

Alston Moor Emergency response Group meeting November 20 th. 2020

Local Information — —Health and Well Being. — —update from Colin Cox —- 200-220 cases of Covid per 100000 in whole of Cumbria with Eden having a small number of cases. Care Homes are still the high risk areas with sadly 2 deaths in Penrith recorded recently. Numbers are in no way near the Peak of the first wave. Hospital admissions are also no way near the Peak , however each patient is experiencing a longer stay in hospital , but survival rates are up. At present flu cases are down than in other years.

Local sites are being developed for Testing. Plans ahead are for using more robust buildings rather than tents as sites , reduce the number of drive in s to walk in centres, make sites more available for people with disabilities. Cumbria has been at the forefront of self testing. with —self test— — result in half an hour. Contact Tracing happened since May . Support only given to those through National test and trace and not locally as yet.

Vaccine has had no approval to date , but when that happens priority will be given to the most vulnerable , i.e. Care Home residents and Staff. Vaccination Programme hopefully will be rolled out around Spring time. But things will not be back to normal before Winter 2021./ 2022.

Alston Moor Phone Line for help have had no calls so far but will be fully manned until December 2nd and then on a messaging service with checks by Volunteers 2 or3 times a day. At the County Help Line they have had barely any calls and those that have come in have been very quickly redirected appropriately.

Prescription delivery on a Tuesday and Thursday has continued for about 6 residents with another day added for Alston. ( Wednesday)

Food bank has seen a slight increase in orders but expect there will be a lot more coming up to Christmas. Trustees need to sign off on the idea of Hampers for the Elderly in Need for Christmas, then nominations will be needed.

VistaVeg is giving away a number of vouchers for a bag of food in Penrith. Area Team are to see if it's possible to obtain a one off number to target a delivery of essential products a few days before Christmas for those in need. Two residents suggested that perhaps the bags could be distributed at the same time Santa visits the Market Cross to issue presents for the children ?

Other resident suggestions --- A Christmas card designed on the Moor be sent to every household on the Moor. 900 will be needed for the Moor and then possibly extend the number to include the Churches Parish up to Slaggyford/ Haltwhistle area.

Repair Cafe has 16/17 volunteers with whom could offer repairs of items through Virtual Community Centre ?to be rolled out after Christmas.

Virtual Christmas Market being held with a charge of £5 per stall going to Charity ( as yet to be decided) .

Christmas decoration competition ( window / house / garden ) 3 prizes of monies donated by AMERG.

Other information — — Fairhill Charity money requests picking up are related to Covid problems.

No information available from Alston United Charities.

Next meeting 4th December

Elaine G