

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

COUNCIL'S COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY STORE OPENS

Godalming Town Council and the Farncombe & Godalming Coronavirus Community Assistance Group are collaborating with the St Marks' Food Bank to provide additional support to our community by providing a free Community Store located at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre for those who find themselves in need of some assistance during these difficult times.

Residents may have found themselves in unimaginably difficult circumstances, becoming furloughed, unemployed or waiting for Universal Credit. People in the community may never have thought they would need to use a food bank or similar and for some this will be difficult to come to terms with. The Godalming & Villages Community Store has a variety of food, toiletries and household products available free of charge to support people living in Godalming and the surrounding villages.

The Community Fridge is donating *fresh produce* daily, *COOK Godalming* are supporting the Community Store with frozen meals and the Acorn Restaurant is turning donated food items into 'ready meals' and desserts. Donation points have been set up around the town where goods can be donated on Tuesday mornings between 9.00am and 11.00am at collection points located at: Binscombe Church, St John's Church, Busbridge Church, Milford Village Hall, Tesco Express Milford, Godalming College and The Borough Hall. Donations can also be made directly to the Community Store during its opening hours (Monday-Friday 10.30am-12.30pm). In need items are all in-date, unopened, tinned and packaged food items, sanitary products and domestic cleaning products. These are very much appreciated. Please visit the Town Council's website for details of other much needed and welcomed items and the Council is indebted to all those who have already donated.

In order to manage social distancing, it is requested that appointments are made to come and pick up from the store, the store is not open to walk-ins. When the Council is contacted, residents will be given a timeslot to visit the store. This is for the benefit of both visitors and the volunteers working at the Community Store. Social distancing rules are being observed (1 in 1 out). Only one

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adult family member will be allowed into the store, the store staff will be on hand to provide assistance.

A recent visitor to the store said “Can I just say how much spirits were lifted today in our house after I brought back my food and household items. The kids were excited to see some treats in there too so a huge thanks from us here. You guys are cheering people up during this time.”

The Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Penny Rivers said “In times of crisis the community has come together to help each other out! We are here for you, so please don’t go without.”

The Store is open Monday-Friday from 10.30am–12.30pm (excluding Bank Holidays). To make an appointment to visit The Store please call the Town Council’s Community Store Helpline on 01483 523575 (Monday-Friday 9.00am-5.00pm) or email office@godalming-tc.gov.uk

If a resident is isolating or shielding, this should be mentioned at the time of calling. If residents are unable to pick up from the store, please call St Mark’s Food Bank on 01483 418741 Mon-Wed 10am-1pm.

For more information on the store please visit the Town Council’s webpage www.godalming-tc.gov.uk/community-store/

Ends...

Notes to Editors – The Community Store opened on Monday, 20 April 2020 and in its first 7 days provided over 650 days’ worth of food to the community.

For more information on this release please contact community@godalming-tc.gov.uk

