



Report to:	<i>Community Engagement Committee</i>
Tabled on:	<i>Tuesday, 7th July 2020</i>
Agenda reference:	CE20/018 – Seniors
Report by:	Liz Carroll-Wheat, Community Projects Officer

Overview:

At this current time, we remain unable to organise our regular programme of coffee mornings, talks, activities and trips. We continue to monitor government guidance and to seek advice from relevant organisations.

This report outlines the ongoing work, to keep across developments, to stay in touch with our Seniors, and to look at options going forward.

Whilst this is a difficult time for many, and isolation is an undoubted issue, we would like to thank parish councillors and volunteers who have supported initiatives to keep our Seniors connected to us, including our Seniors Reps, Help Register Volunteers and Phone Buddy Volunteers.

At a time of change, the support from others has been vital for our small team.

1.1 Venues Update

Greens – Collingtree Golf Complex:

The team at Greens remain furloughed currently. We are in contact with the management team at the Complex and have asked for a meeting to discuss options for Seniors events.

As we go forward, government guidelines on accessing of restaurants will guide our plans, with the venue taking a lead in this matter.

Currently our Tuesday Coffee Mornings attract up to 85 – 90 people. Options for the future, could be to operate with smaller numbers, potentially splitting the group in to 2 or 3 smaller groups, as a first option.

When we restart our meetings, signage, social distancing, and PPE will all be vital.

More Parish Council assistance will be required at the venue, to oversee the management of the coffee morning events.

Abbey Centre:

The Centre Manager comes off furlough at the beginning of July. We are already discussing the viability of organising sessions, however there are no plans to open to bookings prior to September.

As with Greens, all aspects of hiring the venue, including maximum numbers and operation of kitchen/refreshments will need to be fully discussed and risk assessed, prior to any bookings.



As with Greens, we anticipate that more help will be needed to oversee the management of our coffee mornings at this venue, when meetings restart.

Collingtree Pub:

The team have confirmed arrangements for the reopening of The Collingtree on Sat 4th July. We have booked a meeting with their team to look at options.

It is important to note that whilst venues may be opening, as we go forward with plans, the mixing of households or “bubbles” will be a key factor in considering how people can be brought together and will significantly reduce down the capacity of any potential venue further.

1.2 Get Active – Health & Wellbeing Sessions

Our current programme is on hold, but where possible, we are creating online content for Seniors and sharing the information with participants.

Danes Camp Team have created a series of exercise classes online for older participants, hosted by our regular trainer. In terms of our Tai Chi class – Jeff Hubbard has been engaged to create a series of 6 half hour sessions, available on YouTube – for our group.

We remain in contact with venues and groups, to discuss options:

Danes Camp – remains closed at this stage with many staff furloughed. They are aware that we would like to discuss options.

NBC Parks in East Hunsbury – we have been discussing potential use of outdoor areas, for seniors exercise groups. Current guidelines only permit 5 people to meet for an organised class in an outdoor setting. We remain in contact with NBC Events Team, who are aware that we would like to know of key changes, which may allow the option for more people to exercise together.

Prior to any sessions restarting, full risk assessment of activities and venues, and the practical management of groups will be our starting point.

1.3 Staying in touch with Seniors

As we move forward, we will stay in contact with our Seniors, indeed we are still receiving membership forms for new members:

Newsletters – When we have any significant information to share, we will send a newsletter to each senior member household. This is a mixture of more serious information regarding Coronavirus and general usual updates and ideas. We would welcome assistance with creating and producing these newsletters from Parish Councillors and from the seniors group members themselves.



Phone Buddy Crew – Phone Buddy Volunteers continue to call those Seniors who would like a chat, on a fortnightly basis. Most Seniors have indicated that they do not need regular contact but have overwhelmingly appreciated us getting in touch. The system has allowed us to identify Seniors who do need some additional help at this time.

Community Crafting/activities to do at home – we continue to engage members of the group with our craft sessions, including our making for the NHS. Various members have come up with quizzes and crafting workshops to be shared, and we will be forwarding these links out to members.

Website and Facebook – We continue to point Seniors to our website as a source of information, with the Coronavirus Update being the first thing that they see when logging on. Our Facebook Page is a key method of keeping in touch with Seniors – those who are not on FB, getting info via those who are.

Other ideas are very welcome, in terms of keeping our Seniors connected. As an organisation we do however have a duty to store personal details safely, and therefore can only connect Seniors to each other where they have expressed a wish to do so.

1.4 The Help Register and Covid-19 Mutual Support Group – Shopping and other assistance

We continue to make information available to our Seniors, regarding The Help Register and Covid-19 Mutual Support Group. Most Seniors are finding that they can shop, arrange home deliveries, or have family or friends to assist. Volunteers from our Help Register and East Hunsbury Covid-19 Group have been able to give valuable support to those in need.

We will continue to monitor local need.

More options are coming online to assist our older community, including a shopping process overseen by Age UK, which has launched in the past week. This and other shopping information is also being shared with our Seniors.