

Extraordinary Council Meeting – 26 May 2020

Agenda Item CC2107/20

Funding for Face Coverings Project

The Council can operate this project as it has adopted the General Power of Competence.

Introduction

Cllrs Mitchell, Benner and Taylor have been researching possible designs and people to make face coverings that can be used by local residents. After running a pilot run of 50 coverings, we now wish to proceed to taking the project forward by producing up to 1,000 face coverings at a cost of £2,300.

Discussion Narrative

Aim. To ensure that the residents of Croxley Green have access to the availability of face coverings they may have to or wish to wear.

Red Lines

- Not to interfere with any supplies to front line staff
- This is for Croxley Green residents or people who work in Croxley green
- Possible multi approach
- To use local groups or individuals who already have capacity or are making similar goods if possible.

Feasibility

1. The how;
 - a. Jan Blackwell (Jan's Sewing Room) is a professional seamstress. She has made 50 coverings for our review. It was agreed at the COVID working group to proceed with this design.
 - b. Identify any local people who are happy to make them as well,
 - i. Three emails from people, plus a few others
 - ii. Email our own volunteers to see who can help.
 - c. Advise residents how to make their own – suggest that we put the Which article on our website.
 - d. Suggest that we put in plugs for Stylecheat and other local manufacturers
2. The design. Agreed;
 - a. Should be washable, i.e. so they can be reused.
 - b. Suitable for public transport.
 - c. The Jan's Sewing Room design matches the Which report.
 - d. How many sizes? To discuss. Pilot is 3.
 - e. Jan can use CGPC colours. And also a navy blue.

3. Where to source the material.
 - a. Jan can source through her own supplier.
 - b. If required Fashion and fabrics in St Albans can supply what we need.
 - c. Just get people to use old clothes and materials for home made and use which report
4. Costs. Based on Jan's costs it will be just over £2 per covering, but cost of materials have risen, so now up to £2.30. This is considered reasonable to start with.
5. How many do we aim for. The Government now recommend the use of coverings. We have 12,500 people living in Croxley, including children. Many will make their own, some will not wear them. They are now recommended, and if they become mandatory, will people want two each? It was agreed to aim for 1,000, being produced gradually so if demand drops we can slow down or stop. If demand increases, we will try to find other people to help make them.
6. How best to get the main stock made?
 - a. Jan's ability and number she can make, estimated at 100 per week
 - b. Use other people who have volunteered to supplement this.
 - c. Send email to all volunteers
7. How to advertise and distribute. Obviously, the office, Tony Walker (Croxley Hardware) has offered, and I have asked the Anchor, Tap and Bottle. Plus, maybe a mixture of Councillors and some volunteers to be hubs for distribution. The clerk will investigate the best way of recording who wants them in the office.
8. Do we charge. Agreed with the COVID group that the initial number will be given free, with any donation going to the PC charity.

Recommendations:

That:

1. Council agrees to the design as produced in the pilot 50 face coverings
2. A Face Coverings Budget of £2,300 be allocated from the Coronavirus earmarked reserve, to produce up to 1000 face coverings for distribution to residents and those who work in Croxley Green who may need one to travel on public transport.
3. The Clerk uploads the Which report on to the Council website & social media pages along with links to local companies producing face coverings.
4. The Clerk researches methods which would allow the Council to act as a trading entity and reports back to Council at its meeting on July 30.

Cllr Chris Mitchell
Supported by Cllrs Emily Benner and Karen Taylor
May 2020