

The Moment a lot of you have been waiting for!!

Booking our pods!!

Many of you will have seen that the government has relaxed the lockdown, and from the 4th July we will be allowed to open in theory!!

Some of you who follow us on Facebook will have seen some of the things we have been doing recently to enable us to open in the safest way possible for our staff, and our customers. Although the government have relaxed the 2m social distancing to 1m, this is only providing extra precautions are taken.

The biggest thing we have done is to invest in 10 'pods' for the garden, which arrived on Friday. These are self-contained units that go in the garden and comfortably fit 4 people and probably 4 adults plus 2 children at a squeeze. When I put this on Facebook a few weeks ago we had over 80,000 views, and had hundreds of positive comments. People have been trying to book all the time. We have held off taking any bookings until they arrived, and we also needed to go ahead to open by the government. We also wanted to be sure we had everything in place to be as safe an environment for both customers and staff as possible.

Some of the precautions we have taken are or have :

We have produced a comprehensive Risk Assessment which is attached to this post.

We have produced a comprehensive operational plan which is attached to this post.

Introducing a one in, one out of the toilets. Locks have been put on the first door into the toilets, allowing only one person to enter at one time.

Motion sensor sanitizer stations at 4 points around the pub i.e. all the entrances into the pub, and the exit point.

We are booking the pods only for food in July, and the inside of the pub as it stands at the moment will not be open.

All our staff will have done up to 7 different courses relating to Covid19, and will of course be socially distancing, and sticking to strict cleaning routines and procedures.

The pods are being booked at 15 minute intervals. People will be greeted at the front door and sat at their pod straight away. A drinks order will be taken when people are seated at their pod by a member of staff. The drinks will then be delivered to their table.

All condiments are in sachets and those not used will be thrown away.

We will introduce a one-way system through the pub, and entry will only be through the front door, and the exit will be only through the side gate by the car park.

We are doing a maximum of 40 meals a service in the pods.

We will be taking down contact details from each group who book as part of the track and trace system.

The children's play area will be closed, and children will be encouraged not to run around.

Tables in the garden that aren't pods can be used for drinking but again we will take contact details on arrival.

Food and drink orders will be taken at the table, and served to the table, on an extending table separate to the seating table.

We have bought an industrial fogger which is a better way of disinfecting and sanitizing areas like the pods, in-between use, and also public areas after each service involving spraying with disinfectant spray and wiping. We are using a disinfectant/sanitizer that has been recommended to us by the environmental health, which complies with BSEN 14476 that kills rotaviruses. Using the fogger will mean the surface is dry within seconds, meaning we don't have to wait for 30 minutes before re-use, and no film is left on the surface.

We have 15 minute 'egg timers' for each staff to remind them to wash their hands every 20 minutes.

Lots more steps are being taken to ensure we make The Fox as safe as we can for both our staff and the customers. More will be revealed on our Facebook page.

We are also banning smoking throughout the premises at this time.

Anyone entering the premises who does not follow any of our instructions, and still doesn't after being spoken to by a member of our staff will be banned from The Fox for as long as we consider fit!!

We are doing our best, however if anyone sees anything they think they should bring to our attention please do.

As far as opening goes, we have made the decision to open again in the evening on **Tuesday the 7th of July**. That night we will be doing 'Pizzas in the pod' only, and will book the 10 pods out. From then on we will be opening on a slightly reduced week, so opening on a Tuesday evening at 6pm, then doing lunchtime 12 to 2 as normal Wednesday to Saturday. Wednesday to Saturday nights we will be opening at 6pm and closing slightly earlier, especially if empty. Then on a Sunday we will open at 11.45 and then go through to approx. 7-8 pm. The first booking in an evening will be at 6pm for the pod and then in 15 minute intervals until 8.15pm. At lunchtimes we will do the first booking of a pod at 11.45 and go through in 15 minute intervals until 2pm. On a Sunday we will do a second sitting starting at 3pm and go through at 15 minute intervals until 5.30 pm. We will close on a Monday. That's the plan as it stands for the rest of July, and all being well and safe we will start to phase inside into the equation.

As far as the menu goes, after the first night which we are only doing pizzas. After that we will introduce a restricted menu to start with. We won't do any starters. Mains will be limited to our top 12 selling dishes of the last 20 years, and then we will just offer ice-creams for pudding. As things progress we will obviously extend this and get back to normal. We will still offer a roast on a Sunday but it will be served plated from the kitchen rather than the carvery.

So, having said all that, we are going to start taking bookings for the pods from **Monday 29th at 9am** . I have turned down hundreds of people these last few weeks, and told them to watch our Facebook page, so it's likely to book up fairly fast, especially for weekends so get in fast if you want particular dates and please be patient if we are booked. We have posted this on our facebook page first so we give you all of you have been following our story on here for the last few months first refusal on bookings, We will then put it out on local social media groups from Tuesday onwards!

All bookings will have to be booked by email, so as to start the track and trace system. We will confirm the table by return email and at that time send out a detailed confirmation letter to ensure everyone knows what the procedure is when they arrive, and whilst they are here, plus how we will be working things before they arrive. The pods as we say hold 4 adults comfortably, 2 adults and 3 children or at a push 4 adults and 2 toddlers. If when booking you specify a time we will try our best to offer you a time back that is closest to the time required. If you want to book as a small group of 6 or your family is larger than 4, we can turn two pods to face each other. The pods are 1.4 meters deep and 1.8 meters wide, so it's not possible to social distance in the pods. But if you are happy to sit with other people who you know have been isolating like yourself, or you have been in contact with, we are happy for you to do that at your own risk.

Please try to be prompt at the time of booking as we are trying to avoid too many people arriving at the same time and creating a pinch point! Also it would be great if you had an idea of what drinks you would like as your first round so we can get them to you as soon as possible and you can relax in your pod.

The email to book is a new email and the only way of booking for now!

foxpodbookings@mail.com

Apologies that this is all so formal, but I am afraid this will be the new 'normal' for a while. You should hopefully find similar precautions elsewhere and if you don't, do you really want to be there? We hope you still enjoy your time in the pub, it will just be slightly different, just like life as a whole at the moment.

Please be patient and kind to others and above all enjoy your visit to The Fox knowing we are all doing our best to keep you and our staff as safe as possible.

Many Thanks

Steve & Emma