

Carsington and Hopton Parish Council

Issue: Report on Corona Virus Project

Agenda item: 31/20B

Recommendation: Note the success of the project and authorise the release of this report to Longcliffe Quarries and Bill Thomas whose funding enabled the project to get started so quickly. Together with a “thank you” note.

Timing: The project is winding up so now is an appropriate time to report on progress.

Members Interests: Cllr Miles was one of the project leaders.

Further information: All relevant information has already been circulated.

Reports on Project:

“Following the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic in the UK, 4 representatives of the villages of Carsington & Hopton formed a small committee to help and support residents through the outbreak.

The following is a quick summary of the main things we did:

Set up and ran the following village services

1. A buddy system for all vulnerable and shielded residents so they all had a point of contact in the village
2. The village WhatsApp, contact email, and delivered regular newsletters for all residents to help support residents and provide social contact. What's app also turned into general village chat area and also swap shop for people clearing out and exchanging or getting rid of stuff. Also, as a contact method for any useful village services e.g. Pub takeaways or offers from residents.
3. Twice weekly Supermarket shopping and delivery service (10 users at busiest)
4. Weekly shopping and delivery service with Ashbourne Independent retailers, (16 users at busiest)
5. Weekly prescription delivery service (many users especially shielded and vulnerable)
6. Confidential personal advice service to help access to local and national services and initiatives.
7. Weekly errand delivery service (for any other types of shopping /errands)

Set up the Hub.

A village shop supplied with basic goods and also goods in short supply where residents could take items for a donation or for free. This was stocked by residents' donations both of basic foodstuffs and prepared home cooked meals, which was topped up by supermarket shopping where necessary.

8. Socially Distanced Village social events such as quizzes, VE day celebrations, garden plant swap and house clear out give-aways.
9. Regular Zoom coffee chat groups for all, but especially used by those isolating alone.
10. Provision of a village parcel postage collection point so people didn't have to go to post office

The committee was really grateful for the funding provided which enabled this project. It was spent on things such as general set up and running costs associated with the services

above, shopping for the hub, funding the cost of physical newsletters, provision of packaging materials for those cooking ready meals for the hub and purchase of stamps.

Many of these services have been temporarily stood down at the end of June, but ready to restart if needed or in the event of a second wave. The whole experience has bought the village together and been beneficial in many ways. We have all got to know new people and everyone in the villages and the surrounding parish was aware there was a support group and most participated in both using its services and supporting others.”

Financial Implications: The use of the Longcliffe Quarries monies is reported on each year.

Risk Implications: The Parish Council needed to act quickly to respond to the pandemic and so had to take decisions by email outside the normal meetings process. To mitigate this risk the applicants for funding were asked to establish a project team, with specified responsibilities and to account for their activities and use of monies. This they have done.