



# PORINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Council: Mrs Faye LeBon *FdA*

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25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parishioners,

## **Local Support to the Covid-19 Crisis**

Poringland Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to update you on its role in the Covid-19 crisis. Whilst our offices are closed, we are working remotely to try to fulfil our obligation to service the village in this difficult time. You can still call our office number (01508 492182) or email us ([clerk@poringland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@poringland-pc.gov.uk)) and we will be able to respond.

The Parish Council's key role in the Covid-19 crisis is to help with the co-ordinated support effort currently being put in place by South Norfolk Council (as delegated by central government). The District has been divided into 5 Clusters, which have then been sub-divided into smaller areas to better manage the assistance that vulnerable people may require. We are in a group with Trowse, Stoke Holy Cross, Caistor, Bixley and the Framinghams. With our parish boundaries being indistinguishable in many cases, this is a group that can be well serviced. Our local lead co-ordinator is expected to make contact with us in the coming days to discuss support for our area. This will come in the form of supporting not only those with health vulnerabilities, but also those with economic vulnerabilities.

The work we will be doing, along with your help is to:

- 1) Identify local need in our area, including any funding support required by local networks. We have already had concerns raised about being able to order medications, and the availability of supermarket deliveries raised to us. We will be raising this to our co-ordinator at the earliest opportunity to help find a resolution.
- 2) Identify vulnerable people who are not picked up by the official lists. 1.5 million people have been identified by the government as vulnerable and in need of extra help. But it is acknowledged that this will not be everyone who needs assistance. With your help we will

try to ensure that all those in the most need are not missed. If you have not been contacted by the government, but are self isolating and need help, please complete this form <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/selfisolating/> or call 01508 533933

- 3) Provide support to vulnerable residents, working with Community Hubs and clusters to co ordinate the support. We have seen such a flood of people offering their support at this time and we are so grateful for this. What is important is that this support is co-ordinated so that no one is missed. If you can help out someone who is self-isolating, please complete this form: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/icanhelp/>.
- 4) Collate key information such as volunteer groups and support. We have some exceptionally good volunteer groups already established in the village. Have there been some new ones set up that we don't know about eg: road specific groups? If we know about you, we can help you?
- 5) Enabling funding from the Norfolk Community Foundation to be distributed to local support groups quickly. New groups may not yet have a constitution so cannot apply for funding. The Parish Council is now able to provide that constitutional backing. More information on funding for support groups is available here: <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/covid-19-community-response-fund/>

We are not limiting ourselves to these services - our village is as individual as the people living in it and we will change our services as the situation we are in evolves.

Finally, we would like to encourage parishioners to continue to follow government guidance about health and cleanliness, social distancing and not stock piling food and consumables. As a Parish Council we have closed all of our community buildings and our play parks to help protect local people. We will get through this crisis together if we all play our part.

Stay safe, and whilst the Parish Council cannot be as visible as it would like to be, please be assured that we are continuing to work to service the village in these unprecedented times.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.