

# Remember Covid 19

Since the introduction of the Covid vaccination programme for our population we have seen a dramatic reduction in the number of Hospital cases and deaths. There is no doubt that this pandemic, like world wars and other occasions of major social upheaval, will go down in our history books.

I feel, therefore it should be remembered within our community, not by constructing a cross, but by having 19 landmarks around our parish, each one being identified and marked. It could be a bench seat in a quiet area, or at a viewpoint, a raised bed of flowers, an area of attractive shrubs against a bank, the decorated telephone kiosks, a sculpture, etc., totaling 19. Each location could be identified with a numbered plaque and leaflets could be designed, printed, and left at local shops to enable people to visit them. Perhaps it would be a good idea to have the locations situated so that they form a circular route of a few miles around the Parish. More importantly the community could walk the route annually on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March – the anniversary of the Country's 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown in 2020.

I would like to see this idea becoming a project involving the whole of our community. Clearly there will be the need to have a nucleus of people willing to steer it and oversee the locations, say 4 – 6 people. Initially the idea could be floated within the community via the village Facebook and the Parish Magazine asking for volunteers to stand on the committee, to offer financial support, materials, physical help etc., and offering ideas of locations and features.

I feel it would be beneficial to obtain the views from all the village groups including youth groups, schools, W.I., various clubs to name a few.

I would also like to suggest that at a prominent location in the village a plaque could be placed to remember the pandemic. It could be inscribed with the names of the villagers who have died, also the members of the community who have gone above and beyond their work to help others survive through the troubled months.

It would be wrong to suggest that a project of this size and importance would not have any financial implications, but by bringing it to the community we may receive donations to support the locations and the purchase of plaques.

To finalise, I would like to encourage the community to think positively regarding this idea. I feel the pandemic is not an occasion which should be forgotten in a few years. We should try to keep the community spirit which has shown through recently because of the pandemic and create the 19 lasting creations for everyone to visit and enjoy.

Stewart Sidebottom

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