

Loughborough Mandhata Samaj & Covid

Loughborough, like every town, shutdown completely by the end of March and left our community astounded with these new rules, procedures and guidelines.

We had to focus instantly on the safety of our football and netball players and supporters who were busy preparing for the AMSUK tournament in April. With immediate effect, like every town we shut down all exercise and sports sessions and proceeded to cancel all other events in our calendar. We distributed a letter to all our Samaj members outlining the position our Samaj was dealing with situation, contact numbers to arrange support with shopping or picking up prescriptions or help with anything. The letter included a summary of what would have been our AGM and the immediate effect on the committee without the actual voting process and the decision regarding the collection of membership fees, usually organised within the AGM.

- ❖ AGM letter emphasizing the importance of the current situation around the Pandemic; Election; Membership fees (no collection this year to avoid any contact, visits and anxiety); Accounts made available on request; Cancellation of all Sports practices and sessions until further notice and Navratri, still to be announced subject to the situation nearer that time, strictly within the Government guidelines.
- ❖ We also sent out a letter from the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, detailing the Government and NHS guidelines on Social distancing, staying in, and importantly staying safe. We managed to obtain a copy in Gujarati to distribute.
- ❖ Both letters were printed in English and Gujarati and mailed to each and every member to keep everyone within the social distancing guidelines and avoid any contact.

We allocated a few of our committee to keep in regular contact with some senior members of our Samaj who we felt were most vulnerable to isolation and without immediate family close by. We received calls from people in our Samaj to offer their help to anyone needing assistance. Mostly, we found friends and neighbours were helping out and appreciated the call from us to facilitate and support them at such a challenging time. We also found a number of people had gone home to spend their isolation with their families in other towns. With our younger children off from school, we used social media and WhatsApp groups to make sure everyone was keeping well, healthy and safe.