

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) update from Cllr Gareth Roberts 17 March 2020**

**Cllr Gareth Roberts:** As you'll be aware, the Government is stepping up its response to the coronavirus, COVID-19, situation and as a council, we are doing likewise. We have been made aware of several cases of coronavirus within the borough. It is important that if you are experiencing any symptoms or if you have been identified as having coronavirus that you follow the government guidelines as we outlined in yesterday's video.

What has been encouraging and very heart-warming is the level of support which residents have been offering to give to their neighbours. We've been inundated with requests of how people can help and it shows what a great community spirit we have here in Richmond. However, it is important that we make sure that the right help gets to the right people in the right way at the right time. We've been working very closely with the RCVS which is the centre for the voluntary sector here in Richmond, to find out how we can help coordinate those offers of help.

After this video, there will be a webpage put up on the screen so that you can follow that, click on the link and register to help with them. And that will be help in lots of ways such as walking a dog, doing shopping and taking people for a lift to their doctor's surgery if they require it, but it's important that we make sure that the help is funnelled correctly. Unfortunately, at times of national emergency, we find that there are all too often people who are prepared to take advantage of those who are in need. We saw it after Grenfell, and unfortunately up and down the country we're seeing it now. So, do register. Do channel your energies in the correct way. Make sure that you are able to help through the established charities.

Of course, as a council we will be making changes to the way in which we do business and we will be announcing those changes in the next couple of days. There will be important shifts in how we do things so please keep watching the Council's website, keep watching the updates on social media and keep yourselves informed. As always, I hope you are well. If not, take the appropriate steps and we will get through this together. Thank you.