

CORSHAM AREA HEALTH & WELLBEING GROUP

MEETING UNDER LOCKDOWN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Meeting Notes for Wednesday 10th September 2020.

Attending through Skype. Cllr Brian Mathew (Chair), Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Ros Griffiths (CEM), Dorothy Robertson (Colerne), Rachel Sellens (Corsham TC), Jane Brake (Care Coordinator Corsham/Box), Ruth Ranger (Pilgrims' Friend Society), Sarah Gilmartin (Artist. Behind Closed Doors project), Emma Dowie (Swan Advocacy), Karen Viner (3C's), Kevin Gaskin

Apologies. David Martin (Corsham), Sharon Thomas (Corsham), Sheila Parker (Box), Sharon Whelon (Colerne), Heather Shepherd (Lacock), Cllr Phil Whalley.

Town/Parish situation reports

Corsham. Rachel Sellens. Mostly quiet with services open but no plans to allow meetings or groups into the Town Hall before November at the earliest. Links with the volunteers remain and further consideration being given to how best to make use of those links as circumstances change and opportunities such as new projects arise. Also looking at where next with communication with local clubs and groups and production of the next issue of the popular What's on Guide.

Colerne. Dorothy Robertson. Very quiet at the moment but links and co-ordinators remain in place. Meeting arranged with the Parish Council for pro-active discussions on the activities of the group and its remit within the Parish Emergency Plan. Intention is to write to all volunteers. The online Wiltshire Together meeting was interesting to hear about the experience and plans in other areas. There is a difference in approach and remit. Thoughts do extend to the wider issues of extended restriction measures (Domestic Violence was raised at the PC Meeting) and further including the potential implications of a Brexit no deal.

Box. Apologies from Sheila Parker.

Lacock. Heather Shepherd by email. Quiet on the volunteer front but links remain, the Parish Council have been in touch with all and had a good response - all are being kept informed of the ever changing Covid rules. The village remains busy with all of the associated issues of parking, litter and social distancing.

Group member updates

Ruth Ranger. Churches all coping at the levels at which they are capable and confident including online. Most want to start activities recognising of course the current restrictions on indoor and outdoor meetings. Public Health has been helpful. Emma Morrice is the Local Area Coordinator for Chippenham and has been a useful contact to provide advice to the local churches. Planning has started within the churches for the likes of Remembrance Day and as far ahead as Christmas.

In respect of engaging with people online there are many that are not confident or competent with the technology and are missing out so another good contact is Myles Pilling from a group called **AbilityNet** who have volunteers able to provide free technical advice. <https://abilitynet.org.uk/>

Action: - KG to make contact with Emma and Myles on behalf of the Group.

Jane Brake. The Surgery is in full swing with the flu jab programme with strong protocols in place including waiting in the car park. Currently targeting over 65's but that will extend to 50 – 64's later. It is worth remembering that the NHS only receives credit for those jabs administered by the surgeries. In terms of normal business people might be aware of the new 'shared administration' arrangements within the Chippenham/Corsham Primary Care Network area which offers greater flexibility in offering appointments. Asked about the increased use of phone consultations and whether they were freeing up GP time Jane reported that while it does reduce actual appointments it is still taking up a lot of GP time – telephone lists can be very long and are still time consuming.

Ros Griffiths. Ros identified the 2 grant applications to be considered by the Group – one for Celebrating Age and one for a new project called Behind Closed Doors. The applications had been circulated. Sarah Gilmartin explained more about Behind Closed Doors aimed at isolated older people and working with them individually to encourage them into the community to the extent that they are comfortable with. Sarah had run similar projects in other areas and is already involved with the Creative Lunch and Studio 64 schemes at The Pound. This project will offer quality 1:1 or 2:1 work with identified people using different art techniques including dance and movement, poetry and music helping to build confidence and trust and encouragement to become more socially active and aware. Working with other groups and signposting to other activities is an important part of the project. The project will involve local artists known to the Group including Will Lawton (music) and Dawn Gorman (poetry). Important will be the links to the community to identify those that will benefit from the approach and to other groups that might receive signposted clients. Jane Brake saw positive opportunities and offered to be the link to the Box and Colerne surgeries. Publicising the project was seen as important with offers made to help at all levels. Karen Viner was also in touch with Sarah with links to the Corsham Community Club. Ros explained that, as part of the joint Health and Wellbeing funding agreement with Corsham Town Council, half of the required £4500 funding would kindly be provided by the Town Council so the required allocation from the Group would be £2250. This had been discussed with the Area Board Councillors who were agreed to support the bid. Recommendation from the Health and Wellbeing Group was agreed.

Ros also introduced the latest Celebrating Age grant application seeking local funding for the coming years engagement work which would likely be a different approach with more online offerings, outdoor engagement and where possible home visits. Rebecca Seymour would continue to work with the HWB group and hopefully with Care Homes and the parishes to assure as wide as possible engagement. The application was for £1500 and was supported by the Area Board Councillors. As part of the Corsham Town Council part funding arrangement it was, subject to agreement, hoped that £500 would be allocated leaving £1000 from the HWB Group. Recommendation from the Health and Wellbeing Group was agreed.

Emma Dowie Swan Advocacy. Emma introduced herself and Swan Advocacy and particularly the Living Well Advocacy Service which due to funding received from the Big Lottery is able to work with people to develop a Living Well Plan which captures recollections from the past, realities of the present and expectations for the future in a personal plan that can help family or others make informed decisions about changing circumstances and support needs. The service is free because of the lottery funding and Swan can work with people over a number of visits to develop their story and their plan. As part of the service agreement has been agreed with the Wilts and Swindon History Centre for stories and recollections to be archived on their system. People can self refer themselves to Swan or can of course be recommended. People do find the service and the plan of benefit and some nice stories emerge. Further information can be found on the Swan Advocacy website <https://swanadvocacy.org.uk/living-well-advocacy-service/> or on Facebook or contact Emma by email on emma.dowie@swanadvocacy.org.uk

Karen Viner . Corsham Community Club (3C's) While normal club lunches can't be held Karen has kept in touch with all of her group who are doing well but desperate to get back to where they were. End of drive coffee and cake meet ups have been popular and similar opportunities for ad hoc number limited sessions would be welcomed. Karen has been busy looking at grant opportunities and has 2 pending that would allow the purchase of a pop up gazebo and an urn that would help with outdoor meetings. Karen would love to host meetings at appropriate sites perhaps village hall or park grounds and would be happy to work with local volunteer groups. Her email is corshamcommunityclub@talktalk.net

Ros Griffiths. The CEM's have been tasked with developing community status reports to inform local Resilience Plans and will be looking to work with local organisations and volunteer groups for their input.

Area Board meetings are now being planned using Microsoft Teams technology – fortunately Corsham is not scheduled until November so we will be able to learn from other areas. Meeting scheduled for 10th November starting at 6.30.

Other Updates.

Foodbank from Steve Drew. Remain busy so grateful to St Aldhelms for their ongoing support and the use of extra space in the Church. Giving has slowed down meaning that while stocks remain healthy there has been a need to buy specific items. Conscious also that the churches and schools will not be having their Harvest Festivals which have always been good stock builders before Christmas.

Corsham LINK from Hilary Light . 'A few more appointments but coping'.

Box, Colerne and Rudloe LINK from Sue Hatton. 'We remain very quiet. Letter sent to our clients explaining our situation and asking that family and friends be approached first, before contacting Link. From the 1st June to date we have had 56 requests for transport. We were able to help with all of these with the drivers we have. Currently 14 out of 50 of our volunteers are willing to drive if available and in good health. We have had no new volunteers come forward so far. In addition to Community First we also put a plea for volunteers in the Box and Colerne September Parish Magazines. People remain very anxious and the recent increase in the numbers testing positive will not help'.

Other connections to make. Waiting for contact from Debt Advice and also from Corsham Baptist Souper Friday.

Next Meeting. Will be scheduled for Weds 21st October but please keep in touch and share information in the interim.