

Sorry about the length of this update, but there is a lot to pass on.

A small group came together last night to start to plan for how we can respond as a community, across the Hodder Valley, to the Corona Virus crisis.

Our aim is simple - to ensure that nobody in our Community feels isolated or alone during the crisis.

We decided to plan for a bad case scenario. It is easier to scale back, rather than scale up.

We identified that keeping Slaidburn Stores open was a high priority, and we will come onto that, but we also agreed

1. To join the national network of support groups on Facebook – if only to ensure that we receive any funding that might go to this grouping.
2. We will be operating under the umbrella of the Patient Participation Group, but separate to the Health Centre (who will maintain their own Facebook presence to deal with clinical messages and information).
3. We will utilise the Save Slaidburn Facebook page (because it has an established following) which has temporarily been renamed 'Hodder Valley Covid Support Network'.
4. What we will do
 - Provide virus related facts and information via Facebook and email updates (not speculation and rumor)
 - Seek to establish two village coordinators in each village
 - Create and maintain a list of volunteers - to assist in deliveries from Slaidburn Village Stores and general community support.
 - Encourage our population to print off and use the below cards to offer reassurance to all residents.
 - Circulate posters to all village amenities to publicise our activities.
 - To coordinate any calls for practical help and assistance.
 - To offer reassurance and support where needed.
 - Consider further and additional activity in the event of an emergency situation developing.
5. What we will not do
 - Involve ourselves in any kind of medical assistance or response
 - Post any details of those who are sick - but agreed that the sick be allowed to post their own details if they so wish.
 - We will not arrange for food distribution, except from Slaidburn Village Stores.

6. The following people took on the following responsibilities in the 'crisis group'. Duplicate positions allow for sickness.

- Chairs – Paul Elms and Mike Fairbairn
- Facebook / Communications managers – Vicky Woods and TBC
- Volunteer managers – Kim Shutes / Dr Gavin McBride / Zoe Elms
- Two coordinators in each village – TBC

So, we need volunteers, and we already know that lots of you are willing and able.

Firstly, we would like 2 Volunteer Coordinators in each of the villages – Tosside, Slaidburn, Newton and Dunsop Bridge.

We are asking for people with cars to volunteer to run errands, such as dropping off prescriptions, orders from the shop etc. (Please ensure you are insured properly).

We would like volunteers to walk, and possibly care for the dogs of people who become sick.

We would like volunteers who might just make phone calls from their own homes, to the vulnerable and those who just want to 'chat' to somebody, and we would like somebody to coordinate that activity.

The Young Farmers have offered to become 'pen pals' with anybody who likes the idea and enjoys writing.

We want to do all this as safely as possible. For example dropping off an order from the shop does not need to involve personal contact. Keeping a safe personal distance from everybody else needs to become the new norm and we all need to accept that.

Slaidburn Stores

The stores are already under pressure. As we all know they provide an excellent and valued service. Only yesterday people were arriving from Accrington to try and clear the shelves. Claire explained that it was taking her an increasingly long time to source produce on a daily basis, leaving just Megan and a little help to keep the store operational.

We make no apologies for backing the store 100%, so we are also asking for volunteers to help in the store. Perhaps a little shelf stacking or preparing orders that can be collected and delivered by other volunteers.

Hark to Bounty

As of today the pub remains open, but obviously that situation may change. If

required to close the pub will effectively becoming a 'take away'. If people are sick and requiring food, we will ask volunteers to deliver it.

Robinsons Eggs

Robinsons Eggs are based in Slaidburn and have undertaken, if food supplies slow, to drop eggs for collection in each of the 4 villages.

Other local businesses

If other local businesses – particularly food and milk businesses – can help to ensure supplies to the local area, please get in touch, and we will make that known. If nothing else it helps to reassure everybody.

As we all know the virus appears to be more serious the older you are. We hope that local youngsters, most of whom are now off school, will volunteer where they can.

How do I volunteer?

We would ask you please to volunteer by email, rather than on Facebook. This means we can just forward your details onto the relevant coordinator and it will help us manage things easier. Please email SaveSlaidburn@gmail.com

Please tell us

- Your name
- Address
- Mobile number
- What you are prepared to do (i.e. drive / phone / help in shop) and the commitment you can make.

We are also really conscious that not everybody uses Facebook and email. So please consider printing this email off for any neighbours who might benefit, and doing the same with any email updates we send out.

We also realise that lots of you have already put in place arrangements to help and assist your neighbours, but please email us if you have specific concerns about neighbours who you feel are particularly vulnerable.

By next week our core team will have a mobile number, which will be answered 24/7.

Lets hope that none of this is needed. But if it is we will be ready to go and ensure that anybody who needs help gets it.

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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call | <input type="checkbox"/> 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