

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE



18th June 2020

NEW COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND LAUNCHES

The Alton & District Community Resilience Fund (ADCRF) aims to provide support and assistance to local residents and groups who find themselves in exceptional circumstances and in need of help.

Initially conceived as a community response to the pressures caused by the current Covid-19 situation the fund is designed to be a longer-term funding option to provide a lifeline both now and, in the months, and years to come to ensure we are able to support each other as a strong and inclusive community.

The fund, supported by Alton Lions Club (CIO), Alton Town Council, Alton Foodbank, Citizens Advice East Hampshire, the Parish of the Resurrection and Harvest Church is provided by our community for the benefit of our community.

Revd Andrew Micklefield, Vicar of The Parish of the Resurrection and member of the Application Panel says “this is a tremendous opportunity for our wonderful community to come together in yet another way to support one another. Everyone is very aware of the needs that COVID-19 has put upon some people and families so let us generously support this fund and encourage anyone who needs support to apply.”

In advance of the formal launch of the fund, donations have already been coming in. Town Clerk Leah Coney said:

“ We are incredibly grateful to a number of local benefactors who heard about the fund and have generously pledged money to help us kickstart our fundraising. I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the donations. These include Alton Lions who raised £600 for the fund from their quiz nights and Zebra Chartered Certified Accountants run by Wendy Callaway who raised £1,500 through a promotion with her clients in May. In addition, Alton Rural County Councillor Mark Kemp Gee has pledged £500 and £1,000 has been received from local charitable trust the Tansy Trust.”

The ADCRF panel has authority to approve funding applications for goods and services up to a value of £500. There are two types of application which will be considered:

1. Individual applications for goods and/or services are invited from residents of Alton and the surrounding villages who need urgent assistance with essentials such as replacing an essential household appliance such as a cooker, acquiring equipment e.g. wheelchair, getting furniture and household items like a bed. The fund may also be able to help with repairs and renewals of items such as bicycles, with assistance provided by the Alton Repair Café.

2. Applications from local community groups, charities, and organisations to provide seed funding for innovative new projects which benefit our residents and help support the health and wellbeing of our community. We are particularly keen to support projects which help vulnerable groups including the elderly, those who are isolated, those projects with a focus on health and wellbeing especially those who seek to address mental and physical health issues and projects supporting young people.

The fund will be open to applications from residents in Alton and the surrounding rural catchment area, including the villages of Beech, Bentley, Bentworth, Binsted, Blackmoor, Chawton, Farringdon, Four Marks, Kingsley, East Worldham, Froyle, Holybourne, Lasham, Medstead, Oakhanger, Ropley, Selborne and Shalden.

ADCRF application forms can be found at the Town Council via the website www.alton.gov.uk or telephone 01420 83986 to request a paper copy.

Can you Help?

If you would like to help by donating towards the new Alton & District Community Resilience Fund (ADCRF) we are pleased to be able to offer two options for community giving:

Individual donations can be made via the 'Donate' button on the Home page of Alton Lions website at www.altonlions.org.uk. Alton Lions Club can process donations through this arrangement and enables donors to agree Gift Aid should you wish to do so. The Donate button triggers a link to a secure PayPal Giving Account.

Corporate donations can be made via the Town Council by bank transfer or cheque – details can be found on the town council website www.alton.gov.uk or contact community@alton.gov.uk

All money donated will be added to the fund and for audit purposes, strict records will be kept of all donations and payments made. Funds collected by Alton Lions Club (CIO) via the 'Donate' account will be transferred to the holding account for the fund held by Alton Town Council. 100% of the money you donate will go directly to the fund, with the Council making no deductions for administration.

Ends.

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