



Dear Parishioners,

We are now in week 4 of the “lockdown” due to the Covid-19 pandemic. So far, there does not seem to be an exit strategy from this, and the Government has announced that the lockdown is to continue for at least the next three weeks until 7 May. So far, we have had 25 local residents who have reported symptoms, and happily all now appear to be recovered. However, good news though this is, it does mean that, as a community, we don’t have much “Community Immunity”, so it remains even more important to follow government advice.

Because we do not have a testing service in place, numbers are always going to be difficult to establish, but if you, or anyone in your household has experienced the type of symptoms typical of Covid-19, please register with the Hub (details below). Symptoms may include a temperature and a new, persistent cough, possibly also loss of sense of taste or smell. In this way, we can get a better picture of where we are as a community in dealing with this virus.

Government advice remains the same:

- Most important is “social distancing”, which means only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Do not meet others, even friends or family
- You can spread the virus even if you don’t have symptoms.

Of course, in a normally sociable village like Amberley, observing the social distancing rules is tough. Although it is hard to follow the guidance, it is essential if we are going to beat this virus that we all comply with the government advice. If we do, the sooner we can get back to work, enjoy our Summer and freely mix with friends and family again.

If you are aware that people are continuously breaking the guidelines and as a direct result are putting others at risk, you should contact the police online at www.sussex.police.uk which gives information on the stay at home measures, or you can report a possible breach of coronavirus measures.

If you are experiencing difficulties of any kind due to the Government regulations relating to Coronavirus you can contact the Amberley **Covid-19 Help Hub** (see below). You can also contact me or any member of the Parish Council, and we will be happy to advise.

LOCAL BUSINESS UPDATE

The Black Horse and The Bridge pubs are shut but the Sportsman is offering home deliveries on three days a week. The Riverside Tea Room is closed, but Amberley Village Tea Rooms are taking orders and doing deliveries. Amberley Stores is now offering a delivery service only (see below), the Museum is closed, as is the School.

AMBERLEY Covid-19 HELP HUB

The volunteers manning this Hub, which is available 24 hours, 7 days a week, are there for you to report any cases of suspected Covid-19 in your household (in confidence, of course), or to offer guidance, advice and support on any issues such as shopping, pharmacies, etc. The Hub can be contacted on **07484 157 156**.

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

For the latest information, advice and guidance relating to Coronavirus for residents and businesses offered by WSCC please visit their [website](#)

HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL

Up to date information on the services run by Horsham District Council [here](#). For information on bin collection and recycling, please see the information [on this link](#).

LIBRARIES

As reported previously all public libraries are closed until further notice. However, the library service has now produced online facilities including eBooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers for you to enjoy at home. Full details of all the services available can be found [here](#).

OTHER HELP IS AVAILABLE

This may be a lonely, difficult and anxious time for you. Don't stay isolated: phone a friend or neighbour for a chat. If you wish you can contact **Revd Gerry Burgess 01798 831 600**, leaving a message if necessary. In urgent situations feel free to do this at any time and Gerry will respond as soon as possible.

AMBERLEY WELFARE TRUST

Because of the confidential nature of most of the Trust's work, many residents may not be aware of the Amberley Welfare Trust. The Trust is there to help, particularly in these challenging times. The Welfare Trust serves the Parish of Amberley and nearby areas. The charity's primary function is collectively helping residents, particularly in regard to the relief of sickness and also with the preservation of health, and in cases of hardship. If you know of anyone in need or if you want to discuss any issues or ideas you may have, please do contact the Welfare Trust Chairman, Grahame Joseph (grahamejoseph@gmail.com) or on **07739 763 883 / 01798 831 340**. Alternatively, contact **Revd Gerry Burgess 01798 831 600**

AMBERLEY STORES

Amberley Village Stores is now operating as a home delivery service. For further information visit their [website](#) or phone **01798 831 171**. The Post Office is providing an appointment only service (15 minute slots per person) so please phone to reserve a time slot.

AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The new rules on staying at home and away from others also has an impact on the Parish Council. Consequently, we cannot hold full council or committee meetings at the present time. We understand that the government is currently working on legislation that will allow council meetings to be held remotely and to make decisions without the need for physically meeting. In the meantime, Councillors are in constant touch by email and telephone and will continue to provide you with information relevant to current issues. We are planning to hold our next meeting in May by video-conference, using software called Zoom. The Council is negotiating a special discounted rate for this, and we will be trialling it soon. The intention is that members of the public can also join the video conference, and we will provide details of how this is going to work nearer the time.

Once again, a huge vote of thanks to our volunteer force who are helping enormously to relieve our more vulnerable residents of the worry of obtaining everyday necessities and for providing a friendly voice to those who might otherwise feel rather lonely at home.

Keep well, keep safe and above all please ask for help if you need it. For further information please contact the Parish Clerk Vicky Spiers at: clerk@amberley-pc.org.uk

These communications can also be found on our [website](#)

We will get through this!

Geoff Uren
Amberley Parish Council

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES