

CV-19 COMMUNITY BULLETIN

20 March 2020

Throughout the coming weeks and months, the Council's Communities Team, along with its' medical and community partners will be compiling information about the Coronavirus and how to deal with its consequences in Rossendale. We want to try and ensure clear health messages and connect those who can supply help with those who need it. We may even be able to help make you smile!

As you know Rossendale is a great place to live and work and our community is strong. Already we are seeing fantastic examples of local people coming together to help each other and their local area. We will all pull together during this crisis and be even stronger when life gets back to normal hopefully later this year.

If you have any information or ideas you think would be useful to include in the bulletin or would like to be added to the mailing list please e mail us at communitiesteam@rossendalebc.gov.uk

All bulletins will be posted on the Rossendale Borough Council webpage, Facebook etc.

Rossendale wide support:

OUR LANCASHIRE - Our Lancashire is the Lancashire wide initiative to bring groups and communities together to make Lancashire a greater place to live work and play. Currently they are also working to provide a mechanism that would enable a co-ordinated approach to recruiting volunteers and capturing information about local community groups who want to support vulnerable people affected by COVID-19.

All community groups are being encouraged to register with Our Lancashire to support this. <https://ourlancashire.org.uk/registration/>

COMMUNITY MESSAGES – we will be communicating via the Rossendale Community Support Network Facebook page with community organisations who can offer support including Foodbanks and church groups in order to coordinate this support and maximise volunteers to help those who are isolated and have no family/friends support. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1136009369869813/>

KINDNESS POSTCARDS – nationally there is a campaign known as Viral Kindness which just means people giving their details to neighbours who they know live alone or have caring responsibilities and asking them to get in touch if they need anything e.g. dog walking, shopping and so on. The link for the postcard is below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L_8Go1zQ572fBZtEiffQZI9vNEwK7Rf/view

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is
.....

I live locally at
.....

My phone number is
.....

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

Picking up shopping Posting mail

A friendly phone call Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. **#ViralKindness**

HEALTH MESSAGES – the Healthy Rossendale Facebook page is the place to go for the latest health messages from the NHS, local G.P.s and other medical practitioners. This is currently updated daily.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/389362468511320/>

All G.P. practices are now closed for anyone wanting to walk in. There is a telephone appointment scheme and if a patient needs to be seen face to face they will be invited in. Prescriptions can be ordered on line or by telephone (afternoons may be quieter) and can be picked up from a pharmacy of the patient's choice.

FOOD – many of you may be anxious facing a lengthy school break, uncertainty around employment or just getting to the shops. Free or very low cost food is still available via Positive start, Crawshawbooth Community Centre and Haslingden Community Link. Rossendale's food bank – RAFT – is available by referral only which can come via schools, Citizens Advice and other community organisations.

LOCAL AREA GROUPS – There are lots of local groups, including new ones just set up that are providing help for local vulnerable people – see local area information

below. At this time we are aware of the Haslingden and Helmshore community mutual aid group – Facebook page and the Lumb, Whitewell Bottom and Water support group – Facebook page. If you live in any of these areas you can find out more about help available and offer your help if you can.

ROSSENDALE RADIO 104.7fm – starting on Monday 23rd March there will be a 1 hour ‘Coronavirus’ slot (this may be renamed!) at 10.00am every day. It is anticipated that this will include interviews with medical professionals and community organisations. <http://www.rossendaleradio.com/>

ROSSO BUSES – have set up a scheme for community organisations to register with them. This will enable their volunteers to use the buses for free when shopping for neighbours or picking up prescriptions and other vital supplies.

<https://www.transdevbus.co.uk/rosso/if-youre-helping-out-well-help-get-you-there-ride-free-if-youre-supporting-someone-elderly-their-0>

NATIONAL TRUST – the National trust is opening many of its gardens and parks for free to allow people to get some fresh air in lovely surroundings whilst still being mindful of social distancing. The cafes, houses and indoor spaces will be closed. See their website for more details.

ROSSENDALE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES – for those who can’t travel far don’t forget our many parks and open spaces which can still be accessed providing you are well.

PROVIDING FOOD FOR SELF-ISOLATING PEOPLE: Lots of people are asking if there are any regulations around providing free meals for vulnerable neighbours. Nobody has to register to do this, but should take sensible precautions and make sure they are aware of any allergies. There is more information at <https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/providing-food-at-community-and-charity-events>

What’s happening in the Rawtenstall area:

A new Facebook page is available for support in the Water, Whitewell Bottom and Lumb areas <https://www.facebook.com/groups/201209487809797/>

Rawtenastall past and present and future Facebook page has useful information: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RawtenstallPastPresentFuture/>

What’s happening in the Bacup area:

Bacup past and present Facebook page has useful information:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/297420793732753/>

What's happening in the Whitworth area:

Whitworth Town Council is posting useful information for local residents at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WhitworthTownCouncil1/>

What's happening in the Haslingden/Helmshore/Edenfield/Rising Bridge areas:

A new Facebook page for support in the Haslingden and Helmshore areas:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2565255683745670>

Useful phone numbers:

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL – 01706 217777

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – 0300 123 6701

SOCIAL SERVICES CHILDREN – 0300 123 6720

SOCIAL SERVICES ADULTS - 0300 123 6721

OUT OF HOURS – 0300 123 6722

SAMARITANS – 116 123

CITIZENS ADVICE – 0300 456 2552

DWP CUSTOMER SERVICES – 0300 731 7898

PENSION SERVICE – 0800 731 0469

UNIVERSAL CREDIT – 0800 328 9344