

The Town Council would like to update you on the actions that we are taking to help support Ilminster at this very difficult time.

Our councillors continue to 'meet'. We have had to learn quickly how best to use digital resources to make sure that we can still deliver the work of the council and ensure that we will be ready to face the challenges of the next few weeks.

We are very grateful to the local networks that are forming to help those isolating or who are now unable to shop for themselves. Our office team will be providing the point of contact for any more volunteers going forward. We have been able to help with printing the leaflets that many of you will already have found coming through your door from 'Ilminster Covid 19 Mutual Aid Network'. Thank you to all who have stepped forward already and please do continue to get in touch.

We are also supporting the foodshare foodbank with a regular contribution to ensure that it is still stocked and available to anyone who needs it.

At District and County level we are in discussion with the local authorities and charities to make sure that we are doing the best for our town.

As with many of us, our staff are no longer in the office, but they are all still at work. They are a relatively new team, but they have responded with great professionalism and good will and I want to thank them all for how they have adapted to this fast-moving situation. Our Open Spaces team are still working hard, cutting grass, clearing park bins and maintaining the recreation areas. We are very lucky with all of those who work with us.

On behalf of the Town Council staff and councillors, I would like to wish you and your families the very best of health as we adjust to this new way of living. In many ways we are very lucky. Ilminster is the friendliest of towns and we thank those who are already organised to keep an eye on neighbours who are isolating. Our local businesses have been as amazing as ever, with delivery services established, order and collect systems in place, or still providing service with careful management of customers. We are also able to take our allowed daily exercise in the most beautiful countryside and parks and still ensure that we maintain appropriate social distance.

Do stay safe and well.