

Effingham Parish Council PRESS RELEASE

Immediate Release



17 May 2020

Effingham Parish Council supports the volunteer Community Store

Following a serious fire on 21st April at shops on The Street in Effingham, the Village Supermarket and Bevans Butchers are closed while restoration work is carried out. It is hoped both shops will be trading again as soon as possible, but in the meantime Effingham village lacks a general food store.

To help elderly and vulnerable people who need access to a local shop selling a range of food and essential household items, a group of volunteers led by Reverend Mandy MacVean is setting up a temporary Community Store under the auspices of Effingham with Little Bookham Parish Parochial Church Council. This will operate out of Layla's Café on The Street, by the kind permission of the café owners, and with help and support from the neighbouring shop-keepers and other local organisations.

At an Extraordinary Meeting of Effingham Parish Council, held online on Thursday 14 May, parish councillors agreed a request to provide start-up funding for the Community Store, to pay for the initial stock and equipment needed. £5,000 will be provided immediately, as a grant from the Parish Council's Community Fund, and the Council agreed that any request for further funding will be considered urgently if the need arises. A grant of £5,000 has also been awarded to the project by Guildford Borough Council, so the Community Store now has the £10,000 start-up funding needed and it is hoped it will open this week.

Cllr Ian Symes, Chairman of the Parish Council, says "We are very pleased to give financial support to this volunteer initiative which will help our vulnerable residents to shop safely during these worrying times. Our Community Fund offers grants to support community projects and new initiatives that benefit the residents of Effingham, and the Community Store is a prime example of that. I offer my sincere thanks to the volunteer management team who have worked hard to set this up, and to the volunteers who will run the Store."

Cllr Arnold Pindar, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, says "Shops are a vital part of a vibrant village community, and I am delighted that residents will once again be able to buy essential food and household items locally. This will help not only people without a car or without access to on-line shopping, but also those who prefer to walk to shop locally, avoiding the large super-markets during the coronavirus emergency."

Cllr Liz Hogger, parish councillor and also Guildford Borough Councillor for Effingham, says "This magnificent effort by local volunteers is a wonderful example of the community spirit which has come to the fore during this dreadful coronavirus situation. It is great that both our local Councils, parish and borough, have stepped up to the mark to provide immediate funding to make the Community Store a reality."

– ENDS –

Notes to Editor

The Community Store management team have made the following announcement:

Because of the devastating fire behind the Village Supermarket and Bevan's Butchers shop in Effingham, currently neither shop can trade. It is the intention of both shops to trade again as soon as possible.

In the meantime, a group of volunteers, under the auspices of Effingham with Little Bookham Parish, suggested opening a Temporary Community Store. That suggestion has come to fruition and we are delighted to announce that the Store will be open from 10am on Tuesday 19th May.

This would not have been possible without the free usage of Layla's Cafe, and the very generous grants from Effingham Parish Council, Guildford Borough Council, Bookham Residents Association and the sponsorship of Bookers Cash and Carry.

The store will be run by local volunteers and will be open 10am - 2pm, Monday - Saturday; until the Village Supermarket is able to start trading again. Any profits will be donated to the Effingham Parish Council's Community Fund.