

Item 4. County and District Councillors Reports

County Cllr. Edwards Heron

No written report received

District Cllr. Diane Andrews

I chaired our first Skype meeting with partners. One of the topics which was discussed was the Red Fire alert, there is a major worry that people using Supermarket BBQ sets will inadvertently start a wildfire. There should be NO fires lit anywhere in the National Park or its forests. This is a REAL emergency as the forest is tinder dry. Also crime in the car parks which have only been open a week is escalating.

At NFDC as things return to normal, part of the bigger plan is to find an alternative to the Food Hub at Applemore Health and Leisure Centre. Discussions have been ongoing with food banks with varied responses.

Lymington Basics Bank have offered to take over our role as of 16th June, there are still about 55 households receiving deliveries. NFDC would provide a dedicated driver two days every week to make the deliveries and staff made available to help with the initial transition. NFDC will pay the Basics bank per food parcel and the arrangements reviewed every four weeks. This would allow us to wind up the operation at Applemore freeing up staff and accommodation. During this time we have had 1000 referrals and delivered 860 food boxes.

The Coronavirus Local Response Centre are supplying urgent grants to local organisations who are being directly affected by the virus. Funding was increased to £30k with £5k from the County Council to support organisations who in turn are supporting the Local Response Centre by providing food, volunteer shoppers and befriending services.

However, we are also receiving applications from other organisations that don't necessarily fit in with this narrow criteria but who are providing support to the community in direct response to COVID-19 for example making PPE for local hospitals, bereavement counselling, virtual support and activities. We have received 18 applications to date totalling £8,700.

We are preparing to open our information offices at Appletree Court; Lymington; and New Milton on 16th June. Strict adherence to social distancing will be followed to protect our staff and visitors.

The long awaited new NFDC Website is well under way and will go live in July.

District Cllr. Derek Tipp

The Council continues to support vulnerable people in the district with food parcels etc. As a results of closure of leisure centres and loss of parking income among many other factors NFDC has lost over £2 million in the past two and a half months. Refuse collection has continued with a substantial increase in the amount being collected. A few of our public conveniences have been opened, though the majority are still closed. I have asked for them to be opened asap. as there are now large numbers of people out and about.

The Council will be setting up some Task and Finish Groups to consider how they can best recover from the current problems. I will be volunteering to serve on one of them.

District Cllr. Joe Reilly

No written report received