

Coronavirus - Can you help or do you need help?

The Parish Council is able to advise and help to coordinate a community-wide response to the current coronavirus crisis.

Advice

* Please, be considerate of others. Follow advice on personal safety for your own sake AND for the sake of those around you who may well be more vulnerable than you are.

#bekind

* Connect with and reach out to your neighbours – can you help them?

* Make use of the local online community groups – on Facebook there is “Newton Poppleford Community Group” and “The Newton Poppleford Post”. Keep an eye on the Parish Council Website

– www.newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk<<http://www.newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk>>

and www.colatonraleighparishcouncil.weebly.com<<http://www.colatonraleighparishcouncil.weebly.com>>

* Offer to support other vulnerable or isolated people

* Share accurate information and advice.

Check <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england> for the latest official advice and reports. Many newspaper and social media reports can be worrying – remember news companies often focus on the extremes, the norm is not newsworthy. Do not take such reports as gospel.

Practical help during the Coronavirus outbreak

* Budleigh Surgery are running a volunteer scheme to help. Can you volunteer to pick up and deliver shopping or prescriptions to vulnerable residents nearby? Or Could you keep in contact with those self – isolating in the parish? If so send your contact details to Budleigh Surgery on 01395 441212. They will compile a log of volunteers’ details for use in this crisis. Let them know what you are and are not prepared to help with.

* In addition, more locally, Holly Rebecca Nash is also coordinating local volunteers for the same reason. She has advertised this in the Poppleford Post page on Facebook.

* Are you in a vulnerable group and self - isolating? Have you been told to self – isolate by the NHS? If you want practical help during your time of self – isolation the PC can put you in touch with neighbours or other volunteers who have offered to help. Even if it is small things like putting the rubbish bins out in time for collection etc. Contact Budleigh Surgery or Holly using the details above.

* Much of what is read on social media is accurate but some is not. On its website the Parish Council will list the latest official government and council advice – from District (EDDC), Devon County (DCC) and Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC). This will be a forum for official information during this outbreak.

* Continue to support your local businesses – they need your help, especially in this time of crisis. Many of them will be experiencing a decline in footfall as people self – isolate or stop travelling. This is your opportunity to support them. Shop locally, get your hair cut locally, get your car serviced locally, buy your windows and doors locally, and if you are able to, eat and drink locally. Apologies if I’ve missed anyone but you get the idea!

A number of your parish councillors have already volunteered to help with these schemes. Please, if you can and aren’t in the “at risk” category, consider joining them in offering to help. The Parish Councillors’ contact details are listed on the Parish Council website. If you are struggling to find them or need further advice, call me on 01395 568766.

This is a time for us to pull together as a community. The above are practical ways we can do this. It is no longer “somebody else’s” job to do this, it is down to all of us. Please help if you can.

Chris Burhop

Chair, Newton Poppleford and Harford Parish Council