

APPENDIX 1

BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL COVID-19 SUPPORT

Information

- Liaison with the key local voluntary groups & agencies to find out what they are offering & notifying residents by:
 - Setting up a covid-19 page on our website providing information about authorised sources of support.
 - Producing a poster with this information – displayed on our noticeboards & Help Point window.
 - Producing a leaflet with this information - delivered to all households by Royal Mail.
 - Producing an electronic poster with local Covid-19 support contacts to go on Burgess Hill bus stops.
- Sending the information to all local doctors' surgeries and pharmacies.
- The Help Point is responding as usual to enquiries via phone, email and website although is closed to face to face enquiries.
- Keeping residents informed of new developments via our social media & website.
- Putting together a 35 slide Power Point display in the Help Point window with all the latest information from the Government, BHTC and other organisations to help residents.
- Compiling a list of shops that are open – all on our website.
- Compiling a list of take-away food outlets and restaurants doing takeaways – all on our website.
- Compiling list of major supermarkets volunteers' shopping cards – all on our website & circulated to voluntary groups.

Liaison

- Liaising with Sussex Police, WSCC, MSDC, MSVA, Food Bank, Age UK, Neighbourly Care, CAB, Community Transport Sussex & other key voluntary organisations.
- Contacting the informal volunteer groups that have set up locally via Facebook to encourage them to operate safely and pointing them in the direction of MSVA for guidance.
- Establishing a COVID-19 Liaison Group comprising BHTC, MSDC, WSCC, Police, Food Bank & other key voluntary organisations - meeting weekly via Skype to share information, support, identify gaps & needs as they arise.
- Liaising with groups supporting minority communities in Burgess Hill – Gypsies & Travellers, Muslim community & Syrian refugees.
- Liaising with local businesses re setting up a COVID-19 Business Support Group (insufficient interest to go ahead).
- Compiling a list of local community groups and charities – contacted by Councillors to find out how they are being affected by COVID-19, particularly the financial impact.

Funding

- Setting up a £10k Covid-19 fund for local support – with an additional £10k added by Burgess Hill District Lions Club.

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- £2k raised by Graham Meeres online DJ set to support local community groups.
- COVID-19 grants to be made available to local groups whose fundraising activities are adversely affected by the lockdown

Support

- Most Council services have been maintained e.g. burial ground, remote Council & committee meetings, maintenance around the town, back office operations etc.
- The Help Point has dealt with Food Bank enquiries & issued vouchers where required
- Our Maintenance Team is available with vans to help where needed and this has been offered to local groups.
- Liaising with the pharmacies offering delivery of prescriptions by our Maintenance Team.
- Helping the Food Bank find a temporary distribution venue at the Salvation Army Hall, providing electronic vouchers by the Help Point & liaising with supermarkets to source food items in short supply.
- Helping the Food Bank find a town centre shop as a longer-term depot & distribution venue.
- Maintenance Team have helped refit the venue, putting up shelving & moving the store items.
- Securing donation of 4 freezers by Unilever.
- Rehoming 2 of the freezers with YMCA young people's project.
- Promoting an appeal by The Brow surgery for PPE masks & eye protection.
- Contacting dental surgeries to request donations of masks & eye protection.
- Loaning cones & barriers to The Brow Surgery to create a drive-thru surgery in the car park.
- Councillors have been liaising with local community groups & charities to find out whether they are being affected by COVID-19.
- Distributing 100 visors made by Burgess Hill Academy to local shops and groups.
- Distributing perishable & non-perishable food to families in need, donated by Mid Sussex District Council.
- Distributing frozen meals to families in need, donated by Brighton & Hove Albion FC.
- Distributing 90 children's activities bags to families in need, produced by Mid Sussex District Council – BHTC contributed £150 to purchase additional items to include in 60 of the bags.
- Providing and distributing 100 food parcels to families/individuals in need, nominated by local agencies.

Community Engagement & Keeping People Cheerful!

- Co-ordinating a Lockdown Virtual Festival via social media, to keep people engaged and cheerful - involving local people where possible to share online activities e.g. yoga, tai chi sessions, children's crafts & stories etc.
- Promoting appropriate ways of celebrating VEDay 75 by decorating houses, socially distanced tea parties & sharing photos on our social media.
- Graham Meeres live-streamed DJ set with online Together in Burgess Hill page for donations for community groups.
- Organising summer holiday children's Nature Trail at Bedelands Nature Reserve, with the Friends of the Green Circle Network.

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- Article in August issue of *About Town* thanking everyone who has volunteered & helped the community through COVID-19.