

Request to Haslemere Town Council concerning

Rotary's Waverley Covid Support Fund

The Rotary Clubs of Godalming are working to establish a fund to provide support to those in need in the aftermath of the Covid crisis, in the area covered by Waverley Borough Council. There is anticipated to be a significant increase over the next few months in the number of people in our Borough suffering from food poverty or other financial distress as a result of unemployment or under employment caused by the impact of the COVID pandemic on businesses.

The aim of the fund is to:

- Raise money from those in the community who are willing and able to support others at this time of need.
- Provide support to all residents, but particularly in those geographical areas not covered by other funds in the Waverley area and to supplement them where required.
- Provide advice to claimants. This will be delivered by Citizens Advice Waverley who will help ensure that money is given to those most in need, and individuals make best use of funding provided.

The Initial Partners include the two Rotary Clubs of Godalming. We expect the other Rotary Clubs in the Borough also to support this effort. We will be in contact with the Funds already established in Farnham and Cranleigh so that we co-ordinate our activities and do not accept multiple applications from one individual. We are also starting to apply for grants from other sources and to coordinate action with other local funds in the Borough.

Donations and claims

Personal and organisational donations will be held in the Godalming Woolsack Charity Trust Fund (Charity number 1079545). The availability of the Fund to receive both donations and requests will be publicised widely through print and online media and potential applicants will be directed to a dedicated website, now under preparation at www.rotaryc19fund.org for an application form. We will also have a fundraising page on Just Giving.

Governance / Organisation

The establishment of the Waverley Covid Support fund has been endorsed by Waverley Borough Council, which sent a message to this effect on June 24 to all Town and Parish Councillors.

The Trustees of the Rotary Club of Godalming Woolsack Charity Trust Fund will have responsibility for Rotary's Waverley Covid Fund but may delegate responsibility to a committee (including at least one Rotarian and one representative of Citizens Advice Waverley) for assessment of applications and decisions regarding provision of financial support.

Our Request

We are seeking financial support for this Fund from those Towns (Haslemere, Godalming) and Parish councils in Waverley that are not already supporting such a fund. We understand that Farnham Town Council has donated £5,000 to their Support Fund in Farnham.