

BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

26 March 2020

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As the effects of Covid 19 become known, so town and parish Councils everywhere are making preparations to assist wherever possible during what is a fast changing environment. Burgess Hill Town Council has put together an emergency plan and is working closely with local organisations such as the Food Bank, Neighbourly Care and Age UK. We are also offering support and advice to the Burgess Hill Helper Army. Plans are well underway to bring various organisations into a town Emergency Committee to co-ordinate the town's relief effort.

It has made available an initial sum of £10,000 to be used wherever it may be needed and will add to this fund as required. The Town Council has helped the Food Bank find new premises and has put its maintenance team on standby to deliver food and other supplies to the vulnerable if needed. Unfortunately they are unable to do personal shopping but we will liaise with organisations that can perform this service. The Help Point continues to take calls and answer emails and will assist with coordinating measures if needed.

The council website www.burgesshill.gov.uk contains useful advice and contact numbers of helpful organisations. Social media is being used to publicise news whenever needed.

A further initiative which is being worked on is the provision of frozen food to the vulnerable. Freezers have been sourced and if needed will be installed at a central depot from which food may be collected or distributed.

While many council staff members work from home, arrangements have been made to hold virtual meetings meaning planning meetings will continue and important issues which may arise can be debated. Members of the public are encouraged to email concerns regarding planning matters to council@burgesshill.gov.uk and these will be considered at the meeting. Our Councillors are set up to meet regularly via Skype and have held their first meeting.

It is hoped that a change to legislation will enable the holding of virtual Council meetings as well. In the meantime a variety of initiatives are being planned to replace events such as the Festival and Summer Fayre. More details of these will be released once it is clear that we are all safe once more.

ENDS