

Report on The Acle Emergency Planning Team (Community Resilience) (Report No 3)

15 May 2020 – 29th June 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, setting up an Emergency Food Bank in Acle and advise on relevant paperwork, risk assessments and safe working practises. Acle Emergency Food Bank opened on 9th April at Acle Methodist Church.

Week of 18/5/20

- Contact is maintained with Church Leaders and local schools for further referrals.
- 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.
- Extra volunteers are recruited to help with deliveries.
- There is a referral from Broadland Council to assist a person with collecting prescriptions.

Week of 25 May 2020

- Two families no longer require support from the food bank
- A new family requires support.

Week of 1st June 2020

- We support 13 families from the Food Bank this week
- Our 2 liaison officers at Broadland Council return to their usual jobs and we have two new officers. Plans are being made to have a meeting with these officers to discuss how volunteers can carry on working post Covid-19.

Week of 8 June

- 11 families are supported by the food bank this week
- Broadland Council is looking into how our high street can safely open to shoppers, with their

'Confidence' campaign. Ideas include our streets becoming pedestrian zones or having one-way systems, providing hand sanitisers, window stickers and floor markings.

- 7th June Acle Parish Council launches its 'SHOP ACLE' campaign with a new Facebook page, and updating the VIST ACLE business directory. Acle Parish Council wishes to support and promote all Acle businesses at this time to ensure our high street and shops flourish.
- 8th June - Acle Parish Council meets with Kirstin Hughes from Broadland Council , Martin Blackwell a business advisor, and local business owners, for a special Parish Council meeting. The SHOP ACLE campaign plans to place adverts in 'The Village Book', launch a poster and banner campaign, run a Facebook page, a Website, and printed business directory, to be delivered to homes as well as other promotional ideas.
- 10 June Cllr Angela Bishop attends the Local Community Resilience Forum Zoom meeting with Simon Farraday-Drake and Jenny Bloomfield (Head of Emergency planning at Broadland and his counterpart in S Norfolk).

Week of 15 June

- 12 families are supported by the food bank this week
- The Shop Acle Campaign continues with a rapidly growing FB page (300 followers), 'Shop Local - Shop Acle' banners appearing round the village, and a village directory with over 80 businesses signing up.

Week of 22 June

- To date 106 food parcels have been delivered by the Food Bank
- 12 families are supported by the food bank this week
- 24/6 There is a Second Local Community Resilience Forum Zoom meeting with Simon Farraday-Drake from Broadland Council.

Other News

- From Wednesday 13 May – Certain businesses are allowed to reopen, 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.
- 29th May Track and Trace policy begins.
- Individuals are allowed to meet with one other person in an outside space, whilst still social distancing
- From 1st June an individual may meet with up to 6 other persons, in an outside space, whilst still social distancing and so long as they are not shielding
- From 1st June nurseries, pre-schools, reception class and years one and six, may return to school.
- From 1st June outdoor retail and car showrooms may re-open
- From 15th June secondary schools will begin to provide some face to face contact time for years 10 and 12.
- Plans are being made to reopen all shops by mid-June but only provided the 5 laid down tests are still being met and shops have been made Covid secure.

- 23/6/20 The Prime Minister announces re-opening of most businesses on 4th July (some exceptions, such as swimming pools, nightclubs, indoor bowling, gyms, changing rooms at sports facilities, and beauticians, where close contact is likely to happen). From 4 July the stay apart rule will move to 1m + where it is not possible to stay 2m apart.

What is happening in Acle during this period.

- 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. 29th May is the last day this event will be officially recognised, although some may still continue to meet neighbours each week.
- Many shops are beginning to open in Acle and many others are preparing to open mid-June.
- The Barbers is nearly ready to open and announces a new Vape shop within its premises, which opens on 15th June.
- Acle holds a Scarecrow Festival on the weekend of 30 and 31st May. Residents put scarecrows outside their houses for children to spot on their daily walks.
- Acle loses one of its founding fathers, 'Mr Acle' Cllr Brian Grint on 24 June. The whole village is in mourning. On 27th June The Eastern Daily Press Newspaper runs a 2-page spread in tribute, highlighting the outstanding contribution Cllr Grint has made to the village.
- Many people start to go out and try to go about their normal lives, going back to work, school, going shopping. Many residents are still shielding or self-isolating in their houses and having shopping delivered.
- It is acknowledged that a tremendous community spirit exists in Acle, everyone has come together to help and support neighbours and friends and the community is close and united.