



New Covid-19 Initiatives

This is your chance to tell us about any new, innovative initiatives that you and members of your Group are doing to help local residents cope with the effects of the current pandemic and lockdown.

Time Spent Standing Around Soon Totted Up in Totton

Cllr Neville Penman, who represents Totton North and Netley Marsh ward on Hampshire County Council, got in touch to let us know about the work he's been doing with the local isolation group, including maximising volunteers' time to ensure it's not wasted on waiting around for things.

Since the pandemic started, I've been working with Totton Isolation Group, and have formed a great team of volunteers. The group includes coordinators who oversee their own patches within the area.

The first big job for the group and volunteers was putting a helpful information sheet with important phone numbers through every door.

Volunteers also work to ensure that there is someone to check in with elderly residents, those living alone, and single-parent families in every area.

Often, we are able to help source many of the things they may need through the relationships we've built up with local supermarkets and suppliers during the pandemic.

One of the important

things that we've worked on is speeding up the prescription collection part of the group's work.

Before, we would have volunteers standing in line for long periods to collect a different resident's prescription.

However, having looked at the time taken – and lost – I spoke with the town's pharmacies to organise a system in which all the available

prescriptions are picked up at once, then sorted out by area and given to the relevant volunteers to deliver.

All volunteers who collect the prescriptions must show their ID, too.

This change in the system has ensured that volunteers' time isn't being wasted and that they feel it is being put to the best use helping residents.