

Petworth

Petworth Vision was created to address the aspirations of the residents, businesses and visitors of the town. There is representation on the Board by a CDC Member. The Vision group work on a number of projects within the town. Petworth Town Council, while not part of the Petworth Vision group, deliver projects to make improvements within the town. CDC has supported both the Vision organisation and the Town Council to deliver a number of projects of benefit to the area. A number of organisations were contacted within Petworth for feedback, with the summarised information as below:

1) What should the priorities be to assist with Recovery following Covid 19?

To advertise that Petworth is open for business from 1st June and that we are taking measures to protect our customers.

Getting the economy going again. Shops in Petworth need help. Social distancing might prove to be difficult due to the historic layout of the units. One business in Petworth has already started addressing the idea of maintaining social distance after lockdown. This will be shared through the PBA.

To ensure that when businesses re-open all the proper safety precautions are put in place and that not for profit organisations are supported by the government financially in order to continue the work they have been carrying out within their communities to help the most vulnerable.

2) What actions will you/your organisation be undertaking regarding Recovery following Covid 19?

Continued support to our members. We have set up a hot line to answer questions from our members.

We are also planning to provide our members with: Hand sanitiser, Floor stickers & signage, Face masks and Gloves at a heavily subsidised price.

Petworth Town Council is continuing to move forward with plans that they had pre-crisis. These include developing the visitor economy for when people are ready to visit again and keeping 'In-Bloom' going (this will still be judged, but while observing social distancing). Keep the town looking pretty for when people start visiting again.

PTC has been co-ordinating the crisis helpdesk. This has proved very positive as they have been able to engage with community members that they've never been able to before. They hope to retain this engagement post-crisis.

The crisis has demonstrated the need for a community hub in Petworth and PTC want to work more closely with Mind.

Petworth Vision will do everything they can to continue to support the residents of Petworth many of whom are elderly and will not be able to come out of lockdown for sometime. This includes continuing to deliver medication to those who most need it as well as providing a

phone chum for those living in isolation to make sure they are mentally able to cope with being alone during the period after lockdown.

3) What issues re actions/resources/finances is your organisation likely to face?

People don't know that we are open. It will be great if CDC can arrange for Free Parking in Petworth. This will encourage visitors and shoppers.

PTC not sure what extra resources are needed at the moment, currently compiling a list of what's needed. They spent some of their grants on future proofing PTC, making sure online meetings could be held effectively.

Many of the volunteers recruited during lockdown are already starting to go back to work. This has created a problem with regards to volunteer resource which we depend on for the delivery of medications, food (in some cases) and general support. In order to be able to continue this service funding will need to be sought to help us support those most in need.

4) What level of support do you consider is needed from partners moving forward?

Keep us up to date with any information that you have and possible financial support.

Start the Farmers' Market again. Some of the businesses involved really need the Farmers' Market. Some will avoid it for health reasons. PTC will help some of the others update their approach, i.e. online sales.

Would PTC be allowed to use part of the car park for the market, rather than the Town Square, as this will aid social distancing.

Help in the recruitment of volunteers most particularly during working hours as this is when both the pharmacy and the surgery are open and medication can be picked up

Funding in order to support the organisations who are currently manning help lines and running the administration of this vital programme.

5) Do you have any other comments you wish to make?

Thank you for the work you have done.

We would welcome CDC's support in helping to reinstate our Farmers Market which is important to local people to purchase produce but also to the small businesses selling at the market. We are considering trying the market in a small section of CDC's car park which will be easier to manage in terms of social distancing - we would of course only be able to do so should CDC allow us to use the car park. Some support here would be appreciated.

Our help desk initiative, whereby we are providing help to locals (particularly our most vulnerable residents) during the pandemic has been hugely successful and we may look to keep a level of "help desk" / community hub type support for the long term. Particularly as we have an ageing demographic in Petworth as well as pockets of deprivation. We hope some of the many volunteers who have kindly come forward to support fellow residents through the pandemic will continue to engage with the Town Council on future projects, perhaps to

offer their skills and experience to others in need. Again, support from CDC with this work would be welcome.

Over the past 7 weeks the Help Line in Petworth consisting of myself on behalf of Petworth Vision and three members of Petworth Town Council have taken over 100 calls (approx.) from vulnerable members of community who have been self isolating and unable to pick up their own medication. Most of these patients are vulnerable, scared and some alone and I would predict that even after lockdown will continue to be at risk for sometime. It is vital that we find a way to continue to offer the services we have been providing. Any assistance that can be provided would be greatly received.