

# Melksham COVID Recovery Workshop - 22/07/2020

22 - 25 Jul 2020

Poll results

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## What are our priorities for COVID recovery in Melksham and the wider community area?

007

(1/2)

- Building on the local relationships made. Sustainable relationships.
- Continuing to support those residents without a support network (those who were socially isolated way before Covid). We have found a lot of the "hard to reach" residents, lets not lose them again..... Learn from what has been done so far..... so we are fit, ready and able to respond to a 2nd wave, Wiltshire Lockdown, a flu pandemic Provide mental health first aid to all who need it (and to recognise where/when it is needed)
- Do things differently - do things better
- Reconnecting people to their community eg older people to clubs and groups
- Encouraging council, charities business to think outside the box. Opening hours , offers, cohesion

## What are our priorities for COVID recovery in Melksham and the wider community area? (2/2)

007

- Checking in
- Community cohesion and building a sense of community, and mutual care for others

## How do we support business and the high street in order to protect the local economy?

005

- Make use of Melkshams outside places as many people feel safer outside at the moment
- Devizes have a fantastic hoarding on the approach to their town highlighting what is there
- Encourage people back to the high street. Build public confidence with regards to health safety
- Close part of the High Street to vehicles in the evenings and weekends so that cafes etc can have seating areas outside on the pavement for a "mediterranean cafe culture" for the summer months, with some late night shopping too - encourage residents to walk into town, an evening market? with entertainment? (from local community groups?) Have seen banners up around west wiltshire advertising that towns are open for business
- Free parking and encourage people to understand that melksham is open for business

## How are you finding changes in the way that GP services are being delivered in Melksham as a result of COVID?

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- Have heard from residents that the use of phone and teleconferencing has been positive, and hope that it can continue to alleviate pressure on GPs, and to keep those with anything contagious out of the waiting room! and reduces the need for travelling to the surgery for those with mobility issues

## How do we rebuild our community activity and vitality, including maintaining levels of volunteering seen during the COVID crisis?

002

(1/2)

- We have a new pool of volunteers to tap into .... a group of new people that volunteered that have never done before, who have seen the benefit of being a vital member of the community, we need to continue To do a similar thing with the businesses, advertise widely what is going on Use the new found volunteers to fill gaps for volunteers not able to continue (understand over 70s link drivers not allowed out yet) and those that have to shield could be at home answering the phone for link
- Give people confidence about safe working practices whilst reminding the volunteers of the

**How do we rebuild our community activity and vitality, including maintaining levels of volunteering seen during the COVID crisis?**  
(2/2)

002

importance of what they do for their community (whilst keeping themselves safe).



## How do we safely manage the reopening of our care homes and schools, while safeguarding public health?

003

- Clear guidelines about social distancing, hand hygiene and masks at the entrance
- Have concerns as a parent of teenagers at the exam end of school how the "year group bubble" will work, if one pupil infected then does all the year group have to isolate? and if they have siblings then another year group? Not sure how that can be managed as will be hundreds? how to educate teenagers who think they are invincible? young children who don't understand? and at the other end of the spectrum anecdotally the most eldest residents are quite often gung ho when out on the high street.....
- Think it is much to early to open care homes

## How as a community can we help to publicise important public health messages?

002

- Everyone has to share! seeing the same message in several places and from different organisations just reinforces it. So social media, noticeboards, word of mouth, village newsletters, the wonderful Melksham News! Leaflets in shops etc. Melksham Community Support now have 650 users on their books and could message them and use as a way to keep in contact regularly. Like the text messages I have received from Giffords!
- Exercise exercise exercise! Put it on any communication you can!