

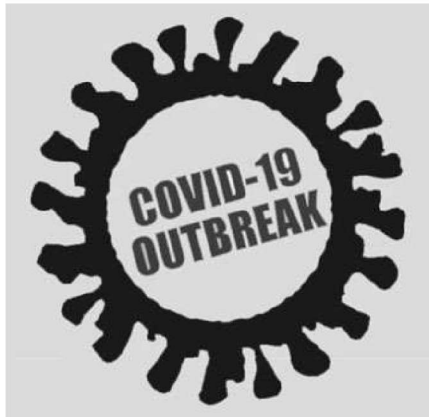
WEST END



WEM

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020



BAY MEDICAL GROUP AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

AT THE TIME OF WRITING...

The coronavirus crisis has put on hold most of the planned West End Morecambe Big Local (WEM) activities but that doesn't mean we can't offer limited practical support. The most immediate is helping Bay Medical with the public information given in this newsletter. They are aware that internet access is not readily available to some and wanted the chance to pass on information in the traditional way.

Secondly we have made a contribution of £10,000 to the Morecambe Bay Emergency Response Fund which is aimed at supporting local activity in response to the current crisis.

Contd. on page 2

Covid-19 news is changing frequently so please use the links in this newsletter to the most up-to-date info.

Bay Medical Group is part of a much wider community and over recent weeks it has been incredibly humbling to see the support offered by members of the community along with many businesses in the Morecambe area.

As many of you will have heard, there was a shortage of personal protective equipment at the beginning of the pandemic. Very quickly offers of surgical gloves and masks started coming into the practice, some patients called to say they would sew some cloth masks which were very helpful and colourful. Some organisations and schools turned their technical equipment to making face shields. The practice and all our staff want to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us in so many different ways. Thank you to you all!

Community

Bay Medical Group have always been advocates of a strong supportive community working together to make lives happier and healthier in Morecambe. Over recent weeks we have seen a real community spirit become very evident with neighbours offering help to those more vulnerable and the volunteer sector continuing to offer practical support to those struggling.

Many of the volunteer sectors have throughout this time put themselves in the front line to continue to offer practical support to families who need help. Morecambe food bank have



risen to an ever expanding need along with several other food clubs, supporting people who have suddenly found themselves in need. Other organisations have offered online help and social activity to support mental health wellbeing. We can only say how lucky we are to be in Morecambe, a community that in the face of adversity has risen above and beyond to keep itself safe and well.

We would also like to encourage our patients to follow our Facebook page where you will see video updates from our very own presenter Dr Craven giving great advice on keeping yourself safe, also lookout for the you-tube clips by Dr Andy Knox who also shares advice on dealing with the Coronavirus. The address is www.facebook.com/baymedicalgroup.

For more community help and support please see Lancaster CVS, contact details inside this newsletter.

MORE COVID INFORMATION INSIDE



Local Trust Big Local



LOTTERY FUNDED

From page 1

The fund is being coordinated by Lancaster CVS who are also working to ensure groups are coordinating activity during the crisis.

We have also agreed to support Sandylands and West End primary schools in helping local children with home learning during their extended time away from school.

Additionally we are looking at medium and long term support as we come out of lockdown. We will work in partnership with voluntary groups and local businesses with initiatives put in place to support the community.

As soon as is practicable WEM will be launching some major new initiatives as well as recruiting new people who may be interested in joining our partnership. In the meantime we will continue to point residents and groups to the best sources of information via our website.

Whilst this is a difficult and challenging time for all of us, individual acts of kindness remind us of the strength that exists within our community. Whatever your circumstances we hope you stay safe.

www.westendmorecambe.co.uk

Public Health

People who are concerned they have symptoms that may be due to Coronavirus can use the tool on the NHS 111 website 111.nhs.uk/covid-19 in the first instance where possible or phone 111 if you are not online.

The local health service has changed many of its normal services and you can find out about this as well as useful information at www.baymedicalgroup.co.uk

Their updates include a list of current local pharmacy opening times and links to www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ with a range of national health information including • Advice for people at higher risk • Symptoms and what to do • Self-isolation if you or someone you live with has symptoms • What to do if you need medical help • Pregnancy advice.

There is also a government webpage www.gov.uk/coronavirus which includes information on employment and financial support, school closures, and travel. For those helping in the crisis they also have a specific link at www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2

Urgent Response Fund

The Urgent Response Fund from Lancaster District CVS will quickly provide financial support to community organisations across the district that are working to support people affected by the impact of the coronavirus. Right now, they are working with organisations such as food banks that are scaling up their operations to be able to meet the demand for access to food from the most vulnerable members of our community whilst being in isolation. WEM has made a contribution toward this fund and will be reviewing how the support is used locally.

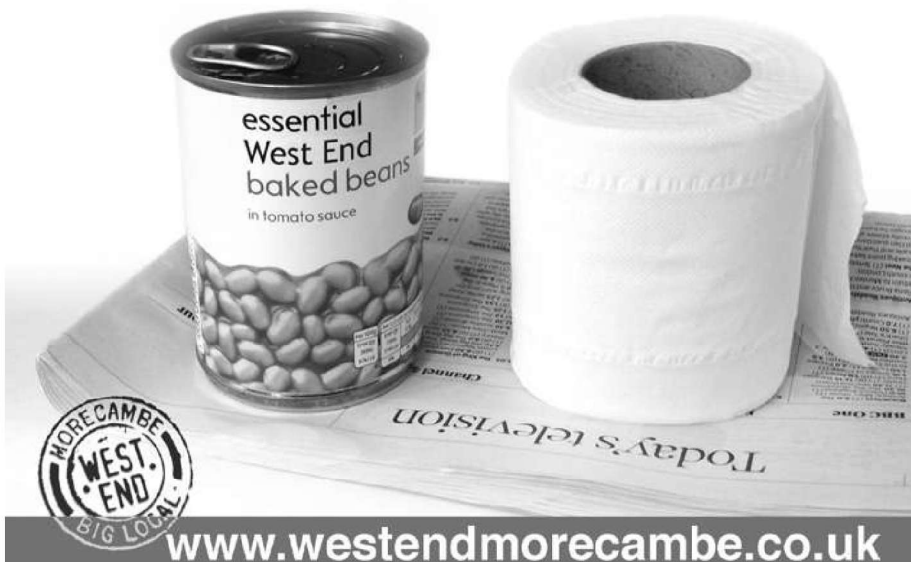
You can find out about this fund via LDCVS at lancastercvs.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-information-and-advice/ where there is also information about other funding, charities aid, and UK wide funders.

Lancaster City Council

Lancaster City Council is looking at a range of issues including vital services, support for the vulnerable and help for local business. Residents can continue to use **customerservices@lancaster.gov.uk** or telephone **01524 582000**.

Businesses needing help can use **econdev@lancaster.gov.uk** or call **01524 582000**.

The City Council's website lancaster.gov.uk has more information on other issues relating to the current crisis.



www.westendmorecambe.co.uk

Community Group Support



The country is dealing with Coronavirus (also known as Covid-19), but whilst there's a great deal of general information available, there's also advice tailored to the needs of small, local third sector organisations. Lancaster District

Community & Voluntary Solutions (LDCVS) support and represent the voluntary sector. Their webpage aims to direct you to the latest information that is available, and to fill some of the gaps. This information is updated regularly. lancastercvs.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-information-and-advice/

The information on their website includes great links as well as

material on issues from health care to concern about vulnerable people to business support. There are also links on things to fill the time such as free colouring books, online games, online music classes, free e-books and apps to help children and young people during the crisis. There are also links on things to fill the time such as free colouring books, online games, online music classes, free e-books and apps to help children and young people during the crisis.

MORE FROM BAY MEDICAL GROUP

SURGERY INFORMATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

Thank you to all our patients for your support and understanding regarding the changes to our services over the past few weeks. We are aware that this is a difficult time for all of us and we really appreciate the very positive comments and support we have been receiving.

We would like to remind everyone to follow government guidance on keeping safe and to not visit any BMG site unless it is urgently necessary. We are able to deal with the majority of queries over the phone so please do not come in unless you have been asked to do so.

To help us provide services which protect our patients and staff our sites are currently working as follows...

- Urgent respiratory and or fever patients will be managed at our Morecambe Health Centre site and non-respiratory urgent care will continue at West End.
 - After speaking with a clinician on the phone or via video link patients will be directed to one of these two sites if they need to be seen.
- ① York Bridge Patients will be directed to this site for some essential appointments if they do not have symptoms of a cough and/or fever. All patients will be screened before attending.
 - ② Heysham Primary Care Centre will continue to provide a service for urgent blood tests and baby/child immunisations. Patients will be screened before attending.

Our Westgate site will remain temporarily closed to patients although prescriptions can be dropped off at



the site through the letter box. We would advise if you have enquiries that you contact us over the phone and do not come into any site unless you have been advised to do so.

Please note that during this period our sites will close at 6.30pm every day of the week. West End, Morecambe Health Centre and Heysham Health Centre will continue to open at 7.30am on certain days of the week. Just to remind everyone that to ensure the spread of coronavirus is minimised the government guidance is to stay at home. Thank you for your continued support.

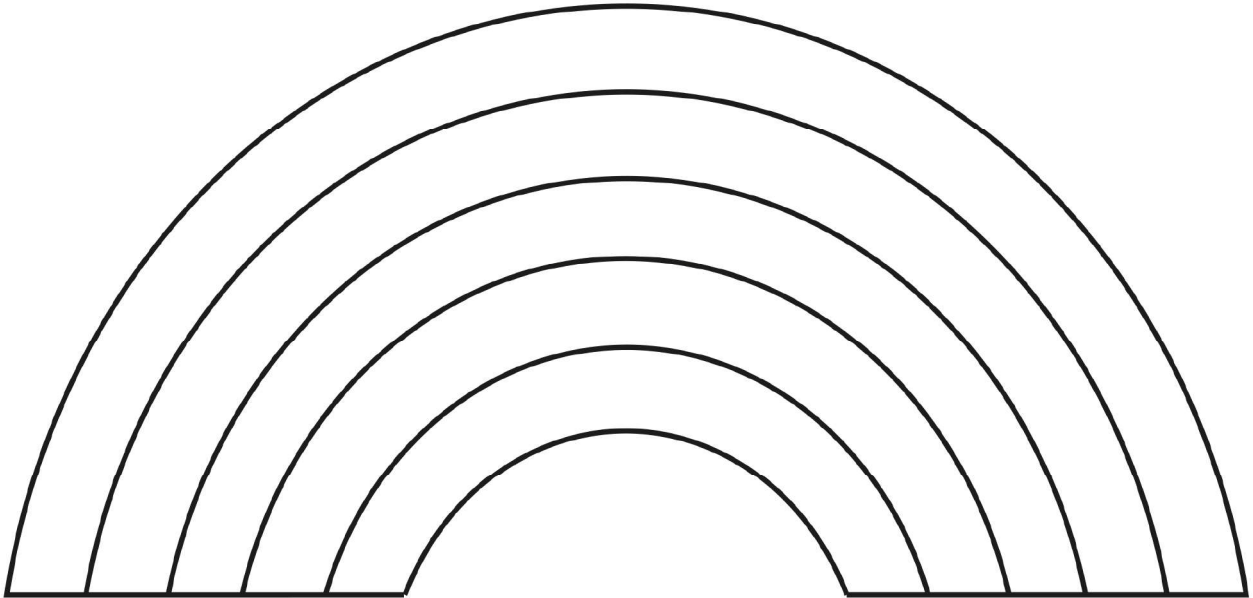
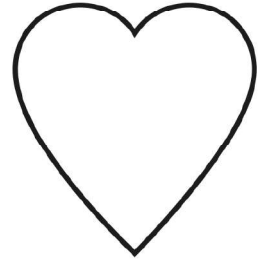


MORE CONTACTS AND LINKS ON OUR COVID-19 WEB PAGE

www.westendmorecambe.co.uk



WEST END



Cut out and colour in 



BACK PAGE

WEM: The Basics

- West End Morecambe Big Local (WEM) is a resident-led community partnership that works toward making the West End a better place to live. We are one of 150 similar partnerships across the country who make up a programme called Big Local, run by the Local Trust with lottery funding.
- WEM was awarded one million pounds over ten years. That is around one hundred thousand pounds per year although the actual spend is flexible. This is not grant cash to fund anything and everything. Instead WEM is charged with spending that support through an Action Plan.

Our current plan is for three years and was agreed by Big Local in the summer of 2018.

- The ethos of WEM is to try and work collectively and to build positive relationships with other individuals, local groups and organisations like the Council. It does not get involved in political or religious activities.
- WEM is not a typical community group. We are not a charity nor do we have a bank account. Big Local holds the money for us and we draw on the support of a local trusted organisation (in our case Lancaster CVS) who do our finances.
- Now in our fifth year WEM has had its ups and downs. It's succeeding with some things and made mistakes elsewhere but this is in line with the Big Local approach which supports learning as we go along. In doing this the partnership has gone through

changes and in the last year we have moved to commissioning activity and away from the idea of just giving grants. To underline that difference we recently changed our name from West End Million to West End Morecambe, Big Local. Luckily that still gives us the 'WEM' initials.



West End Morecambe, Big Local, has a focus in this area although activity may ripple further out.

www.westendmorecambe.co.uk

This newsletter is an occasional publication delivered by hand door-to-door in the West End. We try to ensure at least one copy reaches every house but if you don't receive it you can download a copy via our website. Information is correct at time of going to press. We endeavour to ensure that all information is accurate. Newsletter: May 2020.

If you are a West End resident, voluntary group or organisation, public agency or local business and want to find out more, go to our website and see what's new. To keep up to date join our online mailing list.