

## Sparsholt Community Support Group

### Update 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March the Government announced new rules and guidelines that have come into immediate effect. **Please do follow the advice at all times** and especially while carrying out any volunteering activity.

We cannot hope that the Coronavirus will not affect our beautiful rural village. We understand that there has already been one confirmed case, where the person is recovering and there are a number of suspected cases in the village.

The playground in Woodman Close will now **be closed** in line with Government advice. While this will be a disappointment for the children who make use of it, it is a vital precaution.

The Church will also **be closed** from now on.

The Hampshire Waste and Recycling Centres **are also closed** from now on.

The response to our request for volunteers to help those vulnerable people with shopping, collecting prescriptions, or any other support has been tremendous. At the time of writing there are **over 60 volunteers** on our register. A huge thank you to everyone who has agreed to volunteer.

The only permitted movement away from your house other than for exercise is to obtain food and medicines. At this stage we would take the view that this **would allow volunteers to do so on behalf of someone in need** as long as it is in accordance with distancing, protection and hand washing advice. We will monitor this aspect closely and if government advice changes we will act accordingly. We have drafted a Health and Safety briefing for all volunteers that will be published soonest.

The village shop and the post office remain open at this time allowing access to only one person at a time. One shop assistant and one postmaster (in the morning) at a time are in attendance. If you need supplies and are unable to get to the shop, please use the order form on the shop website **sparsholtshop.com**. If you are unable to do that please call the shop. The shop will then arrange for a volunteer to deliver to you.

We are maintaining an **At Risk register** where people have volunteered information about themselves or others that they may be caring for. We will be looking for volunteers to make phone calls to vulnerable people, especially where they are living alone.

Please let us know about anyone you feel needs the support of the volunteer group.

KEEP SAFE.

**Sparsholt Community Support Group**