

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE 31st July 2020

We continue to receive customers calling in relation to the Community Hub but numbers remain low. Town and Parish Councils remain a key part of the infrastructure in ensuring we can respond to demand from some of the most vulnerable members of society and to a second spike in cases should it come. More information about current infection rates can be found here <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

- From 1st August government have announced that shielding will pause. The Community Hub is still here so please continue to provide our number to anyone who might need our help - 01323 443322. Our ever friendly and helpful Customer Services team have this week been contacting a selection of customers who have signed up to the Community Hub to ask their feedback to help to improve our service.
- Unemployment update from ESCC for July 2020

The Coronavirus crisis has led to an unprecedented increase in the number of people claiming unemployment benefits including JobSeekers Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit (UC) as their income has fallen and people are unable to work because their workplaces are currently closed (such as in the hospitality industry) or they are isolating, shielding, or living with someone vulnerable and so unable to work. Please see attached an update from East Sussex County Council for July 2020.

- WDC is to support the Sunflower Lanyards project, for residents with hidden disabilities that don't have physical signs and include learning difficulties, mental health as well as mobility, speech, visual or hearing impairments. They can also include asthma, COPD, and other lung conditions as well as chronic illnesses such as renal failure, diabetes, and sleep disorders when those diseases significantly impact day-to-day life.

Wearing the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower discreetly indicates to people around you including staff, colleagues and health professionals that you may need additional support, help or a little more time. This initiative aims to launch in the week of 17th August. More details can be found via this link <https://hiddendisabilitiesstore.com/>

- Discretionary 'top-up' Grant (phase two).

We have now extended the deadline for local businesses to submit applications for a grant from the Discretionary 'top-up' Grant (phase two) to August 28th. Further details are available

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/press-and-media/coronavirus-covid-19-latest/covid-19-discretionary-grant-scheme-for-businesses-2/>

- Mobile COVID Testing site at Uckfield railway station car park – 3rd to 5th August

Just to remind you all that a mobile Covid testing unit will be at Uckfield railway station car park from the 3rd to 5th August. This testing unit is run by the Local Resilience Forum and is believed to have been situated in the centre of our district for convenience rather than any pressing need.

Please do continue to spread awareness that the Community Hub are able to obtain priority delivery slots and give advice on access to food if residents are struggling. I hope this information is of assistance and please note that these emails are an interpretation of government guidelines which can be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>