

TO ALL PARISH AND TOWNS COUNCILS

Dear all,

As of midday today, 4,310 residents have made contact with us for support. By the end of last week we had delivered 2,081 medicine prescriptions and made 68 food deliveries. I am sure you will agree this is an amazing achievement.

Last week, we delivered copies of the Derbyshire Times to vulnerable and isolated residents. This week we have been assisting Heron Publications to deliver copies of the Wings and Dronfield Eye Magazines to care homes and to residents when delivering other items. It is important that we do everything we can to keep our residents connected and ease isolation and loneliness as much as possible.

This week, we have contacted all care homes across the District to offer them practical support. While primary health and social care needs are the responsibility of other agencies, I felt it was important we let them know we are here to assist in whatever practical way we can, whether it be fixing a tap, cutting grass or providing advice on local availability of trades and supplies.

We are continuing to provide help where we can, whether it's practical or just someone on the other end of the telephone to talk to. I am delighted we are able to signpost our residents to a new gift card scheme launched by the Co-op, to help vulnerable residents with their shopping. The scheme is aimed at residents who are shielding or self-isolating and reliant on others. By calling a dedicated Co-op phone line, they can purchase a gift card which can be shared with friends, neighbours or volunteers to pay for shopping in their local Co-op store. Please do promote it to vulnerable people in your community that it would benefit. More information about this is on our [website](#).

Rykneld Homes continues to provide an emergency repairs service as well as offering handy man services to the more vulnerable people in the District. They are also providing a distribution service for Derbyshire County Council food parcels for the shielded group. Free food parcels to those in urgent need continues with food supplies being provided from local supermarkets as well as Parish Council collection and donation points. Work continues with local food banks with food supplies being provided to supplement their existing stocks.

I am also keen to publicise the good work that is happening in our communities. If you are aware of any good news stories or any local heroes in your Wards, please let the NEDDC Communications Team know.

Despite the current challenges we continue to provide a breadth of core services and appreciate any help you can provide to ensure residents are aware of the [online forms](#) we have available on our website for people to pay, apply or report something to us. The forms cover everything, from reporting a missed bin and fly tipping, to making a complaint about a noise nuisance or bonfire. With people staying at home more, we are experiencing an increase in complaints in some areas, so it is important residents know how to report these to us.

I am pleased that [latest figures](#) released from Government show NEDDC has paid 85% of the £20M allocated to us in grants to small businesses and those in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors. You may have seen that we recently got a mention on Look North regarding our good performance in getting the money paid quickly. We are now urging the remaining businesses who have been told they are eligible for a grant, to get in touch with us with their bank details so we can make the payments. For those businesses not eligible for a grant, we may still be able to offer other types of support, so we are also encouraging them to get in touch with us to see what help is available.

On the subject of financial help, you may have seen the announcement made by the Chancellor recently regarding the new Bounce Back Loans Scheme for small businesses. The [Business Advice section](#) of the website is constantly being updated with useful links and support, including further details of this scheme. Please help spread the word among any businesses which may require this additional financial support.

As you are aware, we have had to cancel many public events due to COVID-19, including our VE Day 75th Anniversary celebrations on 8th May. However, we will still be encouraging residents to mark the occasion, by having their own celebrations at home. We have set up a special page on our website, <https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/about-the-district/ve-day-community-hub>, which includes party decorations to print off, games to keep youngsters entertained, 1940's cooking recipes, useful web links and lots more.

The East Midlands Special Operations Unit (a collaboration of all five police forces in the East Midlands) has recently issued advice on protecting ourselves against Ransomware linked to COVID-19. Please have a read of this [advice](#), as criminals are doing everything they can to exploit the current situation.

Thank you to Parish Councils and individual Councillors who have been in touch with me. Your words of encouragement mean a lot.

Keep safe and well.

Regards,

Martin Thacker

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