

CHURCH STRETTON TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE 3.4.20

THINK LOCAL!

The tremendous community spirit of Church Stretton is very much coming to the fore in these challenging circumstances. With a high proportion of elderly residents in Church Stretton, the most vulnerable are already well known to neighbours or to voluntary support groups. The Mayfair Centre had a ready prepared list of 150 vulnerable residents, so rapidly set in place support arrangements for them, whether that be delivering food and medical supplies or pairing them up with other volunteers to give them a friendly call, if they are self-isolating.

Mayfair volunteers are also augmenting the home delivery services set up by traders and a local shopping service. Good Neighbours drivers are helping out delivering meals to those children entitled to free school meals. The All Stretton Village Society mobilised very quickly, dividing their small community into six zones, with a “go to” person, identified for each zone. The Little Stretton Village Society has undertaken similar such initiatives.

Digital technology is being rapidly discovered by some elderly residents, now engaging in “local chats” on Zoom and NextDoor apps, or else coming to grips with on-line shopping for the first time, either on their own or in neighbourhood collectives.

The Thursday Market traders in fish and fruit & vegetables have translated from the Market Square to the main Easthope Road car park. Such was the extent of pre-ordering this week, that there were traffic queues around the town centre. In future, pre-ordering will be limited to those who are self-isolating, requesting home delivery, or to volunteers, delivering to those who are self-isolating. Others will have to park and queue on foot to the stalls, always maintaining social distancing.

The local shops and eateries have been very inventive with their home delivery/takeaway meal offers. The Town Council and Mayfair have now produced a leaflet, listing all of the current local delivery offers and services, acknowledging the list will be subject to change. These leaflets will be widely distributed, with the particular aim of reaching those residents not on a computer or on social media.

Cllr. Bob Welch, Church Stretton Town Mayor stressed: “We want encourage residents, wherever possible, to “Think Local”, using the home delivery services of local traders, ahead of purchasing on-line from further afield. This is particularly important in a small market town, like Church Stretton, so dependent on visitor income, which is now non-existent. These local traders now depend on residents for their survival. We must not let them down, because they are such a vital part of our town.”

For further information, contact Cllr. Bob Welch: 01694 722998 bob.welch@btinternet.com