

E Mail to Berwick St James – 13th March 2020

Below is the text of an E mail which was sent to all those who are on the Berwick E mail circulation list on 13th March 2020 – We received over 30 positive replies in just 48 hours.

Dear All,

As we all know, the Corona Virus is taking us into uncharted territory but what is clear is that we are in for a very challenging time.

One of the best aspects of our British Society is that we work together to support each other in times of crisis and I don't think this will be an exception. People have already been in contact to explore ways in which we can work together to support each other through these difficult times.

I am keen that we put together a team of volunteers who can plan and work together to offer support to those who are, for whatever reason, self-isolating or are feeling unwell. Here is a list of ways in which volunteers could help:

- Help to prepare a plan for the village – Medical advice and logistical expertise to do this would be very welcome
- Help to shop or provide food for people have difficulty getting supplies
- Offer to take dogs out for walks
- Collect medicines
- Making phone calls to check if anybody needs to any help
- Anything else that is needed

Berwick is normally very good at providing help and support to those who need it. During this crisis it is important that we are well organised and that support is coordinated. It is possible that those who normally provide support to others become unable to do so. We want to ensure that everybody who needs help feels confident to ask for it and know how to do this.

I am also very conscious that we don't know what people who live in Berwick can offer.

Under no circumstances are we asking anybody to put themselves at risk. This is not what this is about, this is about providing practical help and ensuring that people who need help are being cared for. **Providing unprotected medical assistance would not be appropriate.**

The purpose of this E mail is to ask for volunteers who are willing to help. If you feel that you can offer help, please could you reply to this E mail providing the following information:

1. Name, address and best contact phone number
2. Which of the following would you like to help with
 - Help to plan and coordinate
 - Help with shopping and collecting medicines
 - Help to walk dogs
 - Help by providing advice
 - Help with anything else.

We hope to put together a plan and a team of volunteers before it is needed. Once we have put together a plan we will ensure that everybody who lives in the village is aware of the plan and knows how to get help.

Many thanks

Christian Lange
Co-Chair of Berwick St James village meeting