

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update from Cllr Gareth Roberts 1 April 2020

Cllr Gareth Roberts: Hello. Like you, I am so appreciative of the hard work being done by all those people working in our supermarkets and convenience stores to ensure that people in the borough are fed and looked after during this difficult time. Their work is absolutely priceless. However, we are aware that some supermarkets, the management themselves at supermarkets are not doing their bit to help. We have approached the supermarkets in the borough to ask them if the council can buy food in bulk so that we can then hand that food over to the Community Hub food resource which is being run by Age UK Richmond in the borough. Unfortunately, at the moment they have refused. We would like to be able to purchase food from the supermarket so that we can make sure that the most vulnerable in our society are fed. We have also asked that they recognise and respect the volunteers who come in on behalf of the elderly people and the isolated within the borough using their Richmond ID cards to allow them to shop during the so-called 'Silver Hour'. This is vital, so today I have written to all of the supermarkets asking them these two basic things. One, will they allow us to buy in bulk and two, will they allow volunteers to go in during the restricted times to buy on behalf of the isolated and the vulnerable. As soon as we get the information back from them, I will let you know the results. Thank you.