

Town and Parish Council

COVID-19 Update

Issue Three – 27 April 2020

Introduction

Hello and welcome to this update for town and parish councillors and clerks. We appreciate the amazing work that is taking place across the borough and would like to thank you for your contribution.

In this Update:

Inspire campaign	Funding opportunities	Food allocation process
Domestic Abuse support	Future events guidance	Volunteering

Inspire others with your amazing work

As town and parish councils we know you have a big part to play in the incredible community response to COVID-19 in the borough. We would like to invite you to share your stories on a new interactive online space called Inspire Cheshire West, which we are launching today. This is a place to showcase and celebrate how communities are pulling together, from small acts of kindness to flourishing new community initiatives, and it is a place where people can say thank you.

You can also add ideas and tips for maintaining good physical and mental wellbeing, as well as practical suggestions for how to make the most of being at home, from cultural activities and gardening to using up your leftovers and tackling home schooling.

You can register as a resident or contribute on behalf of your organisation. Please take a look around the site, take part and spread the word to your contacts.

- Visit [Inspire](#) Cheshire West

How residents can gain help

A postcard detailing where residents can get help and where they can offer help during the Coronavirus outbreak will be delivered to all households this week. *The postcard is attached to this email circulation.*

Funding Opportunities

Update to the Council's grants scheme: The criteria for applications to CWaC's Community Response Fund and Member Budgets have been amended for greater clarity on what it can fund.

The schemes are not available for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including hand sanitisers, visors etc. The criteria has been clarified in line with guidance from Public Health UK.



Remember to check grants online for new funding streams: It has created a webpage that any new information will be added to when it is made available, so please check it regularly. To access the web page just click on this link <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html> - no login details are needed.

New Fund: The VINCI UK Foundation is offering funding to support not-for-profit businesses that are supporting communities in need during the COVID 19 crisis. Details of the scheme can be found in the *e-bulletin attached* to this email circulation.

Food allocation process

Attached to this email for your information is a diagram showing the distribution process for food to those in need.

Domestic Abuse support

Some children and adults could be facing increased risks due to need to stay at home because of COVID-19. Social distancing and self-isolation could also be used as a tool of coercive and controlling behaviour by people with abusing behaviours and will shut down routes to safety and support. To support anyone facing domestic abuse a new Open the Door poster has been produced specifically with COVID-19 in mind to direct people with domestic abuse concerns to local and national support, which supports the national #youarenotalone campaign.

The posters have been added to the resources section of the Open the Door website:
<https://www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk/resources/>

Future Events

The end of the UK's 'lock-down' has not yet been announced and as such the many posts on social media proposing community parties to celebrate its end and VE day are premature.

For clarity the guidance remains unchanged – there should be no social gatherings taking place until the government changes this policy.

The Council position on events is that they will not be supported until the current cut-off date at the end of June. This date is being regularly reviewed and will only change in accordance with national guidance.

Volunteering

A Volunteer partnership comprising the Council, Cheshire West Voluntary Action, the Sector Leadership Group, Cheshire Community Action and community groups has recruited 1800 volunteers of which some 800 have been matched with charities and groups needing more support.

If you or any of your groups need additional support please let me know and we will endeavor to match volunteers up with them – just email: pam.bradley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Cheshire West Voluntary Action – useful tips and information

Attached to this email circulation is an update provided by Cheshire West Voluntary Action, which provides useful tips and information that your community groups may find helpful.

Useful information and websites:

More local information on 'Coping at home with Coronavirus' can be found on the: [Live Well Cheshire West](#) website and the latest government advice on staying at home can be found on the [GOV.UK website](#).

Recycling: Helpful advice and tips about recycling have can be found on the Council's website: CheshireWestandChester.gov.uk