

CORSHAM AREA HEALTH & WELLBEING GROUP

MEETING UNDER LOCKDOWN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Meeting Notes for Wednesday 21st October 2020.

Attending through Skype. Cllr Brian Mathew (Chair), Cllr Phil Whalley, Ros Griffiths (CEM), Dorothy Robertson (Colerne), Jane Brake (Care Coordinator Corsham/Box), Sharon Thomas (Corsham), Sheila Parker (Box), Ruth Ranger (Pilgrims' Friend Society), Sarah Gilmartin (Artist. Behind Closed Doors project), Rebecca Seymour (Celebrating Age Wiltshire), Karen Viner (3C's), Kerri Lavender (Health Trainer), Kevin Gaskin

Apologies. Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, David Martin (Corsham), Rachel Sellens (Corsham TC), Caroline Baker (Corsham Connections), Sharon Whelon (Colerne), Heather Shepherd (Lacock), Steve Drew (Corsham FoodBank).

Town/Parish situation reports

Corsham. Sharon Thomas. Sat in on the latest Wessex Community Action meeting this morning, lots going on with nice stories but an emerging theme is that volunteers are themselves getting tired and needing support. On the Corsham front we are passing any referrals on to NHS Responders and are writing to volunteers on the list, currently 45, hoping to identify those that may want further volunteering opportunities. The Storytown weekend has been very good including the street dance and 'your Corsham stories' incorporated into the display and exhibition at No 19 on the High St. Currently working on developing our own Distribution Network of email contacts to use alongside our social media links to assure direct contact with all Town clubs, groups and activities.

Colerne. Dorothy Robertson. Remains quiet at the moment but time taken to revisit the volunteer list which has confirmed that 107 volunteers remain in touch. Conversations still going on with the Parish Council regarding their Emergency Plan

Box. Sheila Parker. Remains quiet on the volunteer front but the plan is to contact them all and see where we are with numbers. Have agreed that a local Grant received which has not been used will be donated to the FoodBank.

Lacock. Heather Shepherd by email. All very quiet on the volunteering front. Following a recent email we have updated our volunteer list with those people still available to offer help and are keeping them up to date on any changes.

Unfortunately it looks like we will be losing the village store at the end of the month. The lease has come to an end and it looks like it had become financially unviable. The National Trust has advertised the lease and we hope a new buyer comes forward. If not the volunteers will step up to get shopping for villagers who rely on the shop.

I will speak with Lana Steward regarding outdoor concerts as she is involved with Lacock Evergreens.

Lacock remains fairly busy with tourists.

Group member updates

Ruth Ranger. Very much a mixed bag with the Churches at the moment all still unable to return to anything like normal activities. Most concentrating on Pastoral Care and turning their attention to Christmas planning which will be important to the churches themselves and to individuals. Outside of the churches one looming issue is for Care Homes and for people needing to visit loved ones.

Rebecca Seymour. Celebrating Age. Phase 2 of Celebrating Age is now up and running although it will obviously look different while Covid restrictions are in place. Lottery funding means that Celebrating Age Wiltshire (CAW) is now working with 10 community areas including Corsham for the next 5 years which is amazing. At the moment the focus will be on Online Concerts produced in conjunction with the Wiltshire Music Centre and the help of all is requested to share the links with as many people as possible as new concerts are released. All are available on the Music Centre YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZxtl--lzm4eNJg6rjasnCA>

As well as online concerts CAW are hoping to continue with outdoor concerts while the weather allows – these have worked well in the south of the county and most recently in Trowbridge – and are targeted really locally to individuals or very small clusters of people in their own front gardens or streets. This does require local support and help to identify the people and locations that would really benefit from this musical intervention. Concerts are not publicised but there is a leaflet drop to the immediate neighbours to let them know. 2 musicians in their car are able to go to perhaps 5 or 6 locations over a half day stint and CAW would like to work with the Corsham area over 3 outdoor concerts – perhaps one in Nov/Dec, one in the spring and one in the summer but it would require support from the local area. Dorothy agreed to help co-ordinate for Colerne and Sheila would be in contact with Rebecca for Box.

The 3rd part of the CAW offering is Creative Conversations which are telephone engagements with referred older people that are unable to leave their homes and this will not start until January following pilot work in Melksham. This again will rely on referrals and local help and conscious of expressed concern CAW will work in partnership with Sarah Gilmartin and Behind Closed Doors.

Ros Griffiths suggested that Corsham Baptist Church might be a good contact for referrals and Phil Whalley noted that the Care Homes might welcome an outdoor concert. Kevin was able to confirm that Claremont, Warrington and Hungerford Homes had been approached but were unable to host a concert at this time. Sharon felt that the Greensquare Residential

Homes - Holton House and Jargeau Court - could offer the opportunity to get to individuals in a group setting.

Sarah Gilmartin. Behind Closed Doors. Following funding approval Sarah has started her 1:1 face to face creative sessions with referred clients and has met at least once with 21 people. This has linked in with Studio 64 and also with Storytown with stories being collected and shared. Some of these are on display at 19 the High Street as part of the Smile Inside exhibition. Flyers are now ready to promote the project which would be better handed to potential clients rather than a wide distribution. Sarah is currently putting the equivalent of a day a week into the project but remains willing to receive more referrals and discussion regarding signposting to other opportunities – albeit they are limited at the moment. Karen Viner and her 3C's group are meeting alongside Studio 64 at the Pound currently and members have successfully joined in with the activities. Information about the various Projects is on the Inclusive Intergenerational Dance website <https://www.iid.org.uk/> and on Facebook [@iid.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/iid.org.uk)

Jane Brake. The flu jab campaign continues to go well but the surgery remains as concerned about people they are not seeing, appointments are being cancelled and numbers attending the surgery remain down. The message remains not to put off making contact with the surgery. Brian Mathew noted from the Wiltshire Council Covid briefing that the Bath RUH were reporting very high occupancy rates at the moment – concerning as Covid rates begin to rise.

Karen Viner. 3C's. Have kept in touch with all members and frustrated that unable to return to the Campus for regular meetings. Booking now taken at the Pound to meet at the same time as the Studio 64. Numbers have to be kept to 6 so several sessions arranged and bookings made in advance. Some members have ventured into the Studio 64 activities but otherwise Tea, cake and sandwiches are available. This is too expensive as a long term solution so still hoping to return to the Campus. Michelle Beasley remains the best contact for Campus bookings – michelle.beasley@wiltshire.gov.uk – but the Campus are currently concentrating on leisure bookings rather than the group activities. Sarah Gilmartin explained that she has finally made a booking at the Campus having completed her own Risk Assessment documentation. While sport rules are very well set out the same is not true for Dance and Art so completing these yourself might be of use to the Campus. Ros advised that Dan Webb, the Campus Manager, is attending the Area Board meeting on the 10th November to give an update and take questions.

Ros Griffiths.

Wiltshire Council have produced a community toolkit on re-starting activities which will be of help to clubs and groups – copy enclosed with the minutes - also related guidance has been published by Alzheimer's Support for their AS groups, many older people's activities would need to follow a similar approach
<https://www.alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk/faqs/covid-19-guidance-and-risk-assessment-for-community-services>

Michelle.Beasley@wiltshire.gov.uk is the contact for the campus and she would provide general advice on what they require from a risk assessment and any room availability over the coming months.

The Health and Wellbeing Group still has £3000 funding available for the current year and under current arrangement Corsham Town Council would match fund if the grant is for a Corsham based project. In addition there is capital funding available from the Area Board for appropriate projects. The criteria for and a link to start applications is on the Wilts Council website <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-area-boards> but it is worth speaking to Ros or Kevin first.

The Corsham Area Board will meet in virtual form on the **10th November at 6.30pm**. The agenda will be published on the 2nd Nov and will include a Health and Wellbeing update. Ros also noted that Carers Support have not been involved in recent meetings and suggested a prompt to include an update on the virtual Carer's Cafe.

Other Updates.

Foodbank from Steve Drew. (by email) We continue to be quite busy and have been surprised and grateful to receive a couple of harvest donations from schools and churches despite the restrictions. We expect to have our own "second spike" in demand once the furlough support ends this month and the true nature of unemployment hits. We are also planning for our Christmas pack for families and will be asking for nominations from schools and other local organisations next month. In the summer we helped 38 families and we expect this number to be exceeded at Christmas - last year it was 58. We continue to have people wanting to volunteer and we are also giving some of our surplus stock to other local organisations - particularly beans, soup and pasta.

St Aldhelm's continues to support us by giving us use of the ground floor of the building for which we're very grateful.

Next Meeting. The date for the next meeting will be notified separately but please keep in touch and share information in the interim.