

BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

23 April 2020

BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL COVID-19 REPOSE

Burgess Hill Town Council has been working with local community groups, partners and other local authorities to support the community through this lockdown period, while continuing to provide normal services as far as possible.

The Town Council is working to ensure that information on Covid-19 and the support available is reaching all residents, with a regularly updated dedicated webpage, social media updates, an information flyer delivered to all households, and posters on the Town Council's noticeboards and bus stops. The Help Point is still running a full service by phone and email to answer queries and direct residents to the appropriate support. Council meetings have also continued to run virtually, with Councillors and members of the public dialling in remotely.

The Town Council has established a Covid-19 Liaison Group, with representatives from West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council, Sussex Police, Neighbourly Care, Burgess Hill District Lions Club, Age UK West Sussex, Burgess Hill Community Food Bank, Mid Sussex Voluntary Action and Turning Tides, which

has been meeting weekly to co-ordinate the response in Burgess Hill. The Town Council and Mid Sussex Voluntary Action have also been liaising with the informal support groups that have sprung up in response to COVID-19. It is a team effort, and the Town Council is grateful to everyone who has been involved in implementing this response.

The Town Council has allocated £10k to a COVID-19 fund to support the local community and is very grateful to Burgess Hill District Lions Club for also allocating £10k.

In addition to this immediate response, the Town Council has looked at ways of raising the spirits of the community. This has included The Lockdown Virtual Festival, an ongoing online celebration of the local talent Burgess Hill has to offer, sharing everything from quizzes to live exercise classes, musical performances and more. It has been brilliant to see the resilience of our residents and community groups, and the adaptability that has been showcased.

On Friday 8 May, residents are invited to host their own 'Stay at Home Street Parties' to commemorate VE Day 75, by decorating their houses and joining their neighbours for tea or a picnic from their driveways, porches or balconies. While social distancing measures must be followed, this is an opportunity for Burgess Hill to come together and celebrate the community spirit of the Town.

ENDS

For further information contact Judy Pointing on 01444 238211