

## **S.H.D.C. REPORT FOR END OF MARCH TO 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL FROM ROSEMARY ROWE – Part 1**

The last 3 weeks have been taken up with various organisations working together to set up groups to get food parcels delivered to those who either need or qualify for them. There were only 11 addresses within the South Hams area and D.C.C. arranged for the C.V.S. to organise this.

We have a hardship fund of £60,000 and are giving out small amounts at a time. We have seen a 200% jump in the use of our social media sites. We have written to Voluntary groups & Business Letters have gone out to Business Addresses with specific I.D. Codes to eliminate fraud.

Recycling centres have now closed and the containers are not taking clothes etc...Paper, Bottles and Cans can still be recycled in the appropriate skip containers. Bin collections are operating as normal apart from Easter Bank Holidays when collections will be 2 days late .

Some Parish Councils have been meeting on Zoom. Cluster Groups have been formed with neighbouring wards joining up with a Council officer and a Buddy for assistance if there are any problems within our own areas. Our Ward seems pretty well organised with many volunteers and organised groups assisting anyone who may need help, shopping, picking up items from the pharmacy that kind of thing. Or someone to call on just for a chat. There is always someone willing to help.

Business rates grants 4,000 letters have now gone out 2,000 have been returned completed, checked etc and 10% have been paid.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Homes have come under scrutiny as if they are registered for Business rates should not be eligible for the grant payment.

Council Tax payments are going well with 70% paying by D/D.

Recycling sacks are being delivered by F.C.C. the waste company operators.

Watch out for another report at the end of the month.

## **S.H.D.C. REPORT FROM 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL TO THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH FROM ROSEMARY ROWE – Part 2**

We held a Full Council Meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April via Skype. We had a dry run earlier in the morning so members could get some knowledge of how the procedure would take place. It was quite challenging to organise the screen of an I Pad etc. with the Agenda, relevant papers and when and who is speaking. There were 40 people connected and taking part.

The main business of the meeting was only 2 main items first to approve the new rules for holding F/C. Meetings via Skype whilst we are in a Corona virus Lock Down .this has been forced upon us by Parliament who also have similar meetings at present. After a long debate it was voted upon via recorded vote and the procedure was approved by 21 votes to 7 with 1 abstention & 2 members who did not take part in the meeting.

The Meeting was Webcast via U Tube as are all meetings wither via Skype or when we return to being able to have the Meetings at Follaton House.

The next item was to approve the appointment of Mr. Andy Bates as C/E of S.H. & W.D. Councils. He has a lot of experience of Councils and is coming to us from the L.G.A. employ & will be taking up the post in June / July...This was approved unanimously.

We also approved the making of The Bigbury Neighbourhood Plan.

Other notes to date are: obviously the Council is going to be depleted financially. We have no income from car parks, income from The Dartmouth lower ferry and planning Apps is greatly reduced .Business grants 64% have now been paid at a total of £20 mil .The majority of those left have mistakes to correct. Business holder name bank details that sort of thing. Some charities, village halls & businesses that do not pay B. /R. Could be eligible to please check if you may be entitled to some money to help you through this difficult time.

I will send you another report for the last week of this month.

Take care and stay safe. Rosemary.