



**Christmas Message to all Member Councils 2020/21
from the Chairman of the
Cheshire Association of Local Council's**



Dear Members

This year has been a trying time for all of us, as Local Councillors and as individuals we have had to cope with so many new things including new ways of communicating with each and not being able to meet and discuss matters face to face.

Site meetings have been via one of the internet platforms or stand out in the open and shout at each other unless you or they were shielding.

All councils have been or are helping their communities in different ways by providing or helping deliver services to those who cannot or could not go out. Village and community halls have been and are suffering from the lack of foot fall this year which is putting strain on their funds and a strain on the health of the community as a whole, with the community not being able to get out, one could say you miss it when you cannot use it.

Sports facilities in our local areas have not been able to operate as they would if we had been in different times. But one can see that what each local council has been able to do has shone a light in these dark times, and I am pleased to launch in this bulletin three short films created earlier this year by ChALC that show how you can rise to the challenges.

Let us look on the brighter side, at the CHALC AGM the comments from the floor on the virtual training courses set up by the county office were that they were appreciated and very helpful and it gave the opportunity of where ever you were in the County, you could attend and take part in one of the courses.

I would like to thank all those who joined the AGM Zoom meeting and contributed to the discussions, whether this may be the way in the future for the AGM or a mixture of both to allow more to participate, we will have to see.

We have a new year soon before us with a possible way out of the tunnel, but once we are out of the tunnel all local councils have a great task before us to rebuild our communities. We are strong and resilient enough to do that so let us look forward and plan for a new and better future community together.

All the best for the new year from the ChALC Board and Staff.

P W Jackson, Chairman

CHRISTMAS NEWS Roundup



Week Ending 18.12.20

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ChALC Focus

Lights, Camera, Action! Cheshire councils meeting the challenge of Covid-19

Earlier this year ChALC commissioned 3 short films to showcase some of the work that local councils had carried out to support the vulnerable within their communities during the initial lockdown. Supported by a grant from the Cheshire East Covid-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund, we are delighted to launch their inspiring stories in our Christmas Bulletin and hope that you enjoy them as much as we did to make them! We would also like to thank all the people who helped and who took part in the filming, they were all wonderful. Please click on the links below to view each film.

Marton & Gawsworth: <https://vimeo.com/479338430/609a481be4>

Holmes Chapel: <https://vimeo.com/479340820/65be00472f>

Guilden Sutton: <https://vimeo.com/479342499/2c8fee7c61>

NALC Focus

NALC announces online Lobby Day for 2nd February 2021

Lobby Day, which next year will be conducted online, gives county association representatives the chance to meet with MPs and peers, promoting campaigning priorities for local (parish and town) councils. See [here](#) for information, resources and how to get involved.

NALC Funding Bulletin December 2020

PDF attached outlining funding sources

CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER Focus

Town and Parish Council CONNECTIONS – Waste Consultation 25th January 4pm- 5pm

Join officers from Cheshire West and Chester Council's Environmental Commissioning team for an online update to learn more about our future waste strategy proposals and public consultation. **A flyer is attached to this bulletin with more information and for sharing.** Email Nikki Hewitt at ChALC (nikkihewitt@chalc.org.uk) to register your interest in attending this online meeting by **Thursday 21 January 2021.**

17 Member Briefings

Please click on the links to view briefings

[1645 - Cheshire COVID-19 Vaccination Programme](#)

[1646 - Trees for Climate programme](#)

[1647 - Corporate Christmas card 2020](#)

[1648 - Northwich flooding - Section 19 Interim Report](#)

[1649 - 2021 Census preparations including \(1649\) CHE1 Councillor Handbook with contacts.pdf](#)

[1650 - Electric scooter rental trial to be launched in Chester](#)

[1651 - Changes to services at Chester Crematorium](#)

[1652 - Winter Grant Scheme payments](#)

[1653 - Council plans for supporting rough sleepers this winter](#)

[1654 - High street challenges – announcements relating to Arcadia Group and Debenhams](#)

[1655 - Plans in place for people to access food over the festive period plus supporting document \(1655\) Food support referral pathways.pdf](#)

[1656 - GP practices begin roll-out of COVID-19 vaccine in Cheshire West and Chester](#)

[1657 - The impact of COVID-19 on people with care and support needs, their families, carers and communities](#)

[1658 - Targeted Asymptomatic Serial Testing \(TAST\) launch](#)

[1659 - Covid testing in care homes in Cheshire West and Chester](#)

[1660 - High Speed 2 \(HS2\) Consultation – Council response plus additional document \(1660\) HS2 Design Refinement Consultation CWC Submission Dec 2020.pdf](#)

[1661 - Cheshire West and Chester to remain in Tier 2](#)

Live Well
Cheshire West

Live Well Cheshire West

Live Well is packed with information on local services to help people stay well, care for loved ones and cope with Covid-19, and during the festive season the Live Well Team have pulled together a Key contacts for help and support over Christmas and New Year section which can be found [HERE](#). The section includes a multitude of emergency contact details including food support, mental health and social care and Safeguarding services to name a few.

Ready, steady, census

Households across Cheshire will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. Take a look at the Census 2021 leaflet attached to this bulletin. It explains why the census is important to everyone and how you can help spread the word in your council and community. For more information you can also contact the Office for National Statistics local Engagement Manager, Graham Povey by email at graham.povey09@field.census.gov.uk

CHESHIRE EAST Focus

Citizens Advice Cheshire East Festive Season Information

An info sheet with useful contact numbers is attached to this bulletin

Information about food and energy vouchers

Cheshire East Council with the help of partners are distributing vouchers during the winter months to the most vulnerable children and families to pay for essentials such as food and energy. For further information please see our website <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/wintergrantinquiry> For emergency assistance Cheshire East has a host of food banks that operate across the borough which can be found by visiting www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell and searching for 'food banks'.

JOB VACANCIES

*****NEW*** Prestbury Parish Council**
RFO(Responsible Financial Officer)/Assistant Clerk
Approximately 30 hours per month
Closing Date: 4th January 2021

*****NEW*** Church Lawton Parish Council**
Assistant Clerk
20 hours per month
Closing Date: 8th January 2021

Kingsmead Parish Council
Part-time Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Initially for 20 hours per week
Closing Date: 15th January 2021

Full details about the above vacancies are available [here](#) on the ChALC website

AND FINALLY...

How are the ChALC Staff spending Christmas?



Jackie has a plan for Christmas...
"Cook; eat; drink and watch too much telly!"

New Year's Resolution: Stop watching depressing briefings on the BBC!

Nikki says, "Over Christmas I will be busy as per usual, I will be making the family happy, eating, drinking and getting in plenty of walks.

New year I hope to be healthy, be even happier and to keep up with the homework which comes home from School every week!"



Sharon recently moved house so is looking forward to a quiet Christmas with husband in their new home, cooking treats on an unfamiliar stove and arguing with him about where the pictures should be hung.

New Years Resolution - to let husband hang pictures (randomly and wonkily) where he likes without comment...!

The ChALC Weekly Bulletin resumes on Friday 8th January 2021