

WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL— PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 12TH APRIL 2021

ITEM 181 – CONSIDER SUPPORTING INITIATIVES FOR COMMUNITY

Author: Clerk
Strategic Goal: Goal 1 – To continue to support the village so it becomes a vibrant and sustainable community for everyone
Strategic Aim: 1.1 work with others to improve and promote our village
Summary: To consider request

Purpose/Background

Over the past few weeks, the council has been approached and asked to consider supporting several initiatives:

i) **NHS, Social Care and Frontline Worker’s Day**

Civic leaders, chairmen and leaders of councils large and small, throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, are being encouraged to lead their local communities in remembrance and tribute to those within the NHS, Social Care and key workers, along with members of the public who have sadly passed away due to the Coronavirus pandemic.



We also believe the below provides us all with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate those frontline workers who undertake so much for us all, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year, without any thought for their own safety.

11AM: The Two Minute Silence.

Civic leaders, chairmen and leaders of councils are being encouraged to lead their local communities in this very important element of NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day on 5th July this year, remembering those who have lost their lives due to the current pandemic.

1PM: The Nation’s Toast to the Heroes of the NHS, Social Care and those that work on the Frontline.

Civic leaders, chairmen and leaders of councils are being asked to raise a glass of refreshment of their choice, and lead their local communities in this unique toast - “To those who give so much, We thank you.”

This action of grateful thanks, has never been undertaken before, and with the Two Minute Silence is being planned along the lines of becoming annual events on 5th July each year - the annual birthday of the NHS.

Those councils taking part are being asked to confirm their involvement on the REGISTRATION page of the events website - www.nhsfrontlineday.org as soon as possible.

All Members of Parliament are also being encouraged to join in from wherever they may be on the 5th July this year.

We do hope that your civic leaders, chairmen or leaders of your council, along with your constituency MP will take part in these two very simple aspects of NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day.

ii) Good Neighbour Scheme for Wheatley

1. Wheatley Area Churches is giving support to St Mary's to take the lead in coming up with ideas for helping those in Wheatley who may be struggling because of the pandemic. We held a meeting on the 4th March with representatives of many organisations within the village including the head teacher of the Primary School, the Wheatley Care Scheme, Age UK and the Vice-Chair of your Parish Council. There were also the founders of the Wheatley Support Group who mobilised an army of volunteers at the beginning of lock down in March 2020 and who collected prescriptions and essential food for the elderly and vulnerable.

2.. At the meeting, we were greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm for taking this further and have subsequently formed a management team which has decided to set up a Good Neighbours Scheme within the village. A couple of us also met Paul Willmott who told us that you are setting up a Health and Wellbeing Committee within the Parish Council and we thought that it might be possible for our group to work with your Committee and come under your umbrella?

3. The Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme is a local voluntary group that offers services to those in the community who are in need of help and support. Our main objective is to support the vulnerable who have become isolated as a result of the pandemic, in particular the young and the elderly.

4. We have researched other GNSs – there is an excellent one in Thame with which Rachel Poole, (AgeUK), based at the surgery, works closely. We have also been in touch with Martha Holland who is the co-ordinator in West Oxfordshire and who is willing to give us advice and Cholsey also set up a GNS at the beginning of lock down last March.

5. A Good Neighbour Scheme is a wide-ranging service and can help both the elderly and the young. Volunteers can help with transport, gardening, small household tasks, technology, collecting prescriptions, form filling or even a chat on the phone or at home. DBS is taken care of by the GNS and young volunteers can benefit from the experience both from job satisfaction and being able to include it in their CVs. We are hopeful that some of the volunteers in the Wheatley Support Group, which is coming to an end now, will transfer to our new scheme. We are mindful that the success of this scheme does depend on a continual availability of volunteers and we hope that this can be sustained by good marketing.

6. In setting up a GNS, we will be given a grant of £500 and public liability insurance is also provided. We are just in the process of submitting an application which will then give us access to these resources.

7. There might be a need for a part time paid co-ordinator but this will depend very much on the size of the service and the established needs within the village.

8. To get a feel for what needs there might be, we are planning to distribute a questionnaire to villagers via the local churches, Age UK and the Wheatley Care Scheme.

9. To conclude, we feel it would be so helpful if we might have the support of the Parish Council and come under its umbrella? I suggest it would also be mutually beneficial to work with your Health and Wellbeing Committee in supporting the village and maybe that Committee might also be willing to have one of its members on our Management Team.

iii) VE Day 8th May 2021

We have been approached by the Royal British Legion with the following message: As the country prepares to celebrate VE Day, I'd really like to share our unique range of outdoor Tommy figures with you, produced exclusively by veterans for Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI).

Over the past year, we have seen the nation embrace RBLI's Tommy as a symbol of hope and strength, as well as a display of support for veterans in towns and villages nation-wide. **Thanks to the support from Councils and communities**, RBLI has been able to keep veterans employed at our UK Tommy Factory. This funds our life changing and urgent work in supporting veterans and those with disabilities.

This year, our veterans would be honoured to have your support by displaying veteran-made Tommys in your town or village.

Figures are available from rbli.shop or [council files](#).

iv) Bioabundance CIC

We received an email from Bioabundance with the following message "We are writing to see if your Parish would consider joining Bioabundance and possibly making a donation towards fundraising for our legal challenge of the Local Plan South Oxfordshire District Council (SOLP 2035) which we launched on 21 January. www.bioabundance.org.uk