 **Newsletter 3 16th June 2020**

**Hello**

And welcome to our latest update and thanks again for your involvement so far: we look forward to being able to meet up together, put faces to names and celebrate what has been achieved when circumstances allow.  Sadly that’s not going to happen in the near future, so for now…. you get a written update.

* Thanks to the time and skills offered by so many people we have been able to operate a reliable support system across our community, carrying out over 480 separate acts of kindness.
* Particular thanks must go to our zone co-ordinators, and web-team who received a good deal of appreciation in the survey comments.

**Survey Results.**

In summary, we learned from the survey that we have plenty of volunteers willing to continue offering help. While we have low demand at present this might change with any resurgence of the virus, and so we want to leave the current systems in place to be able to respond. Please take a look at the separate survey summary document.

If you’re keen, all the questionnaire responses can be seen anonymised at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-2V2S37QD/>

**Next Steps**

In the immediate future, we’re not going to make major changes to the system,

however there are a few tweaks to be made:

* When the need arises, the 26 volunteers who expressed willingness to volunteer across different zones will be added to different team WhatsApp groups.  There is no immediate need for this, but it’s great to know there are people ready to step in.
* There may be the opportunity to buddy up volunteers with people who need help regularly, allowing better planning and creating more opportunities for involvement by those unable to respond to WhatsApp quickly.  Co-ordinators will help make these arrangements.
* Whilst this regularity can be of benefit to all parties we know that sometimes things don’t work out or are unsustainable, so it will be possible at any time for anyone to return back to the general system, without the need for explanation or justification
* Volunteers in the White group offering conversation support are now without a co-ordinator, so you may be approached by any of the zone co-ordinators to offer help.

**Other Stuff**

* In addition to volunteer support, another part of the Bradninch Together offer is **BradAid**, a hardship fund offering modest grants donated by the people of Bradninch and Hele to members of our community in need. A significant minority of survey respondents had not heard of it: [www.bradninchtogether.org.uk/bradaid](http://www.bradninchtogether.org.uk/bradaid)  Please do read about it and please mention it to anybody who might benefit.
* In the longer term, we hope this mutual support network might be useful as an umbrella to support other emerging community activities. The survey suggested a number of initiatives to pursue, although not necessarily immediately.
* To that end we have applied to gain charitable status as a Charitably Incorporated Organisation with a membership and democratic election of trustees. The existing six of the steering group will be the first trustees. We expect this process to take some months so will return with more information when it arrives.
* We have a desire to co-ordinate some sort of get-together outside when circumstances allow.

If you didn’t respond to the survey, we have assumed that you are stepping down for now, and we are retaining your contact details. Co-ordinators will check this with you individually before removing you from their active team WhatsApp groups.

If, at any point, you want to step down or become active again, please just let your co-ordinator know. To have your records completely removed send an e-mail to: membership@bradninchtogether.org.uk.

Thank you again for your involvement so far: we look forward to being able to get together and celebrate what has been achieved when circumstances allow.  In the meantime, please keep up-to-date with what’s going on at [www.bradninchtogether.org.uk](http://www.bradninchtogether.org.uk) or via the Bradninch Together Facebook Group.

Best wishes,

Anthony, Glenn, Luke, Sally Sophie and Sue