

We are still working on food security for residents in Dorset. We wondered if you could promote the message below if it is appropriate? I've added the picture on its own if you want to craft your own words to express this better 😊



Can you help?

Many people in our community cannot get out to shop as they are elderly, isolating or in the vulnerable shielded category.

The supermarkets are struggling to meet the capacity for online deliveries. So if you happen to have a delivery slot, but feel you could release it and go to the shop instead that would really help some people at the moment. But if it helps you please do not feel bad ♡. Thank you ♡

Whilst I am writing I thought I'd pass on the information we have at present if it helps support your parishioners.



Directory available co-ordinated by Help and Kindness

Please make the public aware of a great website collating all help and support available including shops who will take payment over the phone and do deliveries. If you put COVID 19 and your postcode in the search terms you get all relevant local info and phone numbers.

Please register your foodbank with Help and Kindness and link with other support in your area so that we offer a co-ordinated approach.

Help and Kindness <https://www.helpandkindness.co.uk/>



Work with other Foodbanks:

All food banks are up and running and being supported by the Council, attached is the current list and also found on the Council Website under Foodbanks (about half way down the page):

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/community-response/i-need-help-or-i-know-someone-who-needs-help-coronavirus-information.aspx>

Please direct people to their local area. This helps use resources wisely and also cuts down on unnecessary travel.



There is help available for people who are registered as Shielded.

If someone is "Shielded" that means they have a medical condition and have had a letter from the NHS saying they need to take special care. The letter will have let them know that if they cannot afford food at this time they can access a free weekly government food parcel. They can register with the national website or telephone number for this as described in the letter. If no parcel has arrived it please signpost them to this helpline number as Dorset Council have supplies they can get out to them.

There is help for anyone who cannot access food, medicine or other essentials.

For anyone who needs help whatever their situation and it unsure what to do they can phone the local Dorset Council number and get the support they need. These contact details are for anyone who needs help and who has no family, friends or community support.

01305 221000 8am to 8pm daily including weekends.

communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

It will be answered by Dorset Council Customer Services. They will refer people elsewhere as required. But will also answer people's queries and put in place support such as arranging food deliveries, medicine, etc. There will be people who can afford food but cannot access it due to self-isolation, they can phone this number and will be linked up with registered volunteers who can shop for them.