**Letter to hall managers Update 3 08/04/2020.**

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| **Please find attached a letter from the Grand Superintendent of Works, on behalf of the Masonic Halls Advisory Group, established under UGLE.** **The note is encouraging our Halls, where possible to support the NHS during the current pandemic and was issued via bUGLE last Friday. It might well be that some of you are already doing this and if so, it would be good to know, so that we can promote it as an example of good practice and our support in the community, in dealing with Coronavirus.****The Masonic Halls Advisory Group have set up local contacts with CBRE who are co-ordinating this action on their behalf and their contact details are in the note attached. We would ask that if you contact them, please let us know and more importantly if you engage in this action, either through CBRE or independently, we would certainly like to be able to promote this as part of our response in West Lancashire. If you did proceed down the car park route, or provision of space for a testing station, then you will need to be clear on who the permitted users are and the terms under which they are working e.g.**“***This car park is available free of charge to NHS workers and emergency services workers travelling to and from work, subject to the terms and conditions set out below”.  Those terms and conditions should be determined by the Hall management and following advice from your insurers and likely cover a simple statement relating to use of the car park at own risk, no acceptance of liabilities for damage howsoever caused etc.*** **These terms should be included in any communication or advertising to local key workers about the availability of the parking.** **This note is one of a number sent recently to those who manage our halls and copies of them are now available on the new Provincial website,** [https://www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk](https://btinternet.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=da57d1056550de5457c09735f&id=5f1844032d&e=f15e2ca0e0) **click on “Members” and scroll down to “Halls Support Group”****We look forward to hearing from you on progress on the attached and wish you well in these trying times.****Kind Regards****Sincerely and fraternally****Chris Maloney****Barry Jameson****Halls Support Group** **A note from the Masonic Halls Advisory Group**As the Coronavirus emergency deepens and voluntary support becomes ever more important, reports are being received of Masonic Halls providing access to their car parking facilities for local NHS staff and key workers.Needs will vary from place to place, but as our Masonic buildings close and fall silent during this time of national emergency we would encourage everyone to consider if there is a local need which our buildings can meetAn early example to reach us came from Upminster where the local Masonic Centre offered free secure parking for NHS staff, as well as emergency and key workers needing to use local public transport to travel to work. A similar facility is being provided in Croydon.Elsewhere further areas of support have been identified where local community support groups have been provided with drop off and pick up points for food drives, and similar programmes We are also investigating whether some of our buildings with large car parks might be suitable to help Boots the Chemists’ initiative to set up local drive-thru coronavirus test centres for NHS staff.If they have not already done so we would encourage everyone responsible for Masonic Centres and Halls to consider if community use of their buildings can contribute to meeting local needs over the coming weeks and months.An immediate opportunity has been identified where, on behalf of the NHS, Messrs CBRE are seeking supplementary parking space. Generally, the requirements are• Be within a 15 minute walk of a Hospital• 10 spaces or greater.• Be in a safe location and well lit.The list of CBRE Regional Directors may be found below and to whom all enquiries and offers of assistance are to be made.Those able to help will need to keep in mind a few practical matters including the importance of setting out, preferably in writing, what facility is being provided and to whom and for what period of time, how to make sure that those using what is being offered are genuinely working within the organisations being supported, clear disclaimers in relation to individual and third party liability, and how security is to be maintained. Last but not least insurers should be notified about what is happening.The Masonic Halls Advisory Group would welcome receiving details of any local initiatives so that we can share ideas throughout the Masonic Halls Community.This note is being circulated through bUGLE to Provincial Grand Masters only rather than generally as it contains electronic contact details for the Regional Directors responsible within CBRE as the agents appointed to coordinate the property requirements of the NHS.Please note that we have also copied this note directly to those individuals for whom we have contact details as the nominated Provincial Halls Lead in 22 of our Provinces. If you have yet to advise us of the name and contact details for your Province could you please get in touch with us via bUGLE as soon as possible please. We are anxious that Freemasonry should be responding across the whole country to the present Public Health EmergencyJohn PagellaPeter Vosser03-Apr-2020   |

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