

BOWMAN COVID FAQs

We've found ourselves being asked a lot of the questions over the last few weeks so I thought I'd try and help answer some of the more common ones in advance for those of you that haven't asked or are too shy to do so!

The decisions we made on how to operate were made before the lockdown was eased, and before we had clear guidance (it still isn't exactly crystal clear). We are watching what other businesses do, listening to feedback and tweaking things as we go.

Are we still using disposable glassware, plates and cutlery? Not any more! Since the beginning of September we have been back to normal on the cutlery / crockery / glasses front!

Can we come as a group larger than 6? NO. groups larger than 6 will not be served, even if you then split up across multiple benches. This is currently the law and we intend to follow it to the letter until the law changes again.

Can you hold our event / wedding /wake etc.? Sorry. Not at the moment unless there are no more than 6 of you.

Do we have to sign a track and trace? Yes. This is currently mandatory.

Can we sit inside? Why are you not taking bookings? We have now opened up inside, albeit at only about one third capacity. As most of you are aware, it is quite tight inside the pub. Most of the public areas are only about 2.5m wide.

We didn't open up inside to begin with because under government guidelines, inside *has to be* table service, something that historically we don't do. Given that we are a drinking pub, and that in the summer most people are outside anyway, we didn't want to create a 2-tier service where-by we had 12 people sat inside being waited on hand and foot whilst everyone else queued up outside for a pint. Equally, tables inside would have been massively in the way of us operating a safe one-way system.

We have never taken bookings outside and, given the number of tables we have spread out over a large area, don't feel the need to do so. It is our intention to start taking bookings inside from October onwards. Outside will remain first come first served.

Why is parking in the field? To free up the carpark for the tables that were out the front, where you now queue for the bar and to generally create more space for people to move about in.

We also wanted to eliminate the risk of someone careering through a queue full of people as they sped into our carpark.

We will be returning the parking situation to something more like normal from October onwards.

Why do motorbikes have to park in the field? For exactly the same reason that cars have to park in the field.

In addition, when parked out on the road, it is harder for traffic to get past (and its harvest

time so traffic includes tractors and trailers) and I would like to keep the space on the driveway clear for disabled parking.

We have provided hardstanding and wooden blocks for kickstands as we understand that parking in the field is not ideal. Unfortunately, everyone is having to make changes to the way their lives work at the moment, however things will return to normal eventually and we are grateful for your patience and understanding.

Why are you running a reduced menu? To make the kitchen more efficient with less staff, to reduce our general prep time and to reduce our stock holding.

We have now started doing specials again, although the number of items is still limited.

We also lost a long-term member of kitchen staff during lock-down and his replacement pulled out just before opening. We have also lost Chloe for a while as we had another baby (yes, that was poor timing of me, yes I will be making sure that doesn't happen again) and she is very much the beating heart, the driving force of our kitchen and has been for the last 8 years (apart from the last 2 births).

Why less staff? One of the ways we can keep our staff and their families safer is to have less people crowded into what are small working spaces and to have them working in "bubbles" i.e. The same pairs work together on opposing shift patterns.

Do you still take cash? Yes. And so long as its Sterling we'll take cash even if it's out of date, from Scotland, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar or the tin under Nan's bed.

What happens when it rains? We now have a large marquee and several self-contained single bench shelters in the garden. Please be mindful of the temperature and bring a jumper if it is going to be cold.

Why is the umbrella down / heater off? We have been advised by the council to do so as otherwise it becomes an area where people are liable to congregate. Given that it is also the exit point of our one-way system, we feel this would be counter to everything else we are trying to do.