

April,2020 Report for Stradbroke Parish Council by District Councillor Julie Flatman

Update on help in place.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have pledged to support new and existing groups in our districts, who are playing a key role in protecting vulnerable residents and helping our communities remain resilient during the COVID-19 outbreak.

An emergency funding pot of over £80,000 has been made available, meaning grants of up to £2,500 can be applied for to cover increased costs incurred by groups as a result of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), including general running costs, ongoing staff costs, volunteer expenses, utility bills and the purchasing of food or other consumables.

The Emerging Needs Grant has a straightforward application process, as demonstrated by over 20 applications being received since its launch several weeks ago.

In addition to this, funding has already been approved for food banks in Hadleigh, Stowmarket and Sudbury.

Our teams have also been heavily involved in the recently formed county-wide Collaborative Communities Board and its Home But Not Alone service.

Together we launched a helpline for our county's most vulnerable, which is free to call on 0800 876 6926 and will be staffed seven days a week, from 09:00 to 17:00. This hotline is for people without family or a friendship network to support them, and who require emergency assistance with care needs (including food), loneliness, or connecting with community volunteers.

We are already picking up referrals into the system and using the database to refer on urgent requests and other concerns about the vulnerable and their reliance for support onto local services. Each referral is allocated to a Community Officer who has a geographical area within the district to support and who is already working to understand local services within that area.

More than 1,200 people have signed up to the Tribe Volunteer app, launched last month by the Collaborative Communities Board. We will update app users shortly with improvements to the app, which should enable local voluntary and community groups to connect with nearby volunteers. Thanks to all those who have registered - volunteers are already being matched to those most in need across Suffolk

