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## 1.COVID-19 Response

### 1.1 Community Resilience Hub

The Resilience Hub continues to support Communities throughout this unsettling time and is fully prepared to react if there is a rise in requests for support in the months ahead. Use the following contact details if any support is needed - Call 0300 126 1000 and select Option 5 (Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm).

As of the end of November 2020, 246 individuals have been referred to SNC's Community Hub to arrange appropriate help and ongoing support. Some individuals had multiple requests, generating 288 requests for help.

These covered requests for help with:

- Food deliveries (132)
- Prescription collection (107)
- Support with loneliness (25)
- Other types (24) –
- Posting mail (3)
- Help to get online (5)
- Other (including medical transport) (16)

Total number of registered volunteers:  
300

### 1.2 Covid-19 Business Guidelines

Legal requirements came into force this week around locations being required to display the NHS App QR Code and to keep a log of people that visit the

venue. The number of premises that need to do this is wide and includes village halls, community centres and youth centres. Download the [Covid-19 Explainer pack](#) for up to date information.

### **1.3 Local restriction Tiers – What you need to know**

Find out here what you can and can't do in the new [local restrictions](#) from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **1.4 DEFRA Grants**

The first round of grants has been awarded through the Northampton Hope Centre and the Daylight Centre in Wellingborough. Both organisations have done this on behalf of an oversight board made up from representatives of the County Council and Districts and Boroughs within Northamptonshire, to support food banks and local charities in the West and North of Northamptonshire and build resilience into these areas. Some of the Organisations awarded funds were The Autumn Centre, Cooking Good, Dabs, C2C, Castle Hill Food Hampers, United African Association, Zimwomen Association & Home Start Corby to name but a few. All of these eligible projects will help and support people struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19 in Northamptonshire.

### **1.5 COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities**

Community centres, village halls, and other multi-use community facilities support a wide range of local activity. However, their communal nature also makes them places that are vulnerable to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

This guidance is for those managing multi-use community facilities. It signposts to relevant guidance on a range of different activities that can take place in these spaces.

Many community facilities are also workplaces and those responsible for the premises should therefore be aware of their responsibilities as employers.

### **[COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities](#)**

## **2. Other business**

### **2.1 Towcester Youth Coffee House**

(TYCH) are launching two new schemes to support our young people in Towcester and right across the district during the COVID-19 pandemic.



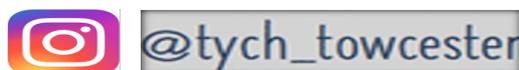
TYCH were unable to open their building to young people in April as planned due to the Government restrictions that were put in place. As the building is still 'out of bounds' TYCH have thought about what they could be doing to support our young people and have come up with two schemes that are not dependent on using the building.

**Loggers@TYCH** is an on-line forum targeting 11-14 year-olds. The hour-long virtual youth club will be held every Thursday evening at 7:00 – 8:00pm using zoom and is open to all young people who live in the South Northants district within the stated age group. Sessions will be fun filled with

activities including quizzes, treasure hunts and escape rooms. Hosted by two volunteers and each session being recorded will ensure that the young people and volunteers are acting in a safe and secure environment. The good news is that, if this venture proves a success within our more isolated and rural communities, TYCH will continue to run the group even after the pandemic comes to an end.

The second scheme **123BPM** offers an outdoor (so COVID-19 secure) physical fitness session. Cleverly thought out, the title of the club represents the optimum heartbeats per minute for an average 15-year-old for the exercise to be beneficial to their health and wellbeing. 123BPM fitness bootcamp will be hosted by a professional Personal Trainer @ the Rec in Towcester. Held every Monday and Wednesday evening and each evening will be split into two sessions: 6:00 – 7:00pm for school years 7-9 and 7:00 – 8:00pm for school years 10-13. In order to offer the club to as many young people as possible, each young person will only attend one session per week. Although more restrictive, it is hoped that 123BPM can operate within Towcester and its surrounding villages. Each young person that signs up for this initiative will receive a free water bottle to bring with them to future sessions.

Both groups will commence after Christmas. To find out more and register your interest please contact  
Tel: 07593 585 216. email - [enquiries@towcesteryouthcoffeehouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@towcesteryouthcoffeehouse.org.uk)



## 2.2 Northamptonshire Local Access Forum - New Members Required!

Northamptonshire Highways are actively encouraging people from across our community to work with them in shaping the services they deliver. By inviting local people into what they do will provide an insight into what is important to people and where improvements can be made. The Northamptonshire Local Access Forum (NLAF), are a committed and lively group of people who want to make access to our beautiful countryside better for everyone. The group is so important and needs to represent everyone in Northamptonshire. There has been a massive rise in people using the network of Rights of Way to get their daily exercise and get out from the four walls that may have become their office, as well as their home.

NLAF is an independent group that meets regularly to review and advise the County Council on securing improved access to the countryside for open-air recreation in ways that address social, economic and environmental interests. Not only is the group important now to improve facilities for people but also as we move towards the new unitary arrangement.

The Northamptonshire Local Access Forum helps to increase enjoyment of the local countryside as well as safeguarding its future. It's now time to have your say on using the countryside in the 21st century.

Members are local people with a balance of interests in the countryside, including:

- recreational users
- land managers

- people with an interest in nature conservation, heritage, business, health, transport and access for the less able

The forum first met in following the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and usually meets between 4 and 6 times a year, normally at the Brixworth depot, the next meetings will be via Skype.

These meetings are a place where issues are discussed. lively debates take place and everyone on the group share's a real passion for our county and how we can influence the future management of Rights of Way across the whole of Northamptonshire and guiding policy development

Members bring experience of a broad range of interests including walking, climbing and cycling, farming, land management, conservation and local business and are looking to recruit more people. Although they currently do have members, they would like to enhance the group by recruiting more people to volunteer their time and experience and share suggestions to improve countryside access.

If you would like to get involved please get in contact with the NLA Secretary, Jacqui Williams, who will be only too happy to go through the application and give you more details.

You can also find out more by clicking [HERE](#)

Email: [jwilliams@kierwsp.co.uk](mailto:jwilliams@kierwsp.co.uk) or by post to NLA Secretary, Northamptonshire Highways Depot, Harborough Road, Brixworth, Northamptonshire, NN6 9BX

You may want to get involved yourself or know someone who could bring a lot

to this forum. This voluntary position is important to our county and all applications are welcomed from people in all communities and backgrounds. Feel free to share this information.

### **2.3 New Social Housing Under Construction – How to Access Them**

New social housing is currently under construction in Brackley, Silverstone, Towcester and Wootton Fields (near Northampton) and will be ready for occupation in 2021. The types of homes are listed at the bottom of this article. To access these homes households must join the Council's Housing Register. Please read on to learn more about the register, who is eligible to join and how to make an application.

The Housing Register is a list of each household that's eligible for social housing in the district and is waiting for a home to become available. The register is managed by South Northamptonshire Council however all the social housing in South Northamptonshire is owned by Housing Associations. We work with the Housing Associations to find suitable homes for people on the Housing Register.

Our Housing Register is designed to help people with a local connection to our district and who are in some form of housing need. You can have a local connection for a number of reasons including because you already live here, you used to live here, or you have a job here. There are also several reasons why someone might have a housing need such as overcrowding, health issues, or homelessness. Households must also have an income

of under £60,000 per year and savings of less than £16,000 (exceptions apply) to be eligible to join the Housing Register. Full details of eligibility can be found in the council's [Allocation's Policy](#).

If you think one of your Parishioners might have a housing need please ask them to call us on 01327 322163. We'll listen to their situation and provide free and confidential advice. More information can also be found on the [housing pages of our website](#).

If, after talking to them, we think someone has a housing need, we'll send them an application form to join the Housing Register. The form asks for information about the person and their household so we can confirm if they are eligible to join the register. If their application is successful, the household will be included on the Housing Register. When we're told by a Housing Association that a home has become available, either because a new build has been completed or a tenant has vacated an existing home we will shortlist those households on the housing register to determine who would be suitable for that home, taking into account their housing need and length of time on the housing register. We then allocate the home to the household most in need in a process called nomination.

The Housing Team would be grateful if Parish Councils could share this information with their Parishioners and encourage those who might have a housing need to get in touch with us on 01327 322163 or visit the [housing pages of our website](#).

### **What Social Housing is Being Built & Where**

Brackley – 1 and 2 bedroom flats and 2 and 3 bedroom houses

Silverstone – 1, 2 and 3 bedroom houses

Towcester – 1 bedroom flats and 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses

Wootton Fields – 1 and 2 bedroom flats and 2 and 3 bedroom houses

### **2.4 Spread some Festive Cheer**

Christmas 2020 is going to be different for everyone and difficult for many. We know a lot of people will be struggling and many others want to help as much as they can. Many festive campaigns, such as Comfort and Joy which supports families in local refuges by collecting physical donations, will not be running because of Covid-19, but there are other ways to help:

#### **Support families in refuge via Northants Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS)**

- **NDAS' [AMAZON CHRISTMAS WISHLIST](#):** All the gifts have been chosen with specific families in mind that are currently in one of NDAS' refuges. Anything you buy will go directly to them.
- If you purchase using [:www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) and choose NDAS as your charity, NDAS will receive 0.5% of the purchase cost from Amazon at no cost to you.
- NDAS would also be more than happy to receive vouchers for a shop of your choice. These can be posted to: Keep House, 124 High St, Wollaston, NN29 7RJ.

- **Text NDASXMAS to 70085** to donate £5. (Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message) You can also donate the amount of your choice by texting NDASXMAS 10 for £10 or NDASXMAS 7 for £7. NDAS can accept any whole amount between £1 and £20. You can also send multiple texts.
- **GIFT AID** if you are a UK tax payer, you can include Gift aid on your donation. It won't cost you anything, but the government will add 25% of your donation on top.

## 2.5 Towcester Community Fridge

Located above the renew169 Wellbeing Café, Towcester Community Fridge is a simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good-quality food donated by local supermarkets and vendors to benefit the Towcester community.

The fridge will be running from upstairs of Renew169 Wellbeing Cafe and will be open 10am-12pm Mondays and Wednesdays, and 3.30pm-5.30pm on Fridays. Open to everyone regardless of circumstances! There is no voucher system, or referrals. Access will be difficult for some, so a volunteer can collect from the fridge and bring it down.

## 2.6 Foodbank December Opening Times

**Towcester:** From Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec:

- Tuesdays 11.00 - 2.00 pm
- Fridays 9.30 - 12.30 pm

The Foodbank is open on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve (9.30-12.30), but not Christmas Day.

Open again on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec but not on New Year's Day

Normal pattern resumes on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 12.00 – 2.00pm

**Much needed items at present are: Coffee, Rice, Cereals, Sponge Puddings, Savoury crackers, Custard (tins or packets) and Toiletries!**

**The list of items the Foodbank need is updated regularly on their Facebook page.**

**Brackley:** Deliveries go out 2 days a week, Monday and Thursday. The last delivery day in 2020 is Christmas Eve, 24 December.

Voucher holders and clients need to get their requests in by the previous Monday, 21<sup>st</sup>, or they will miss out on the last delivery.

## Brackley food bank donations

Collections take place every Thursday between 12 and 2 pm at buffer store, Unit 6, Network 43, Buckingham Close, BRACKLEY, NN13 7EU.

This store will be staffed on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December for stock donations.

You can drop your stock donations into Waitrose Brackley, and Croughton Coop during opening hours.

The first deliveries in 2021 will be on Monday 4 January.

The buffer store in Unit 6 (see above) will open on Thursday 7 January. email: [enquiries@brackleyfoodbank.org](mailto:enquiries@brackleyfoodbank.org) if you have any questions about any of the above.

**Brackley Foodbank have kindly requested that the following supplies could be avoided: pasta, soup and baked beans!**

***Next Parish Update coming out February 2021***

