Community Business re COVID-19, Mutual Aid Theme – Managing food preparation, delivery and/or distribution Host – Chris Buckham, Bretforton Community Shop Ltd 7th April 2020

# **Bretforton response to Covid-19**

- Bretforton is a rural village in Worcestershire. 4.4 miles (7.1 km) east of Evesham.
- Population around 1300
- Demographically close to UK average, but with a higher proportion of elderly
- There is a village hall, a garage, a sports and social club and a community social club.
- Bretforton is also home to the Bretforton Silver Band that can trace its roots back to 1895 when it was known as Bretforton Temperance Band.
- ▶ Most famous for The Fleece Inn a 300 year old National Trust pub





St Leonards Church and the Village Square



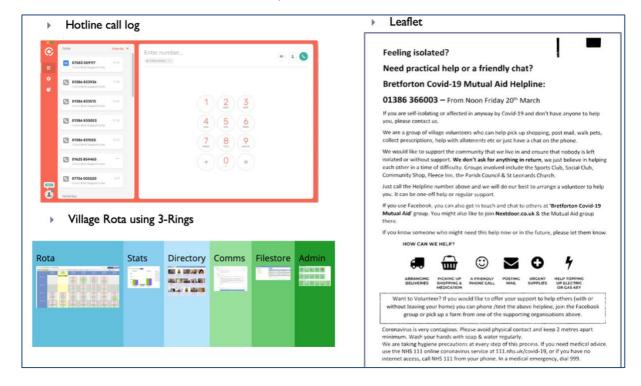
The famous Fleece Inn during filming for a TV Series



The Community Shop

#### What we did/are doing?

- Village-wide meeting
  - ▶ Representatives of pub, clubs, shop, Parish Council and Church. Village committee established
- ▶ Regular Zoom Meetings to review progress and improve response
- Leafleted every household
- ▶ Set-up Covid-19 Mutual Aid Telephone Helpline and social media groups with rotas and management
- ▶ Set up the Shop as a grocery delivery business cut opening hours to facilitate deliveries
- ▶ Re-purposed the pub as a weekend takeaway including beer!
- ▶ Big shout out for volunteers to help the over 70s and other self-isolating



# Links to key resources

- Community Hotline
  - ▶ IP based telephone system from Circleloop <u>www.circleloop.com</u> free to charities and community business sector for 3 months
- Managing Volunteers
  - ▶ 3 Rings rota system used by Shop modified to add volunteers for other functions delivery of prescriptions, cash and carry runs etc <a href="https://www.threerings.org.uk/">https://www.threerings.org.uk/</a>
- Comms for organising and managing response
  - No surprise − www.zoom.us

# **Opportunities, Challenges & Impact**

- Impact
  - No one feels isolated. Positively seeking out those who might be vulnerable and could need help.
  - Over 100 new enthusiastic volunteers from the self-isolating over 70s "Bret Call Girls" to the wedding photographer turned cash and carry expert.
  - Groceries and prescriptions delivered same or next day.
- Challenges
  - Organising the response and putting in processes while maintaining enthusiasm.
  - Maintaining the disciplines of social distancing.
  - Getting the rotas right.
  - Good Comms
- Opportunities
  - Creating a new framework for the community when we get through this crisis.

#### **Risks & Issues**

- Risks
  - Lack of resilience and loss of key organisers to self-isolation and the disease itself.
  - Further restrictions from the government on people movement or the supply chain

# Community Business Mutual Aid-Case Study For more information on the Bretforton Community Shop contact - <a href="mailto:cjb@buckham.nethtps://cbmutualaid.co.uk">cjb@buckham.nethtps://cbmutualaid.co.uk</a>

- Burn out
- Issues
  - ▶ Lots of enthusiasm, but much of the burden has been incremental work for a small group.
  - Delegation of tasks
  - Process design
  - Communications

#### **More information**

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