

Biggar Community Council Q and A held with seven members of the public on Zoom on 18th May 2020.

- 1. Is this an opportune time for Biggar Community Council (BCC) to consider a Community Newsletter to share updates with the community? A regularly delivered newsletter would be beneficial to those without access to social media and electronic communication methods?**

Any physical distribution of a BCC newsletter has to consider infection risk for the volunteer distributor and the recipient. For BCC to produce a newsletter they would need further volunteer help from the community as the community councillor who does communications also covers communications for the Biggar Community Action Group (BCAG) - formerly known as Biggar Coronavirus Community Action Group.

We will investigate how to develop a community newsletter either ourselves or with a group of volunteers.

- 2. Not everyone is on the internet so there are some that can not join in tonight and might not be aware of the order and delivery services being offered. How can you be sure that those people are being catered for in the current crisis?**

The BCAG communications methods at present are reaching the majority of the people of Biggar. They are sending out updates on their services by email, social media, posters and via deliveries.

Just before lockdown homes in our area received a leaflet which introduced the Biggar Coronavirus Community Action Group - now known as Biggar Community Action Group (BCAG) - and advertised the helpline number to all. The BCAG helpline has received 1175 calls and made 802 deliveries of shopping and 313 prescriptions.

- 3. Will there be more local information about infection rates and cases? What about track and trace, are there plans to have it here?**

The NHS are already sharing publicly the figures for rates and cases in NHS Lanarkshire's area and in South Lanarkshire. Track and Trace is being piloted in 3 Health Board areas including Lanarkshire from 18 May. On 18 May the figures were 1,715 confirmed cases in Lanarkshire, and there were 9 Covid cases in ICU.

- 4. What changes are likely to be made to the BCAG service in future? Could the Group undertake work on Resilience Planning?**

Any changes to BCAG services, such as a reduction in the number of days covered for deliveries, will be advised well in advance.

Resilience Planning is already under consideration by BCC and this will be taken forward by BCC when we are able to.

- 5. What will be the main challenges in Biggar as we move out of lockdown, and how might BCC assist?**

We don't know, it is up to people in Biggar to tell us.

Work will start again on the Local Action Plan for Biggar when this becomes possible. This will indicate what is needed and where. A Local Action Plan is shaped and owned by the community.

It will be created by getting responses from as many of the community as wish to be involved using all methods of contact including by telephone, electronic media, questionnaires and socially distanced meetings when they become possible. Many

Community Councils in South Lanarkshire have already drawn up their action plan. Our plan will be able to take account of the unique changes our future will bring.

6. How are BCC responding to planning applications when they cannot hold face to face meetings?

This question was not answered at the meeting, so we have drafted this answer.

BCC is still getting weekly lists from SLC and BCC will continue to check applications in the weekly lists. All planning applications are accessible to the public on the SLC Planning Portal. We could share this information relating to Biggar on the BCC website or through a BCC online newsletter.

SLC Planning Department along with other Scottish Council planning departments has been given Scottish Government guidance to ensure that where possible the public can take part in the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process using online platforms during the COVID measures.

Where public consultations would normally be part of the PAC process the Scottish Government suggest this should continue to happen through holding effective two-way consultations online. These processes relate to major development such as housing developments over 50 units (below that is optional), industrial units, intensive farming units and certain others.

We hope to do this again in future and if we do so we will ensure that the meeting can be extended for a longer period of time. Many thanks to the members of the public who joined us and those who submitted questions in advance of the meeting.