

From Cllr. Elissa Swinglehurst
Llangarron Ward

Dear All,

This is a challenging time for us all and I am working with my Parish Councils and asking them to develop some local support mechanisms of volunteers for our isolated residents in our communities. You will be receiving correspondence from Herefordshire Council in the post which aims to identify those vulnerable people so that we can liaise locally on support.

There has already been a fantastic community response. I am aware of the Good Neighbour scheme in Sellack Parish, a response being led by the Benefice in Bridstow, the Covid on the Common group in Welsh Newton, the groups that are stepping up to look after residents in Llangrove, Llangarron, Three Ashes and Llancoudy. Many will be doing what they can to look after a neighbour or friend and we all contribute by heeding the government's advice and avoiding unnecessary contact.

Our communities will be looking for volunteers to help collect prescriptions, some shopping or delivering leaflets to those who are not on line. We also need people to help by phoning anyone who is on their own and self-isolating – a daily call to make sure they are ok. Please co-ordinate efforts on the ground and refer to talkcommunity Herefordshire Council for any additional support or specific concerns.

From Herefordshire Council (e mail talkCommunitycovidresponse)

We would like to work closely with you during this time to understand the fantastic community response already in place and to provide support in the coordination of this work. This can be through linking volunteers to the vulnerable people who don't have their own support in place. As community leaders we would also like to understand who to work with in each locality so we can link our staff, services and support into the community.

Please could you provide information as to the support and volunteer initiatives in your community and any support needed. Please respond to this email address or contact a staff member of the Talk Community team on 01432 2600

We need to take the national advice seriously and act with common sense.

**I am aware that pubs will be offering take away services including the Royal Arms in Llangrove and the Red Lion at Peterstow – support your local, treat yourself to a tasty take out!
Local shops are running delivery schemes for groceries or order and collect to minimise contact.**

We live in a lovely part of the world with some great communities. We can do this. Let's look out for our friends, relatives and neighbours.



A message from Her Majesty The Queen, 19th March 2020

Published 19 March 2020

As Philip and I arrive at Windsor today, we know that many individuals and families across the United Kingdom, and around the world, are entering a period of great concern and uncertainty.

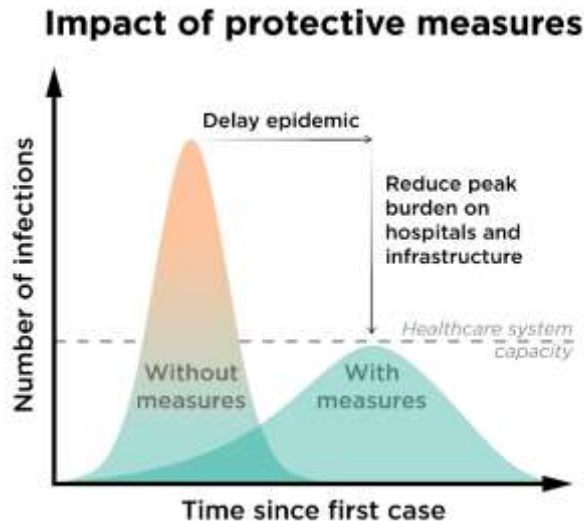
We are all being advised to change our normal routines and regular patterns of life for the greater good of the communities we live in and, in particular, to protect the most vulnerable within them.

At times such as these, I am reminded that our nation's history has been forged by people and communities coming together to work as one, concentrating our combined efforts with a focus on the common goal.

We are enormously thankful for the expertise and commitment of our scientists, medical practitioners and emergency and public services; but now more than any time in our recent past, we all have a vitally important part to play as individuals - today and in the coming days, weeks and months.

Many of us will need to find new ways of staying in touch with each other and making sure that loved ones are safe. I am certain we are up to that challenge. You can be assured that my family and I stand ready to play our part.

ELIZABETH R



- If you think you may have any symptoms of Coronavirus use the online NHS 111 service and only to ring if you can't get help online
- Take care to wash your hands regularly and thoroughly – for at least 20 seconds with soap and water pressing into the palms and base of the fingers.
- You can keep up to date with all of the latest information and guidance on website:

www.Herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

- You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation

The Government has introduced the current measures with the aim of the delay phase pushing infection into the summer months and spreading them out over a longer period to reduce the pressure on health and social care and wider societal infrastructure.

Following the most recent government announcements regarding School closures, Herefordshire Council will close museum, library and archive services from the end of business on Friday 20 March until further notice. All sites will be closed to the public and all events and activities due to take place will be postponed.

During the closure, staff will be asked to work from home, work at the closed sites or potentially be redeployed to support the delivery of other essential council services.

We are striving to minimise the impact this may have on the public with the following actions:

- There will be no overdue charges on library items borrowed since 14 March
- Our Borrowbox e-book and e-audio service can still be accessed online and we will increase the number of items available to borrow
- Our existing Home Delivery library service to housebound and vulnerable customers will continue with some adaptations
- Our existing online resources will remain available to anyone with a Herefordshire Libraries membership card and PIN. If you experience any issues email libraries@herefordshire.gov.uk

A number of shops, pubs, theatres, music venues, restaurants – and other business in the retail, hospitality or leisure sector – will pay no business rates for 12 months. In addition businesses in receipt of Small business Rates Relief and hospitality businesses will receive a grant from Government, which will be administered by Herefordshire Council.

On a happier note...

Spring is officially here this weekend. The daffodils in Llancloudy are a bright yellow corridor of virtual sunlight up the road – every year it makes me smile just to see them. It might have stopped raining....I live in hope. Soon lambs will be bounding in the fields, the birds are all nesting and the dawn chorus is a joy. Let us count our blessings.

Time to share your experience of travel to and transport in Hereford City

The new administration is reviewing the transport strategy for Hereford to ensure that there is the infrastructure needed for travel in the City now and into the future.

The review includes an assessment of the proposed Hereford Bypass and Southern Link Road, alongside alternative options that could deliver improvements more quickly and at lower cost. This will include the possibility of a new river crossing, removal of traffic lights on key routes, an electric bus fleet for the urban bus network and improvements that provide safer routes for pupils to walk and cycle to school.

We are asking local people to provide their input by sharing their current experience of travel and transport in Hereford and ideas for what would make their journey better.

As we are all spending more time at home please submit your views by 31st March to transportreview@balfourbeatty.com

STAY SAFE, BE KIND.