

## Letter from Martin Thacker, MBE, Leader of NEDDC

2,896 residents have now registered with us for support and our staff are playing a vital role in assisting those experiencing a range of challenges. There are many examples of individuals who have received 'above and beyond' assistance.

Across the District this week we have delivered 52 food parcels to those with no other means of accessing food, whilst Rykneld Homes have delivered over 50 similar parcels to their tenants who have been in urgent need. Rykneld Homes continue to collect food and games for those people who do need that extra help and the updated list of the drop-off locations and times can be viewed on our website.<<https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/community-residents-advice#food>>

Our pharmacy support service has now delivered over 1,000 prescription medicines to people's homes, therefore supporting some of our most vulnerable residents.

We have made good progress in giving out grants to businesses across the District. The grants have now been paid to all businesses for whom we have been given bank details. If you are aware of any businesses that have been advised they are eligible for a business grant and have yet to provide us with their payment details, please ask them to contact us at [Revenues@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Revenues@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk)<<mailto:Revenues@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>> with their bank account number, sort code and account name as soon as possible. In addition, the D2N2 Growth Hub has a series of free business support webinars taking place throughout April and May. Details are available on the D2N2 website<<https://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/events/>> for information. We have also added to our website details of funders who supporting community and voluntary initiatives at this time <https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/news-and-media/latest-news/latest-north-east-derbyshire-community-news-covid-19>. Please feel free to pass details of these business and community support opportunities to your networks.

I would like to bring to your attention some advice we have just issued about garden fires and bonfires. Residents across the District are being asked to think of others and not light bonfires during the current pandemic. Please see our news release<<https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/news-and-media/latest-news/coronavirus-no-burning-or-garden-bonfires>> for more information. If you have residents contact you with any environmental concerns, remind them they can report them to the Council 24 hours a day, seven days a week via the form on our website.<<https://myselfservice.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/MyServices>>

Today's #NewSkillChallenge video is all about learning how to finger spell in British Sign Language. We are asking people to have a go and send us their videos or tag us in them so we can share them. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn sign language and encourage family, friends and residents to do the same. It would be fantastic if we could go some way to utilising this period of lockdown to improve communication with the deaf community in North East Derbyshire. I have attached links to some of our videos: please share them and let us have videos back of yourselves, your family, friends and residents having a go themselves.

There is more information on our Twitter feed, so please have a look and give it a go!

Basic BSL greetings<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPIJNrboJGs>>

Finger spelling names<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FJloivZYJM>>

I hope you find these updates informative. As well as this email we telephone all Parish Clerks every week to keep in contact but if there are arising issues in the meantime please do not hesitate to call the Council on 01246 231111.

Keep safe and well.

Regards,

Martin Thacker

Cllr Martin Thacker MBE

Leader of the Council

North East Derbyshire District Council