

PRESTON RICHARD EMERGENCY PLAN

REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

March

On 13th PREP issued a statement on Preston Richard and Preston Patrick Facebook Page and to Endmoor Community First Responders concerning the spread of the coronavirus in the UK.

On 16th PREP activated their plan, organised “self-isolating” help cards and appealed for volunteers. On 18th March 40 volunteers registered at Endmoor Village Hall. Cards were delivered and help began.

Kendal Primary Care identified 111 addresses in Preston Richard with over 70s. Volunteers were informed and extra “Help Cards” printed and delivered.

On 20th PREP issued the first (of 19) Coronavirus Bulletin for Volunteers, the Village Shop and Bakery offered free delivery. The Chippy Van offered free delivery and L&W Wilson provided free Hi-Viz Jackets. PREP issued a press release in the Westmorland Gazette, and information was published on the Facebook page of Endmoor, Preston Richard and Preston Patrick.

Social distancing began.

April

PREP produced and displayed “HELP” Posters around Preston Richard.

In our parish the “#Where in Endmoor” initiative asked for the identification of places/features using photographs. The Youth Club held games nights over the internet. Endmoor Community Choir sang on Thursdays at 5pm using Facebook video. Rainbows and Teddies were seen in windows. Pebbles and shells were painted and left for people to find. Books and jigsaws were made available at various points. The First Responders and Preston Richard Parish Council held their meetings virtually with *Zoom!*

No covid-10 deaths registered in our parish.

May

PREP volunteers delivered Mental Health Booklets to our vulnerable people. Martin and Roger produced negative coronavirus tests. 500 positive cases of coronavirus were confirmed in South Lakeland but there were still no deaths in our parish. June Bouskill from Endmoor praised Jane and Clive Dann in the Gazette for their deliveries from the Village Shop.

June

The “R” rate fell from 1.0 to 0.8 in South Lakeland. There were no examples of people being tracked or traced in the parish. Still no deaths recorded in the parish.

July

The Club Inn delayed opening so that staff could navigate the new guidelines. There was some evidence of long-term effects from coronavirus. PREP warned of a second wave of the pandemic in autumn or winter. Masks were provided for our volunteers. A letter was received to communities from Stewart Young, CCC Leader, and Katherine Fairclough, Chief Executive, to thank volunteers for their hard work during the pandemic. Shielding was discontinued from 1st August and the Emergency Plan was suspended.

Autumn 2020

THE Covid-19 Pandemic raised its head again during the autumn of 2020. Infections began to increase both nationally and in South Lakeland. Partial lockdown was enforced during November, then a tier system was introduced in England. The whole of Cumbria was placed in Tier 2. The country went into lockdown on 5th January. PREP was re-activated,

In Preston Richard rates of infection increased and most people knew of someone who had caught the virus. One Covid-19 related death was reported in the parish.

The PREP team continued to meet virtually. Volunteers were kept informed of developments through Cumbria County Council's weekly Covid-19 Newsletter, and also through information from Cumbria Police. Shielding vulnerable adults in the parish was re-established and our volunteers were asked to contact their "clients" again.

2021

The PREP team continued to meet over Zoom. Vaccinations began in a staged manner. Dawn Humble was presented with a Community Hero Award for volunteering during the pandemic. A few volunteers continued their support for vulnerable people. Only 2 deaths were reported in the parish as a result of the virus. The PREP Team are seeking ways of recognising volunteers when the emergency is over.

The Government set out a "road map" out of the pandemic. The "Delta" variant of the virus became widespread but due to the vaccination roll out and there were fewer hospitalisations and deaths. "Freedom Day" was moved from 21st June to 19th July.

Roger Gorman

PREP Coordinator

19th June 2021