

A village response to the Covid 19 crisis

The Parish Council meeting on Mon 16 Mar was attended by 5 villagers concerned about developing a village response to the Covid 19 crisis.

Parish Councillor Helen Metcalfe, as an A&E Advanced Clinician, was able to give us a view of what is happening in the NHS and started the discussion on how this might affect us all in Antrobus and how we might adapt and interpret government advice to our local community.

The public policy approach is to try and prevent the spread of Covid 19. In practice Covid 19 is not thought to have reached its peak of reported cases. If the spread of Covid 19 is not slowed it is likely to overwhelm the NHS capacity to treat patients. The public is asked to limit contact with others, especially in a social context.

It was felt the shop should continue to be a point of contact in the village for the distribution of essential items, though regrettably the Tea Room should cease trading until circumstances change, because it is primarily a social activity.

There are now things being put into place in the village to better organise what we can do of a non-medical nature to support people who will inevitably feel isolated as they try to co-operate with Government advice

The initial actions are

1. A list of 5-10 'named contacts' has started to be drawn up. Villagers in isolation can contact any of them to ask for help with non-medical needs – such as pharmacy collection, limited shopping, newspapers etc.
2. The Names and telephone numbers of these named contacts will be communicated to all homes in the village via the same circulation as the Antrobus News.
4. This circular will be a notice asking those residents who feel they might need help to provide some basic information to enable the volunteers to know what people's circumstances are. The circular will also ask for volunteers, described below.
5. A longer list of volunteers are being added to a dedicated 'whats app' group. These volunteers will help action the requests gathered by the named contacts.
6. All organisations in the village will be contacted about this proposed response to ensure the actions are fully co-ordinated.
7. The online social media and websites that cover the village will be updated on a regular basis including the Parish Council website.