

Bigbury Coronavirus Support Group (BCSG)

Report to Parish Council meeting of 13th May 2020

Holywell Stores has continued to provide a vital lifeline for many in the parish in the provision of essential foodstuffs with the help of the BCSG, amongst others. Jas recently suggested, because the shop is coping well with its supply chain and customer demand, that parishioners should now email their shopping orders direct to the shop for subsequent delivery by shop staff rather than use the volunteers. However, the offer of help with ordering and distribution by volunteers of the Support Group remains for those that prefer to use it, whatever the reason.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers once again for what they are doing. BCSG activities for food have remained at a fairly constant but undemanding level to date. The requests for prescription collection and delivery has been very popular and I'd particularly like to single out Geoff Ross for thanks for helping in that regard.

As the weather improves, one of our main concerns has been how to deter the usual influx of visitors to Bigbury-on-Sea, which might threaten the indigenous population. To that end, three professionally made signs were purchased for display on the approach roads to Bigbury, announcing 'Coronavirus - all car parks ahead CLOSED'. These signs will remain in place, vandals permitting, until such time as SHDC, DCC and HMG change their policy on travel for recreational purposes. The local coastguard staff and police have been very helpful in communicating with the BCSG and, especially, in enforcing HMG guidelines dissuading the public from travel for beach-related activities, reinforcing the 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' message.

Effective communication with parishioners and potential visitors has been very important throughout the pandemic. The community website has been kept up to date with announcements from DCC and SHDC, which explain the pandemic situation and aim to deter visitors to the area - for the time being. Similarly, Bigbury Drums has played a central role in informing its hundreds of subscribers about COVID-19 and in encouraging participation, at a safe distance, in a variety of distracting pastimes or amusements.

END

Stuart Watts - 8th May 2020