



# Edenbridge Town Council



## NEWSLETTER May 2020

### Community Care and Support during COVID-19 crisis

#### AN UPDATE FROM EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Local support for people needing help during this time of Coronavirus pandemic is being led by Edenbridge Town Council. During the first five weeks, we received 184 requests for help which has included collecting medications, shopping, and other errands. Whole communities and individuals are affected in so many ways, and everyone is facing their own challenges with the lockdown restrictions.

The Town Council has spoken to people who are lonely as they live alone; some of the older generation are struggling to understand why they must self-isolate and asking what they have done wrong; others have had operations and medical treatments cancelled and are worried by this uncertainty.

Some are struggling financially, or do not have online banking facilities and are worried about how they will pay for food and bills. The Town Council has been helping some of these residents providing basic shopping, ordering food parcels, or putting them in touch with the local Food Bank.

Edenbridge has such generous residents like the wonderful volunteers who have gone shopping, stood in long queues for medication collections or chatted on the phone to people. We have received some lovely words of appreciation: *You have made all the difference, thank you* – said by a gentleman who needed medications; *I think you are all wonderful and so kind* – said by a lady who has been self-isolating since early March; *I cannot thank you enough for helping my friend who is on his own and in his 90s.*

We would like to thank Cook and Life on High (Sevenoaks) for donating a selection of frozen meals, soup and sour dough breads. Cllr Angela Baker, the Community Warden, and other volunteers, have been delivering these meals to residents who have registered for additional help. We are pleased also to have also supported a local residential home.

The Town Council continues to maintain its other services. The groundstaff are working to ensure the town's open spaces and cemetery are maintained to a high standard; the office staff have set-up home working; and the councillors continue to discuss and advise on local matters.

The office is still selling garden recycling bags on Monday and Tuesdays and the correct money needs to be provided in an envelope. (62p each, or £15 for bundle of 25). The Town Council can be contacted on 01732 865368 or visit [www.edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk)



**Fly-tipping** is a health hazard for residents and those who have to remove it - and dealing with this puts even more stress on our overstretched refuse collectors. This includes leaving excess waste at recycling points across the District and has the potential to disrupt collections. Please help maintain services by leaving your recycling out for weekly collection, rather than at recycling points—bottle banks, cardboard and clothes bins—that are already full. There is advice on SDC's website regarding composting and recycling; [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk).

May bank holiday waste collections will continue as usual with the Friday 8 May collections taking place a day later on Saturday 9 May.



NO BONFIRE

Residents are being asked please do not light bonfires as this can seriously compromise people who are ill and may have respiratory problems.



Staff at Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) continue to collate residents' requests for help across the district, including from people being discharged from hospital. This is a pivotal central service and SDC now has nearly 2,900 people on the shielded persons list, and Edenbridge Town Council has received a high number of these referrals.

SDC has processed the registrations for 1,422 volunteers, all of whom now have SDC lanyards. Both residents needing support and the volunteers' information is fed through to the local town and parish level to co-ordinate local resources. SDC has issued emergency food parcels; provided personal hygiene packs for people being discharged from hospital; and sourced and funded accommodation for 40 homeless people.

Staffing levels remain high with many working from home. The waste management services continue and both household and garden waste is still being collected regularly despite a huge increase in volume. *Cont....*

**STAY HOME ► PROTECT THE NHS ► SAVE LIVES**

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As the 'tip' is closed at present, people are urged to keep hold of non-recyclable or any other waste that cannot be put into black sacks.

Progress continues with support for businesses and getting business rate relief and grants processed. So far, £17m in grants has been awarded.

SDC is also providing help on a range of issues which are affecting people during the coronavirus outbreak, visit its website, <http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/> or call 01732 227000, for help on:

[Requesting help from a volunteer](#) if you need help because you are self-isolating volunteers can do shopping, collect medications, or be a phone buddy (alternatively, contact Edenbridge Town Council)

[Financial advice for residents](#) includes Universal Credit advice for help with rent, or Council Tax

[Business support](#) including grants, 12 months business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England, links to the HM Government business support

[Staying healthy](#) with activities, and healthy eating

[Coronavirus symptoms](#), advice for people at high risk

#### News from the food bank

The team at God's Hands Food Bank are happy to be liaising with the Town Council in trying to ensure that the people of Edenbridge have access to food during this pandemic. Our food bank is part of the Parish Nursing Project and for the past 10 years has come under the auspices of the Edenbridge Churches in Covenant. Happily, we managed to recruit new food bank volunteers just before the lockdown began. We have helpers who shop to replenish our stocks when necessary and who sort, pack and deliver the food. (We store only tinned, dried and non-perishable food.) Tesco Express have supported us through FareShare in the past and now Waitrose are helping through the same scheme, by donating fresh fruit, vegetables and bread when available, on our delivery day.

Thank you to everyone who has contacted the project to offer help and to volunteer. It is wonderful to know that there are so many people ready to help in the community. So far so good though, as we seem to be managing to address the small increase in referrals for food.

Best wishes and hoping you stay well. *Julie, Parish Nurse*



#### Edenbridge and Westerham Citizens Advice still on hand

All its advisers are working remotely whilst current restrictions continue and are keen to carry on helping residents. "We know that the current crisis will bring significant difficulty and uncertainty into the lives of many local residents. We are keen to step up and help, for example to explain things such as the government's furlough scheme, or to assist with new or existing benefit claims. If you need advice or information, we are still on hand," Jill Eyre, Chief Executive.

Call us on 0300 330 9004 Monday to Wednesdays 9.30 to 16.00, or email [enquiries@edenbridgecab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@edenbridgecab.cabnet.org.uk). The national advice line is 03444 111 444.

## LOCAL SHOPS LOCAL SERVICES TO YOUR DOOR

Many local businesses have changed the way they are operating to help make it easier for you access their services and to help everyone to reduce their trips to the shops, thus reducing the spread of Coronavirus. Here is a list with website links for grocery and meal services available to your doorstep:

### Bakery

[The Sussex Kitchen](#) You can order from the online shop where there is selection from the bakery, food basics and cheeses. There is no minimum order, but there is a delivery charge of £6

### Fresh fruit and vegetables

[Household Supplies](#) mixed fruit, vegetable and salad boxes; medium size £20, large £30. Free range eggs also available. Free delivery, call 07464 330394

**John Beaney** is proving fresh fruit and vegetable boxes. Please email him on [jbfruits@yahoo.com](mailto:jbfruits@yahoo.com) or text on 07977 461759

### Fish

[Pure Seafood](#) delivering fresh fish and shellfish, minimum order £30 and free delivery. Orders can be via the website or orders can be paid for by card – call 01293 549843

### Frozen meals

[Cook](#) offer a range of frozen meals, meal bundles and puddings for online delivery or click and collect; (free delivery with orders over £40)

[Oakhouse Foods](#) with a choice of nearly 400 frozen meals, order online, (free delivery on orders over £30)

[Wiltshire Farms Foods](#) provide a selection of frozen meals in different meal sizes and also able to cater for specialist diets. Orders can be made online or pay by card over the phone. Call 0800 0773100 (24 hours) or 01732 860018 (Monday to Friday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm)

### General groceries

**Chiddingstone Causeway Stores**, orders and payment taken by phone on 01892 871572 or 07377949412

[Brakes Foods](#) providing everyday essentials and well-known brands, also available in bigger packs so that they last longer as well as offering chef-recommended products, meat and dairy, frozen produce and alcohol. Order online or call 0344 412 9985

**The Rock Inn**, Chiddingstone providing fresh vegetables, eggs, milk and flour. Orders taken Tuesday to Saturday, and collection is between 11 am – 12 noon the following day. If delivery is required, this must state at the time of order. Text orders to 07572616843

### Meat

**Allmans Butchers** 49 Edenbridge High Street weekly delivery telephone 01732 863214 to order and arrange payment

[Larratt & Co](#) has a range of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables, bakery, deli and cheeses. Visit the website for details, orders are taken by email [orders@larrattbutchers.co.uk](mailto:orders@larrattbutchers.co.uk) or on 01959 564539

### Other

**Edenbridge Errands** are fully DBS checked and insured for shopping or general errands, call 07720877755 or email [edenbridgeerrands@gmail.com](mailto:edenbridgeerrands@gmail.com)

**WestKent**

**FREE ZOOM SESSIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE** West Kent youth services team run daily youth club sessions Monday to Friday at 10 am, 2 pm and 6.30 pm. Sessions include crafts, cooking, exercise, quizzes and many more. They're all free, you just need to be between 8 and 19 years old, and able to download or access Zoom. Find out more at [westkent.org/youth](http://westkent.org/youth) or call 01732 749400.