Dear Parish Council

We want to provide you with an update and some reassurance about some of the key actions we are taking at Harborough District Council in these uncertain times.

**Dedicated coronavirus web page**

We have set up a coronavirus web page [www.harborough.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/coronavirus) which we are continuing to update with the latest information.

This includes sub-pages on:

- information on health
- information for businesses
- information about council services
- community hub – information for residents
- community hub – information on voluntary and community sector

These pages will signpost people to any emerging support available – both nationally and locally.

The ‘voluntary and community sector’ page includes an online form which can be used to provide information to the Council to help us understand what voluntary support is currently available and to identify any gaps.

**Keeping council services running**

Under the current circumstances, some council services may be affected. However; we are putting arrangements in place to continue to provide as many of our services as possible. The above web page will also include information about any council services which may be affected.

**Protecting vulnerable people and supporting the local economy**

The well-being of residents is paramount and we are continuing
to follow national advice and respond accordingly.

We are working closely with the LLR Local Resilience Forum, including the emergency services, the NHS, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council.

The above web page provides information about protecting yourself from the coronavirus, the number of cases and risk level in the UK, what to do if you have symptoms, and what the government is doing about the virus – including social distancing and school closures.

We are awaiting details on a Hardship Fund and we are considering how we can respond to pressures on the more economically vulnerable residents. We are awaiting details of what will be available from the government in terms of business rate schemes or grants.

We are also aware that there may be a significant impact on village halls and other community buildings and groups and we are looking at how we can respond to this.

**Key workers and schools**

Please consider if you have any key workers within your parishes whose children may still be able to attend school despite the closures, for example those involved in burials.

Please view this Government link for guidance – Guidance for schools, colleges and local authorities on maintaining educational provision

**Elections**

Please be aware that local elections – for us, PCC elections – have been postponed until May 2021.

**VE Day**

There is of course uncertainty about the potential postponement
of organised events going forward, but the Council will continue to process applications for the £500 grants which were being made to parish councils to put towards VE Day events, so that the money can be used to celebrate the same cause in the future.

Please continue to view our web page at
www.harborough.gov.uk/coronavirus

If you have any questions please email our Parish Liaison Officer at parishliaison@harborough.gov.uk

Thank you