put in place financial support for businesses and self-employed workers. Prudent financial planning over previous years ensured the island has a 'rainy day fund' approaching £200m to support the economy in such unprecedented times. The Government is also putting in place further plans to provide the necessary finances to support the phased exit strategy.

The priority now is to get the island back on its feet as quickly and strongly as possible post-lockdown. The exit strategy began to be implemented at the end of last week. From Saturday 2nd May islanders were allowed to extend their 'family bubble' by choosing one household to meet up with. The States also allowed certain recreational activities to start again, including golf and tennis, so long as strict guidelines are adhered to.



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Guernsey's world class healthcare system has coped admirably.

Through careful planning and excellent communication, the main hospital and all healthcare staff were well-prepared. They have been able to manage and treat the number of confirmed cases, carry out testing quickly on-island, trace contacts and act accordingly.

Dr Brink and her team continue to provide daily updates of confirmed cases, numbers tested, the outcome of those tests and the number of people who have recovered. She has also provided clear information about the number of islanders who have unfortunately died and shared information about their age and general health before contracting the virus.

This level of communication and transparency has been widely applauded by islanders, who have confirmed their trust in and support of their leaders. It is not often a community can say they are proud of their government!

To ensure the continued health and safety of the community, schools remain closed for all children apart from those of key workers. Teachers are delivering comprehensive online learning resources to ensure that education continues at home. School closures remain under review.

One of the benefits of living on such a beautiful island has been the opportunity to get out into the fresh air and enjoy the spectacular cliff paths, country lanes, beaches and beautiful scenery during the allotted two hours of daily exercise time. Whilst sticking to social distancing guidelines, islanders have certainly been taking full advantage of the environment we are lucky to live in. Rainbows and bunting decorate the whole island, reflecting the amazing community spirit and a determination to emerge from lockdown a stronger and happier place.





Finally, we want to share with you our thoughts for the future.

Guernsey has dealt with the challenge of Covid-19 efficiently and effectively, putting the health of the community as the number one priority. Although we are open for business and slowly emerging from lockdown, restrictions remain in place.

Travel to and from the island is still limited, so if you are off-island we may not be able to welcome you for a visit for a while yet. But when you are able to come you will find a resilient island with an incredible sense of community and a government determined to get Guernsey's economy back on track.

We are not out of the woods yet, but our government is predicting a quick and strong recovery.

Property sales and transactions have resumed as part of the first phase of the island's exit strategy within strict operating guidelines.

The health and safety of our clients and staff remain our number one priority at this time and our operating procedures are available on our website.

As Guernsey's leading estate agent for buying, selling and renting Open Market properties, the highly experienced Swoffers team is available to talk through any options you might be considering.

We would love to hear from you.

Stay safe

The Swoffers Team

