Please see my latest briefing below:

**Temporary modular style homes for those in need of emergency accommodation**

Providing safe homes for those in emergency need during these unprecedented times is a priority for the Council.

As part of the response to the COVID–19 pandemic, we’re planning to provide temporary self-contained homes on Council land in Truro and Penzance.  The modular style homes, similar to those that have been successfully used in other areas for some time to provide temporary emergency accommodation, will be sited on Council owned land.

The plan is to put in place up to ten self-contained units plus one other for the manager of the temporary development so that support is readily available for residents.

Each new home will be provided with all the utilities needed including electricity, so that those in need of temporary accommodation can move in quickly and be able to look after themselves during this time of social distancing and self-isolation.

The homes will be allocated to those in need of emergency self-contained temporary housing, including for example people who have previously been living in bed and breakfast accommodation with shared facilities.  The project may also provide emergency accommodation for anyone that’s made homeless during the period of the pandemic.

**Extra funding for volunteers supporting our communities during Coronavirus crisis**

Some volunteer groups receiving funding through our Community Chest Crisis Scheme can now receive an additional cash boost as Coastline Housing has joined forces with us to support community action during the pandemic.

Our Community Chest Crisis Scheme gives grants of up to £1,000 to smaller voluntary groups which are not yet formally constituted to help them provide immediate COVID-19 support to residents in need.

The programme operates across our 19 Community Network areas, and groups can apply for grants from individual Cornwall councillors.

Now Coastline Housing is match funding our Community Chest scheme in the three, main community network areas in which it operates: Camborne, Pool, Illogan and Redruth; Helston and South Kerrier; and parts of Falmouth and Penryn.

It means community groups in those areas bidding successfully for Community Chest funding would see their cash injection go up by half thanks to the housing association’s important contribution.

We would like to see more Community Chest-supported schemes running in these areas and are encouraging voluntary groups to come forward and apply for the cash boost to make a lasting impact in their communities.

We thank Coastline Housing for their generous offer in helping support community action during this pandemic.

**Backing for the RNLI’s ‘stay out of the water’ advice**

In normal circumstances the coming bank holiday weekend would be one of Cornwall’s busiest for watersports of all kinds.

But in response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and the pressure on the emergency services, Cornwall Council is endorsing the RNLI’s message:

‘The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is advising the public that they should not take part in any water based activity on or in the sea. This is to reduce the risk to the lifesaving charity’s volunteer crews and other emergency services being exposed to COVID-19, and the pressure on their time.’

RNLI Lifeguard patrols did not take up their usual posts along our coast at the end of March due to the COVID-19 restrictions, and at this stage here is no predicting when they may be able to return.

For the time being their familiar flags marking safe bathing areas, unsafe conditions, and their reassuring Lifeguards in vehicles and lookouts, are missing from the Cornish seascape and our coastal tourist attractions.

Therefore, while we are under lockdown, we would urge residents not to take any risks, and to stay out of the water.

**Road Safety**

During the past few weeks, there have been a number of reports of a large increase in the number of drivers being caught speeding as they travel on our quieter than normal roads.

Cornwall Council is urging residents to drive with their normal care an attention during lockdown; not only for their own safety, but also to avoid heaping extra pressure on our already stretched emergency services, who would be called on to deal with the consequences of any accidents.

**Important links**

All coronavirus related enquiries or issues to our dedicated email address covid19@cornwall.gov.uk.  This email address is monitored seven days-a-week.

Anyone who needs help can request a volunteer by ringing 01872 266988 or emailing requestforhelp@volunteercornwall.org.uk.

Find out more about the support available for businesses here: [Business Rate Support](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/business/business-rates/business-rates-and-coronavirus/) [Council Tax Support](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health-cornwall/information-about-coronavirus-covid-19/) and [Growth Hub](https://www.ciosgrowthhub.com/)

Look after yourselves,

Best wishes

Julian

**Julian German**

Hembrenkyas an Konsel

Konseler Kernow rag Pastel-vro An Ros

Leader of the Council

Cornwall Councillor for the Roseland Division