



ask for: Councillor Steve Jordan
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our ref: SJ/BR
date: 27 April 2020

To Cheltenham's voluntary and community organisations

Dear all

The last month has been an extremely difficult and challenging time for us all, both professionally and personally.

We are both extremely proud of how everyone in voluntary and community organisations in Cheltenham and across Gloucestershire as a whole, have pulled together to do their bit to tackle the spread of Covid-19 and support our communities.

We want to say a specific thank you to you and those working with you for providing vital support to those that need help now more than ever, in what are incredibly challenging circumstances. These are unprecedented times and to be able to rely on you and other similar organisations to bolster the resilience of our services and of our communities as a whole is essential to our ability to tackle and overcome this worldwide emergency.

We know you and your staff and volunteers are working under challenging circumstances. We would urge you all to remain safe. Please don't put yourselves in positions where you or your staff and volunteers don't feel safe.

We also recognise that the current situation could be impacting on your financial position and create extra costs. The borough and county councils have jointly launched Cheltenham Community Resilience Fund to make funding available to support the local voluntary sector. You can find out more information about the fund by contacting Cheltenham Borough Council at communityservices@cheltenham.gov.uk or by following this link: www.cheltenham.gov.uk/communitypride

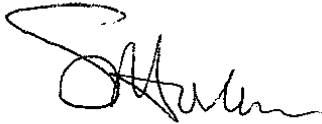
There was also the welcome announcement on 8 April by the government that they were making £750m available to support front line charities, which we understand will be administered by the National Lottery Communities Fund. We would encourage you to explore whether this is a fund you can access.

There is a wealth of information and advice on the county and district councils' websites relating to our community support offer, advice for businesses, scam awareness, a series of FAQs and much more.

We know that we will all face more difficulties and challenges over the coming weeks and months, but if we continue to work together we feel confident we will be able to meet them head on and effectively overcome them.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you think we might be able to help further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jordan', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Cllr Steve Jordan
Leader of Cheltenham Borough Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hawthorne', with a stylized initial 'M'.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne
Leader of Gloucestershire County Council