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03 Apr 2020

## Torrige £95K Community Support Fund and Information Hub Launched



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Over recent weeks communities across Torrige have mobilised to help the vulnerable within their areas. Much of this has been with the support of Parish and Town Councils as well as many voluntary organisations that have mobilised their resources. This is on top of central governments initiative to shield the medically vulnerable which the District Council has been involved in.

As a recognition of the important work being undertaken Members and Officers have devised and launched a funding scheme to help organisations and Parish Councils in their efforts to help the vulnerable.

A total of £95,000 is being made available immediately across all projects with £50,000 for Parish Councils in an allocation based on population and geographical area. The remaining money will be used in TDC direct intervention projects, larger community projects, and through the Devon County Community support model. Organisations can apply directly to Parish Councils for funding or to DCC through their prompt action fund, the latter offering £500 on a project by project basis. There is a dedicated web page on the Torridge Council website with details of this and other sources of funding for community groups along with relevant contact details for Parish Councils. The web pages also have details of help available in each parish community as well as how people can access help with Council Tax and the governments Business Support Grants.

Funds were transferred to the Parish Councils on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The Council also put into action a decision to make sure Parishes also received the first half of their yearly funding, which would normally be sent out at the end of April, to ease cash flow and to recognise additional expenses Parishes may be incurring as a result of the crisis.

**Councillor Ken James – Leader of Torridge District Council said:**

“We have taken the decision that the support of the vulnerable in this crisis is our top priority as a Council. In many cases Parish Councils have been quick to step up to the challenge, ably assisted by the many volunteers and groups that have sprung up across the district. Distributing the funding for local groups through the Parish Councils will mean that the money is fairly distributed and groups can apply at a local level for financial support.”

Information on community help can be found on the front page of Torridge Councils website and volunteers can also make contact with the people named on those pages to offer help in local projects. The Council would also like to hear of any gaps in the information and invite people to email the Council using the contact details provided on the website.

# Contact Information

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