

Report to Stanwick Parish Council meeting 17th September 2020

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Parish Council response to the coronavirus pandemic

1. Background

1.1 The corona virus, also known as Covid 19, health emergency reached pandemic status early in 2020.

1.2 On March 23rd 2020 the UK was placed in 'lockdown' to restrict the transmission of the virus.

1.3 At the Parish Council meeting on 19th March 2020 Cllr Konstantinidis offered to co-ordinate a volunteer response within Stanwick and paid for the printing of postcards for every household providing his contact details.

1.4 The Parish Council social media channels were used to call for volunteers to assist with shopping etc.

2. Stanwick Volunteers

2.1 43 people put themselves forward to assist. Some of these from the same household

2.2 With the volunteers consent, a What's App group was set up to facilitate quick responses.

2.3 Some volunteers aren't part of the What's App group.

2.4 Not every volunteers is able to offer shopping/collection services.

3. Shop local

3.1 Arrangements were made for requiring assistance to make phone purchases with payments at Potters Butchers and the Shop@Stanwick and for the volunteers to collect and deliver the purchases. It is not known whether this was utilised.

3.2 Details of a local (Raunds) fresh fruit and vegetable delivery service could be given out to those requiring assistance.

3.3 The purpose of using 'shop local' is to remove the need to exchange money between the volunteers and those they are helping.

4. Other help available

4.1 It was decided early on not to link up with the Raunds group

4.2 Rev. Jon sent out a post card to all households offering help with shopping, prescriptions and telephone support

4.3 Northamptonshire County Council set up a support team:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/Pages/request-help-and-support-coronavirus.aspx>

Within Northamptonshire there are mixed views on how effective this unit was and whether the unit was established and operational fast enough.

4.4 It is not possible to determine what assistance was given to Stanwick residents by East Northamptonshire Council without making a Freedom of Information request.

4.5 Government support was available to those who were told to 'shield' on medical grounds and those individuals registered for help through the appropriate channels.

5. Local requests for help

5.1 Between 23rd March and 31st July, Cllr Konstantinidis received 24 requests for help. 23 were fulfilled and 1 was determined as unreasonable.

5.2 Rev. Jon as advised that in Stanwick they have helped 11 households, some on a monthly basis with picking up medications and some weekly with shopping, this continues with the majority. They have also been a befriending service to a number of people who basically need to chat with someone.

6. The situation August 2020

6.1 All Stanwick Volunteers have been contacted to ask if they are happy to remain on the contact list.

6.2 Nationally, the government is moving towards an approach of 'local lock down' with 'track and trace'. This may impact Stanwick as areas of Northamptonshire have infection rates that cause concern.

6.3 N ACRE held a parish councillor networking event on Zoom to discuss community responses to the pandemic. This was attended by Cllr Glanville-Hughes and Cllr Munday together the Clerk. The slides and notes were made available to all councillors.

7. Parish Council action required:

7.1 To agree how the Parish Council will prepare for a second wave of Covid 19, for example:

- It could deliver a leaflet to every household with important phone numbers and helplines
- It could issue a form asking people to volunteer
- It could issue a form asking people offering them the option of registering on a local database if they feel particularly at risk or vulnerable so that they either buddied up with a volunteer or check up on regularly
- Look to work with Rev Jon to pool resources
- Consider setting up a Good Neighbours Scheme. Guidance would be needed from N ACRE and a Zoom meeting could be set up in the first instance.