



Kirkby Lonsdale - Q&A fact sheet - 10 December

The Council, emergency services and partner agencies continue to remain in attendance in Kirkby Lonsdale today (10 December) to offer support and help answer any queries following a significant fire on Sunday morning (8 December).

Can I access Main Street?

Main Street in Kirkby Lonsdale remains closed to both vehicles and pedestrians, with a cordon in place to ensure public safety.

What is happening to the buildings affected by the fire?

Demolition work on structurally unsafe buildings is underway, following assessments by the council's Building Control Team and structural engineers.

The fire caused significant internal and external damage to buildings near Taylors, Save the Children, and Botanica, with unstable walls, unsupported structures, and roof elements posing immediate risks. Contractors were mobilised on the evening of Monday 9 December to address these issues. While progress has been delayed due to the need to safely disconnect a gas main, further works are expected to resume later today.

Where possible, the council is working to preserve the historic frontage of the Old Market Hall, despite the challenges presented by the extensive damage.

When will I be able to access my property or business?

The council is reviewing safety cordons in collaboration with emergency services to restore access where it is safe to do so. However, properties directly impacted by the fire will remain inaccessible until stabilisation work is completed.

For residents and businesses in the immediate vicinity of the damaged building, there is likely to be a longer delay before access can be arranged due to the need for supporting scaffolding at the front of the Old Market Hall to stabilise the structure.

Will there be another public drop-in?

Residents, businesses, and visitors are invited to another public drop-in session this evening (Tuesday 10 December).

The session starts at 6.30pm at Lunesdale Hall, Bective Road, Kirkby Lonsdale, and will be an opportunity to ask questions, receive updates, speak to Westmorland and Furness Council officers, and access direct support following the significant fire on Sunday morning.

Will bins still be collected?

Essential services, such as waste collections, will proceed as planned where traffic diversions allow.

Is there another way I can get support or ask questions?

For any residents, visitors or businesses wanting support or needing help, council officers and agencies are available at St Mary's Church (Church Street, LA6 2AX), or you can call the Council on **0300 373 3300**.

If you are a local resident or business who has been affected and hasn't yet had communication with the Council, please reach out as soon as possible by:

- Visiting St Mary's Church (Church Street, LA6 2AX)
- Calling **0300 373 3300**
- Emailing using the contact form at westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

