



## Update to Volunteers 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

It is wonderful to see a number of our volunteers being able to return and to those that are still not yet able to return, we miss you and look forward to seeing you on patrol again when the time is right.

We are currently working to the date of Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as being the date we see the pubs reopen. We have been liaising with Police Licensing and they are as much in the dark about the dates and opening hours as we are. However, in readiness for this, and the inevitable likelihood of having to get 'hands-on', we have revamped our Risk Assessment and included full PPE which all of the teams will carry (detailed information to follow separately).



Smurf or Avatar - you decide...

We have seen Safeguarding and Homeless Concern referrals at a high level during the Covid period. We thank God the teams have been out on the streets and able to glean valuable information on behalf of the authorities in order they can be better informed to offer appropriate care to people.

The situation concerning our homeless friends continues to be complex. The Local Authority had initially been housing over 50 in emergency accommodation albeit we have seen a small group that have remained on the streets throughout this crisis. The number in emergency accommodation has

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now greatly reduced and we are seeing a marked increase in those rough sleeping. This crisis has been ghastly for those actually on the streets. The Daycentre closed weeks ago along with all the public toilets and consequently, those on the streets have not had access to showers, washing and basic sanitation... I can't imagine it! We look forward to the Daycentre reopening, hopefully in early July. Please pray for this difficult situation.

Since lockdown we have provided 91 patrols (57 in the city centre and 34 in Millbrook and Shirley High Street). This is an amazing achievement and has involved investing 468 hours of volunteering during a very difficult period. In total the ministry has now exceeded 58,000 hours of volunteering since it started back in 2009. I am ever humbled by the commitment of our volunteers.

A couple of nice photos from last Saturday's evenings patrol...

