

Coronavirus
Support organisations video conference meeting 23rd March 2020
Liskeard Public Hall

Attending at the Public Hall: Councillor Sally Hawken, Councillor David Ambler (also Town Forum) Steve Vinson (Town Clerk), Mandy Hancock (LTC), Steve Morgan (St Martin's Church), Jemma Morgan (Café Abundance), Julian Short (Salvation Army) David Berry (Food Bank) and Jess Sneyd (Junk Food Project)

Approx 21 people joined through the video conferencing facility. Those marked * attended online and commented during the discussion: Councillors Simon Cassidy, Jane Pascoe, Darren Arulvasagam (Christians Against Poverty), Kerenza Moore (Cornish Times), David Read (Cornwall Council), Leah Erin (Facebook group), Clare Bevan (Lighthouse Community Centre), Alan Mawby (Lions and Scouts), Andy Day (Methodist Church), Laura Chapman (Volunteer Cornwall),

Apologies: Councillor Rachel Brooks

1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>In Councillor Brooks' absence Sally welcomed everyone to the meeting, both in the room and via the trial of video conferencing.</p>
2	<p>Share information</p> <p>The organisations in the room introduced themselves and gave a background for what they do.</p> <p>Jess from the Real Junk Food Project gather otherwise wasted food and cook it, often for community events which they have now stopped doing. They had received lots of fresh food today and have stocks in their freezer.</p> <p>Jemma from Café Abundance does the same as Jess.</p> <p>Steve said the Church is ringing contacts to find out their needs, he anticipates these to change as time does on. The Church is working with St Martin's School and is worried about the people that can afford provisions, but can't get out to get them.</p> <p>Julian Short from the Salvation Army is offering pastoral support to older and marginalised people feeling isolated.</p> <p>David Berry advised that the Foodbank had seen a 400% increase in the referral rate. They had crowdfunded to purchase a van which is now delivering 3-4 hours a day. Currently there was 11 tons of stock, which under normal circumstances would last a month, but not now. The concern is for those who don't know where to get help and those not able to buy or afford items.</p>

	<p>*Darren Arulvasagam from Christians Against Poverty advised that they are looking after their existing clients, but are unable to take on any more.</p> <p>Alan Mawby from the Lions advised that they were getting old and he was in isolation. The Scouts may be able to help with getting food to the Foodbank. He asked about parking for key workers. Sally will pass information updated.</p>
3	<p>See what's needed</p> <p>Information encouraging to look at trusted sources for safe answers to problems. There are well meaning people, but the Police are aware of scams. People should be pointed to a central place for a vetted organisation. There has been inaccurate, dangerous, scaremongering information circulated online.</p> <p>Care Homes need to be able to get their bulk purchases.</p> <p>*Simon enquired about the contact method. Communication will be via email.</p>
4	<p>See what's on offer</p> <p>Jess – can cook and portion food to take away Do deliveries for those self isolating. Already done 3 deliveries. Work together with others.</p> <p>Jemma – can cook, freeze and distribute</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Food Bank would bridge the gap for people self referring, but that they would signpost people who didn't know where to go. David Berry would need to know the new numbers to refer to asap. The Food Bank can assist with utility top ups.</p> <p>Julian offered space for the community if it was needed at the Salvation Army.</p> <p>David Ambler said the Town Forum will be promoting businesses and felt it important to use positive wording in publicity. The Forum was making grants available.</p> <p>*Kerenza from the Cornish Times will get messages out. They will play a big part online and in print.</p> <p>*David Read, is the Cornwall Council link officer for the Liskeard Looe area. He can help with any blocks in the system encountered.</p> <p>*Leah Erin has 1000 people in her Facebook group willing to help. She is worried about elderly who aren't online getting information.</p>

	<p>*Clare Bevan, Lighthouse Community Centre has registered with Volunteer Cornwall as Flu Friends. They can provide lunches for the families they work with.</p> <p>*Alan Mawby from the Lions – may be able to help with funding.</p> <p>Sally advised that Cornwall Council’s Hardship Fund was available for cases of Council Tax hardship.</p> <p>Steve Morgan offered the Food Bank some of its crisis funds, but David hadn’t had too many requests for utility top ups.</p> <p>*Andy Day from the Methodist Church was providing pastoral care.</p> <p>Light and Life Church are giving pastoral care.</p> <p>Going forward vehicles could be available with the reduction in needs. These vehicles could be re-directed as community vehicles. Defining what is essential and non-essential and cutting accordingly will build resilience for the long term.</p> <p>*Laura Chapman from Volunteer Cornwall, has volunteers across the county. They are collecting prescriptions, shopping and befriending. They can also flag to the group any problems they can’t help with.</p>
5	<p>Going Forward</p> <p>The group confirmed they are happy to have their information shared amongst them. It is important to keep the group resilient and know of any emerging issues. Mandy will forward messages.</p> <p>GP letters will be going out to vulnerable groups advising of logistical help in a safe and trusted way.</p> <p>Sharing information that people can make one call for help via a leaflet drop which enforces the stay home and keep your distance everywhere messages. The leaflet should have lots of familiar logos (Food Bank, Church, CAP etc) and step by step info. This could possibly be from the Town Council. 1- Stay Home, 2 – Communicate locally, 3 – local contact numbers (Food Bank) then escalate. Sally said we are looking at potentially 12-24 weeks assistance.</p> <p>Social isolation and having food were the two big issues to focus on for the Church.</p> <p>Volunteer Cornwall are feeding information through their Facebook page and people can request help and link up.</p> <p>Following the meeting Café Abundance, the Junk Food Project and the Food Bank met to discuss the best way forward for them.</p>

Following Sandra's comment about social distancing Sally said we need to use language people understand. Be clear and that it is everybody's business to obey the instructions.

Following Julian Smith's enquiry about PPE for carers, Sally advised that the stocks available were being sent to the places of urgent need. Anyone with particular concerns should send them to the Covid19 email address.

Email: covid19@cornwall.gov.uk

Concerns: 0300 1234 171

David Ambler suggested checking out local key skills, particularly if specialised transport is needed, snow had been forecast. We will check the weather.