

# Malpas Community Links Update No. 1

## **Introduction:**

Malpas Community Links has set up an operation, through its Registered Volunteer Network and Resident Request schemes, which provides help for residents who are self-isolating, have underlying health problems or just live alone.

Following on from our initial information leaflet, the response from the local community has been exceptional, with some 90 volunteers now formally registered with us, some of whom are already actively supporting our local shops by undertaking deliveries.

It is particularly encouraging to see that many of our residents who are new to the village have signed up. This demonstrates a real desire to become part of our strong community.

With an initial resource of only 4 people, it would have been impossible for Community Links to cover the whole community on its own, so we have determined our strategic approach should be at 3 different levels that will underpin the principle of trying to maintain a strong community bond and some form of social contact, whilst managing risk through reducing village travel and personal physical interactions.

## **Levels of engagement:**

1/ Whilst being mindful of their own safety, we would ask residents to look out and help service the needs of their near neighbours in their own street/local area.

2/ We would ask the officials of local clubs, societies, organisations and companies on a regular basis, to call their members/employees to see if they ok and not in need of any help.

E.g. Ian Davenport, our Rector, has pledged to contact everyone on St Oswald's Church electoral role every 1-2 weeks.

3/ Individual residents not covered by any of the above actions, who require assistance are able to contact us via our published Community Links numbers or e-mail address.

Once residents in need are registered with us, our volunteers will be able to help with shopping or prescription deliveries or even just a phone call for a chat.

Safety of the individual resident and our "registered" volunteers is the key priority, so we have produced a set of guidelines for our volunteers to work to.

## **Shopping:**

Thanks must be extended to the owners and staff in our local shops, who are carrying out a key role in keeping our community supplied.

All our shops and their staff are coping admirably at present, but they are under extreme pressure, so please be patient, and respect their rules if you need something from them.

Following our suggestions, Nisa have changed their working practices and are now taking orders and payment over the telephone. Huxleys Country Store, and Malpas Farm Shop also have this facility, but if you are ordering over the telephone, try to give all the shop as much notice as you can.

**In line with Government guidelines and laws, to reduce the risk to yourselves, the shop staff and other residents we would ask everyone to keep visits to a minimum. Make a list of all the essential and non-essential items you need before you go in.**

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## **Malpas Surgery and the Chemist:**

Our biggest issue in the village at present, is the pressure on our local surgery and our chemist. With some 7,300 patients on their lists, and a number of staff shortages, they are really struggling to cope with the increased demand.

Community Links is working with the Surgery and the Chemist on a delivery scheme which is being managed by our co-ordinators. When you order a repeat prescription or medication you will be directed to call one of the co-ordinators to arrange for your delivery.

## **Governance:**

The Community Links core team are holding regular conference call updates; this to understand how the initiatives and rules being passed down from Government, the Borough Council and Charitable Organisations are being rolled out across the county and what this means in practice for our local area.

We are then amending our operations to respond quickly to the changing daily situation.

Finally we are aware that there are some confirmed cases of the Covid 19 virus in the Malpas Ward, so we would urge everyone **to follow the Government Laws and stay at home.**

Keep strong, work together and we will come through this.

*Chris Whitehurst, Cathy Reynolds, Rachel Williams, John Webb, Rachael Reeves, Jemima Ockleston, Jane Chewins, Deborah Brereton.*

**Malpas Community Links** 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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## **MESSAGE from MALPAS PARISH COUNCIL**

The Council reminds everyone to follow government advice during the real threat that the coronavirus pandemic brings to our community.

Please speak to neighbours that you know (and who know you) to see if they would like help now or in the future should they be unable to help themselves.

The Parish Council supports the great work that is being done by Malpas Community Links to keep people safe during this crisis.

Malpas Parish Council also encourages local clubs and organisations to contact their members to check, regularly if possible, should they need any assistance.

In line with avoiding public gatherings, the Parish Council meeting scheduled for 7:00pm on Monday 20th April has been cancelled. However, new legislation allows us to hold virtual meetings to which all parishioners can join and listen to. A public notice will be posted on the Parish Noticeboard and on Malpas Cheshire On-line web site with details of how to join the meeting.

Please contact the Clerk via email, [malpaspc@hotmail.com](mailto:malpaspc@hotmail.com), to register to join the meeting.

Stay safe and best wishes!