

Report on The Acle Emergency Planning Team (Community Resilience)

21 April 2020 – 15 May 2020 – CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC

Acle Emergency Planning Team has been running for many years and has previously helped the village through periods of flooding and deep snow. The 2020 team is made up of 5 volunteers: 4 Parish Councillors and one other villager.

The Acle Emergency Planning Team actioned their Emergency Plan on 10th March 2020.

- The plan was to divide Acle up into streets, within zoned areas, and to encourage volunteers in each street to help their neighbours and exchange current information.
- To maintain links with Acle community leaders in the churches, schools and associations, as well as local councils and local businesses and services.
- This plan is working very well, with neighbour helping neighbour, across Acle.

AEPT work with Acle Methodist Church to set up an Emergency Food Bank in Acle and advise on relevant paperwork, risk assessments and safe working practises.

Acle Emergency Food Bank opens on 9th April at Acle Methodist Church.

On April 16th Prime Minister Boris Johnson orders the 'Stay at home' policy to be extended for another 3 weeks until May 7th.

Week of 20/4/20

23 April – Food Bank donations continue to increase and a further donation of £30 is received.

1 further person has been helped with food bank deliveries, as well as an ongoing family.

Other assistance: buying mobile phone credit, collecting prescriptions, shopping, befriending.

Week of 27/4/20

26/4/20 Acle Parish Council holds its first virtual Parish Council meeting, via ZOOM, with full attendance.

30 April – Food Bank donations continue to increase, and further cash and cheques are received. The food bank continues to support 1 family.

Other assistance: Checking on an elderly person, picking up food bank donations from Lingwood and Brundall, collecting prescriptions and shopping, befriending.

Week of 4/5/20

7 May – Food bank donations further increase. Blofield Farm shop donates food, Kelda's Kitchen donates food. Cash donated £50.

Contact is made with Acle Primary School, who have referred three further families in need.

Other assistance: Neighbour in hospital, liaising with family, shopping, prescription collections, befriending.

Week of 11/5/20

- Another family is added to the list for the Foodbank. Volunteers shop for the food bank, to acquire items for specific dietary requirements and additional needs.
- Contact is made with the Acle Academy Head Teacher, further families are referred.
- Acle Food Bank gains a phone number (07507 397227).
- The Acle Food Bank receives an amazing amount of donations from the community, including donations from Kelda's Kitchen, Blofield Farm shop, The Chocolate Box and Norwich Labour Group at County Hall.
- 15 families are catered for, from Acle Food Bank, this week.
- Plans to enlarge the Food Bank will need to be made, to include further collection and delivery days and to involve more volunteers to collect, sort and deliver, whilst still maintaining safe working practices.

Acle Food Bank Feedback received

'Wow. It's like Christmas, thank you so much I am stunned.'

'Thank you so much, this will help us unbelievably, we really appreciate this, thank you'

'Wow, what tears of joy and overwhelming thoughts I have, to see so much kindness in the food parcel donated to us, I am just so overwhelmed I just don't have the words that seem enough, thank you just doesn't seem enough for such kindness. Thank you for thinking of us and thank you so much for the donations, absolutely stunned at such kindness and giving. It's like a massive blessing at the end of a rough time. Thank you so much'

'Thank you so much for my food parcel, it was very helpful'

'It's a marvellous system and everyone has worked so well'

'I think you are doing a terrific job helping people in need'

'You and your volunteers are legends and deserve all the recognition in the world'

Other News

10/5/20 PM Boris Johnson orders a slight relaxation of the 'lockdown' from Wednesday 13 May – certain businesses are allowed to reopen, so long as social distancing is maintained. Some people return to work, in areas such as the construction industry, garden centres, recycling centres and estate agents. Restrictions on the number of outdoor exercise periods are lifted. The UK Government advises individuals to start wearing masks in enclosed public spaces.

What is happening in Acle during this period.

- 8 May – Acle residents take part in the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, with bunting on the village green, many homes are decorated, and some residents hold socially distant street parties, whilst remaining in

their own front gardens.

- Chalk drawings, designed to lift spirits, are spotted all over Acle, on pavements.
- Residents and shops display rainbows in their windows, in support of The NHS and other front-line workers.
- Many Acle residents 'Clap for Carers', outside their properties, every Thursday evening at 8pm. The Acle Fire Engine takes part in this ceremony each week.
- Many shops are operating reduced opening hours. During this second 3-week period of 'lockdown', Acle shops begin to open slightly longer hours, many takeaways re-open.
- Although many businesses and services remain closed, there is hope for the future, as two new food businesses commence trading in Acle, a pizza delivery service from Pedro's and a take-away milkshake cafe bar at The Kings Head. The barbers shop plans to move into bigger premises in the old Lloyds Bank building, which has been empty for several years. The old Barclays Bank premises will be transformed into new community and business premises.