



JUNE 2020

# Newsletter

## SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

One of the positive things to have happened as a result of the Coronavirus crisis is the upsurge in good neighbourliness and community support. The Parish Council was one of the first to co-ordinate a response by recruiting more than 30 local volunteers – one for every street across the parish. They've been doing sterling work, helping to collect prescriptions and shopping for those who have been unable to go out. They're also there to support in other ways – for a reassuring chat on the phone, to help with dog walking or a little gardening. If you need help, please contact Cheryl on 07812 830 196.

A similar support network – called the **Community Help Hub** – is active across the Borough of Tewkesbury. Contact the Hub on 01452 583519 (Monday-Friday 8am-8pm, and Saturday/Sunday 9am-4pm).

The local **Foodbank** is available on 0808 2082138 or 01452 309683. It can deliver a parcel containing three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food. [www.gloucester.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.gloucester.foodbank.org.uk)

**The Barnwood Trust** is a local charity that provides small grants to help eligible individuals. If you have a disability or mental health challenge and you can't afford to buy something that would make a big difference over the coming weeks contact them. So far, people have successfully applied for household essentials, televisions, laptops and tablets, phone credit and mobile data top-up, access to online courses, exercise equipment, arts and craft materials and family games and play materials [www.barnwoodtrust.org/keepingstrong](http://www.barnwoodtrust.org/keepingstrong) 01242 539935.

**The Gloucestershire Covid 19 Emergency Living Fund** can also provide small grants to help buy furniture, carpets, gas/electricity, pay rent in advance, removal expenses, food deliveries, supermarket vouchers etc. The Children's Fund can also provide clothes – [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme) 0330 123 5550.

**Age UK** – The pandemic has changed life for everyone, and some older people are among the hardest hit. Contact its Help Team on 01452 422660, or its Friendship Line 0800 2980579. [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

**Gloucestershire Carers Hub** continues to provide support to unpaid carers. 0300 111 9000 or visit: [www.gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk)

**The Gloucestershire Young Carers** phone lines are open 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday. Get in touch on 07592 794504 or via [www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk](http://www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk)

**Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service** will carry out safe and well visits to those people who are most at risk. 0800 180 4140 or fill out a form at [www.glosfire.gov.uk](http://www.glosfire.gov.uk) to arrange a visit.

**Gloucestershire Telecare** provides discreet sensors that detect emergencies at home such as falls, fire and wandering. If you need urgent support call the adult helpdesk on 01452 426868. [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/telecare](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/telecare)

**Support for vulnerable adults.** If you are concerned about a vulnerable adult call 01452 426868 (8am-8pm seven days a week) or email: [socialcare.enq@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare.enq@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**The Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS)** provides confidential advice and support to anyone aged 16+ who does not feel safe at home due to domestic abuse. 01452 726570 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm). If you are in immediate danger, always call 999. [www.gdass.org.uk](http://www.gdass.org.uk) Email: [Support@gdass.org.uk](mailto:Support@gdass.org.uk)

**Let's Talk** – If you are experiencing low mood, stress or anxiety, call 0800 073 2200 or: [www.letstalkglos.nhs.uk](http://www.letstalkglos.nhs.uk)

You can also visit **Qwell** for online emotional wellbeing support for adults 18+ where you can chat online to qualified counsellors. Visit [www.qwell.io](http://www.qwell.io)

Young people aged 11-18 can access free online mental wellbeing support from **Kooth** at [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

Young people aged 9-21 years can also get support with their emotional wellbeing and mental health from **TIC+** 01594 372777 or text: 07520 634063.

**The Samaritans** can be contacted by dialling 116 123 or text: Shout 85258.

# PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20

Because of the lockdown restrictions Hucclecote Parish Council is not able to hold its 'Annual Assembly' this year. Instead the Chair of the council has produced a quick summary of the main things that have been happening over the last year (see below), and we are inviting local residents who may have issues they want to raise to dial into one of our forthcoming monthly parish meetings. These are currently being held remotely via Zoom and the next meetings are at 6.30pm on 27 July, 14 September and 19 October.

If you want to take part check the parish website ([www.hucclecotepc.gov.uk](http://www.hucclecotepc.gov.uk)) for details of the Zoom log-in process. You can also contact the parish clerk on 01452 612485 or 07716122319 (weekday mornings) and by email on [hucclecotepc@supanet.com](mailto:hucclecotepc@supanet.com)

Another important parish event that has been affected by the lockdown is the annual Hullabaloo, which was scheduled for 4 July. We have decided to postpone it, but we hope we may be able to stage it later in the autumn.

## Parish Council Chairman's Report

We started the year by filling our vacancies for councillors, and it is pleasing to report that at last we now have a full complement of nine. This also means that the main areas of the parish (Chosen Hill, Sussex Gardens, Cranham Gate, and Coopers Edge) are all represented.

During 2019 use of our parish hall by a wide variety of groups increased to a very welcome level. These groups held regular weekly sessions at the hall, and while this has meant that 'one-off' party bookings have reduced, there is no doubt that 2019 has been a year of progress in terms of involvement by the wider community.

The forthcoming move of Ecclesiastical Insurance to the Business Park, has enabled the council to foster an excellent relationship with the company, which is very keen to embed itself in our community. Volunteers from Ecclesiastical have worked with councillors to improve landscaping around the brook, planted spring bulbs, and undertaken much needed pruning activities. Councillors have also been joined by residents to plant trees and shrubs to enhance the environment, and wild flowers are being sown to bring further colour in some areas.



Progress has been made on a number of significant issues affecting the parish, but it has often been frustratingly slow. We are looking to update the parking restrictions in the Cranham Gate area to make it safer for residents and motorists. However, on Coopers Edge there are growing anxieties as we continue to wait for the adoption of their roads.

Coopers Edge residents have expressed concerns about thoughtless parking by business park employees, and the poor road surfaces, with adoption by the local authority yet to happen. Your council is working with the other councils that make up Coopers Edge (Brockworth and Upton St Leonards) to agree a common approach to any parking restrictions; and we keep pressure on the building consortium and county council to get the roads adopted as soon as possible.

With our fellow councillors in the city and Upton St Leonards we continue to ensure that Highways England do not forget the M5 noise levels that impact on our quality of life; a DEFRA report in the last year on noise pollution has highlighted our area as being one in the South West that requires priority action.

There is undoubted commitment by your council, our colleagues in Brockworth and the two existing GP Practices to move forward with a new, combined 'super surgery' for our two communities. A central, accessible site has been identified, but the final technical and legal processes have been slower than we all would have wished.

To ensure that the council reflects the needs of our residents a number of consultation exercises

have been undertaken in the parish, and we plan to extend these to engage young people. Our second Hucclecote Hullabaloo in early July 2019 was a more ambitious event, and successfully attracted a greater number of residents who had the chance to sample activities that take place in and around the parish.

Inevitably, the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic has had an impact on the operation of the council, but we have succeeded in managing the key issues. Councillors have joined with others in the locality to support vulnerable residents needing help with shopping, collection of prescriptions and other matters.

Finally, I would like to thank the undoubted commitment and energy of my fellow councillors, and the excellent support provided by our clerk and her assistant. We are a relatively small council, but I feel we do 'punch above our weight' in always trying to improve the quality of life for the residents of Hucclecote Parish.

I commend this report to the parish.

**Andrew Pugh,**  
Chairman  
June 2020

