

The Old Rectory  
Alton Barnes Marlborough  
Wiltshire. SN8 4LB

25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Resident

I am writing to let you know that I have been asked by the Parish Council to head up the Village response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We have a small team who will manage our Volunteers, our primary aim being to look after the most vulnerable in our community, those in the high-risk group, with pre-existing medical conditions or required to self-isolate due to having symptoms of the virus. We will also be advising you of the latest updates and providing individual advice should you have any concerns.

I appreciate some of you might not know me, so by way of introduction, my family have been farming in Alton Priors and Barnes since the 1880s and I have lived in the Village for most of my life. I was Chairman of the Parish Council for several years in the 1980s and I am the Vice Chairman of the Coronation Hall Committee. I was also one of the trained Civil Defence Volunteers in the Parish back during the height of the Cold War in the 1980s.

I have worked in Educational Estate Management in Private Schools for the last 25 years and have also been an Army Reservist and Cadet Force Officer for nearly 40 years, the last five years serving as one of the three Senior Officers in the Army's Regional Headquarters in Tidworth. I have experience in emergency planning, organising volunteers, working with local Government and the Emergency Services. Unfortunately, I have Asthma and therefore unable to be deployed to assist with the Army's response supporting the Government, but this means that I can support the community we all live in.

I intend to provide the focus for our response, to the constantly changing situation, by being the single point of contact for Wiltshire Council and the other agencies that we will need to liaise with over the coming weeks and months.

**We urgently need more Community Volunteers**, to help with food shopping, collection of medicines and potentially some other roles.

If you are fit and healthy, and do not fall into any of the '*At Risk Groups*', please can I ask you to email Rob Nagel [robnagel@icloud.com](mailto:robnagel@icloud.com) who is kindly acting as our Group Coordinator.

Please also look for updates on the Village Website: [altonsandhoneystreet.org.uk](http://altonsandhoneystreet.org.uk) and on our Twitter Page: @AltonsAnd.

I appreciate not everyone has access to a computer or smartphone, so if there is something urgent to communicate, we will drop a note through your door.

In conclusion, these are uncertain and worrying times, but by taking each day at a time, listening to the Government and NHS advice (not Social Media) and looking after each other, we will get through this.

Best wishes,

David Carson MBE