

Stoke Mandeville Community Support Group

Back in March 2020, the Parish Council along with a few residents formed a Community Support Group to assist those people affected by the lockdown. Over 3,500 leaflets were distributed to the residents to make them aware of the Community Support Group, and a dedicated email address and telephone number was set up to aid the co-ordination of requests.

The help took the form of collecting prescriptions, shopping, and providing a befriending service. Many volunteers answered the call for help. The Community Support Group has been available every day since it was established and during that time it has directly handled 232 requests, volunteers have given over 150 hours of their time, and provided a befriending service for 14 residents.

In addition, volunteers delivered food from the Hawkslade Co-op and Wendover Budgens as well as collecting and distributing food boxes on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council.

The Community Support Group was recognised by Buckinghamshire Council when it was awarded a Local Impact Award as part of the Proud of Bucks Awards.

The decision was made to shut down the Group on the 16th April 2021, although the dedicated phonenumber and email address will remain live in case there is an emergency request. A review will be held in three months' time to determine whether to permanently close the group.

The parish council has sent a letter to all the volunteers thanking them for stepping up to help residents in a time of need and making this initiative such a success.

When circumstances allow, I feel it would be appropriate to formally recognise the work of the main organisers, Beth, Prashy and Gaurav, and volunteers. What form this should take I do not know but I think some consideration should be given.

Tony
Clerk

