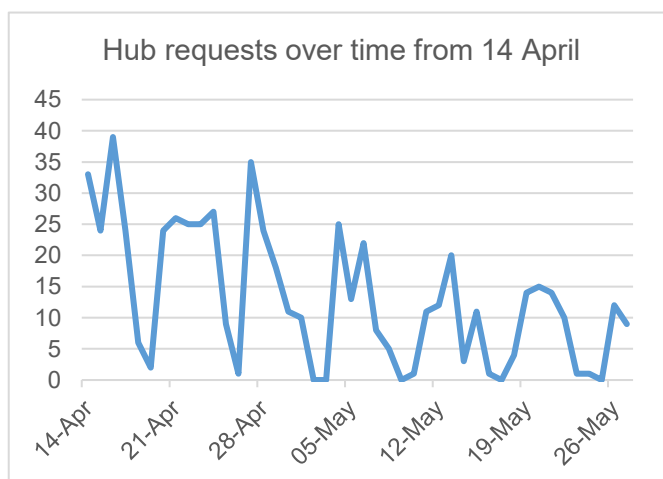




Weekly News Bulletin for Community and Voluntary Groups, Town and Parish Councils, Partners and Hub Update Subscribers

Facts and figures

- **2,732** shielded* residents of West Berkshire have registered on the government's website out of a total of **4,302** identified by the NHS
- **Over 70%** of shielded residents registered have indicated they do **NOT** require support
- Nevertheless, **over 2,451 residents** have been contacted by council officers to check they have everything they need and **10 police welfare visits** have been carried out where our calls or emails were not answered
- **66%** of all requests for assistance to the Hub this week were from shielded residents
- As the graph shows, hardly any requests for assistance are received over the weekend



**shielded people are those who have received a letter from the NHS telling them they must stay at home for 12 weeks because their health condition makes them extremely vulnerable to Covid-19. The shielded list is under constant review by GPs and hospital clinicians, and they are responsible for informing people that they have been removed from the list.*

Future Management of the Hub

As part of the council's Local Recovery Plan, the Hub is moving into a new phase, to take us to the end of the year. The following changes will ensure we can meet the needs of the community while continuing with our other work:

- From now on, weekend staffing of the Hub will cease due to lack of demand, although there will still be provision for out of hours emergencies
- On 29 May, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) will be dismantled and the Hub will move to a new location in the council offices
- We will continue to use the EOC emails for one more week before introducing new generic emails – we will be in touch about this very soon
- Transition to new staffing arrangements will start on 1 June



West Berkshire Residents Survey: Covid-19

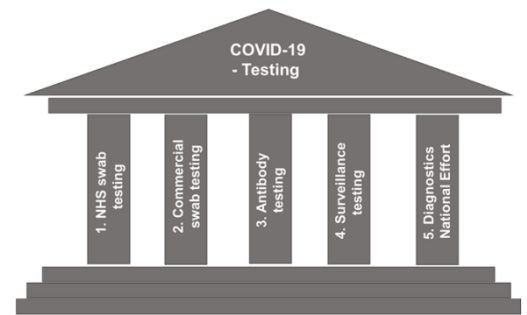
If you haven't already done so, please do take 10 minutes to complete our Residents Survey which is open until **midnight on Sunday 7 June**. The survey includes important questions around volunteering which will help to inform our local recovery plan. You can access the online survey [HERE](#) and hard copies are available for those without internet access. Please contact the Hub to request hard copies for your community or use the online link.



Frequently Asked Questions

What does the new NHS Test and Trace service mean for the Hub and voluntary groups?

This week, the government launched a new NHS Test and Trace service across England to help identify, contain and control coronavirus, reduce the spread of the virus and save lives. Anyone who tests positive for coronavirus will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and will need to share information about their recent interactions. People identified as having been in close contact with someone who has a positive test must stay at home for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms, to stop unknowingly spreading the virus. Testing has been expanded to include children under 5. You can read more in the government's press release [HERE](#).



We at the Hub will continue to support those who are advised to self-isolate for 14 days, especially if they live alone and have no one else to help. We will continue to call upon the thousands of volunteers across West Berkshire, who are helping to support vulnerable people in their communities with shopping, prescriptions and distribution of food parcels as well as walking dogs, mowing lawns, transporting people to appointments and providing a friendly voice at the end of the telephone.

“Although much about the future is uncertain, we are confident that local people will continue to offer help to those in need. This will be key to our local recovery and we look forward to working with our volunteers to bring our community through this difficult time.” Leader of the Council Lynne Doherty and Chief Executive Nick Carter

What help is being offered by local businesses to support community groups?

Compton-based gin producers [Hawkridge Distillers](#) have 290L of **FREE** hand sanitiser left, which they are making available to community groups on a first come, first served basis, thanks to funding from Greenham Trust. The sanitiser comes in 5L tubs but Hawkridge can dispense smaller amounts if you bring your own containers. Call 01635 578357 or email hello@hawkridgedistillers.com for details.



Greenham Trust has raised more than £445,000 through its **Coronavirus Emergency Appeal Fund**, thanks to generous donations from local organisations, businesses and anonymous individuals. Community groups can apply for funding to top-up current activity during the Covid-19 outbreak. For claims of up to £1,000, email accurate details of costs to grantenquiries@greenhamtrust.com. For amounts over £1,000, applications must be made via the Good Exchange. You can find out what sort of activities are eligible and more details of how to apply on the Trust's website [HERE](#).

Food parcel distribution - thank-you!

This week saw some changes to the distribution of food parcels from Newbury Rugby Club after Spotlight UK began operating from the Burdwood Centre in Thatcham. Distribution by volunteers for Thatcham and Hermitage is now being handled directly by Spotlight UK but the Hub and WBC Transport continue to manage distribution for Newbury and other areas by community groups from the rugby club.

Distribution is going smoothly under the new guidelines but our heart-felt thanks go out to the volunteers from Theale Woolhampton, Purley and Farm Drive for stepping in at the last minute to collect some unexpected food parcels on Wednesday!



Resources available to help shops and businesses looking to re-open in June



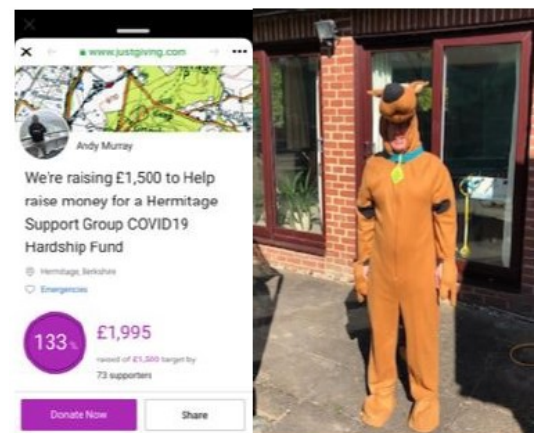
The government recently announced that some non-essential shops and businesses will be allowed to re-open in June, so long as they comply with social distancing guidance. More details are set out in the government's press release [HERE](#).

To help West Berkshire businesses do this safely, the council has made resources available on its website [HERE](#). These include a very useful downloadable poster pack created by our Graphics Team, designed to cover many of the messages businesses will want to give to their customers, as well as links to government guidance and other sources of advice. Do take a look and pass this on to anyone in your local community that you feel would benefit.

Celebrating the work of the Hermitage Support Group and the West Berkshire Foodbank

We were thrilled to hear from Carolyn, Andy and Jon at the Hermitage Support Group last week, with news of all the amazing work the group are doing to support their local community. Kate, Andrea and others are delivering much-needed prescriptions while local chef Jane Staunton's cottage pie is going down a treat among key workers and those isolating. The group has even set up a Covid-19 hardship fund to support this and other projects: fund-raisers included a Scooby-doo run through the village!

"There are too many stories to tell of how the 120 volunteers have been helping their neighbours. From small pop-ups such as libraries, free eggs, veg and plant giveaways to lately even a live sing-along by a father and daughter after the initial lock down was relaxed. And always there are those who are out shopping for a neighbour. Our local vicar Sue (herself isolating at home) has been phoning around known elderly and vulnerable residents... We know that we are potentially going to see more hardship in the coming months and want to be in a position to help our parish. Above all, we would like to thank WBC for their engagement and all of our Volunteers for their ongoing support without which these small steps would not have been possible."



Our Hub [Facebook](#) page this week featured a lovely video clip where you can watch Fran the Project Manager at **West Berkshire Foodbank** and Council Leader Lynne Doherty talk about what great work the foodbank is doing to support people who find themselves in food crisis due to Covid-19, with help from generous donations and 250 fantastic volunteers.

You will find more stories, photos and videos about the amazing work of West Berkshire's volunteers on our [Local Heroes](#) website.

National Volunteers' Week 1-7 June

It's National Volunteers' Week next week – an annual celebration of the contribution made by millions of people just like you across the UK through volunteering. Click on the link [HERE](#) to find out more, including free resources and templates to help groups celebrate their achievements!



With our grateful thanks and best wishes
The Hub Team

Please ensure that all queries about individual cases are directed to the Hub via the general email westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk or by calling **01635 503579**. This is to ensure they are dealt with promptly, effectively and in line with guidelines on dealing with vulnerable adults.