

# **ChALC Report: Impact of Covid on Council Business October 2021**

#### **Background**

ChALC has conducted a survey amongst town and parish councils to determine the impact of the pandemic upon their ongoing council business.

A short questionnaire was devised which asked the following questions: -

- Have you seen an increase/decrease in attendance at council meetings (by members or the public)?
- Have you seen an increase/decrease in the number of events you hold or the attendance at them?
- Have you been able to maintain links that you developed with organisations during lockdowns?
- Have you struggled to manage and maintain your assets (e.g. village halls, play areas, allotments) with lockdown?
- How have you managed staff? What has been the main challenges?
- How difficult has it been to comply with Covid restrictions when carrying out day-to-day business?
- Have there been any challenges with accessing or following the various guidance available from Central Government and others?
- Has there been an increase in requests/responsibilities for certain areas (e.g. public rights of way, litter picking etc) outside of previous council business during Covid?
- Is there anything else you would like to share about the impact on your council?

The questionnaire was then circulated to councils with a time limit for responses.

This report presents the statistical outcomes and observations from the questionnaire and suggests some potential actions that could be taken to address some of the key points.

### **Responses Received**

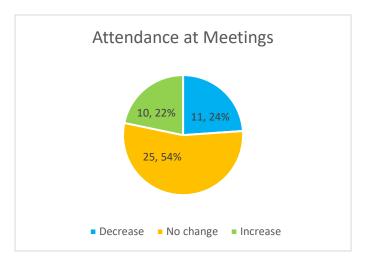
A total of 46 returns were made by the deadline date.

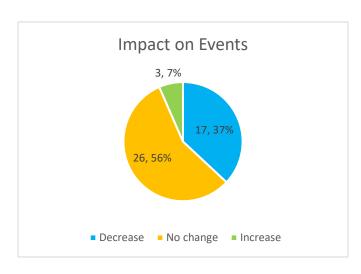
Authority Area	No of Responses*
Cheshire East Council	25
Cheshire West and Chester	16
Warrington	3
Halton	1
Trafford	1

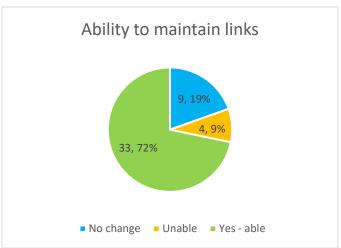
<sup>\*</sup>It should be noted that of these responses, 5 councils reported no impact at all on their business.

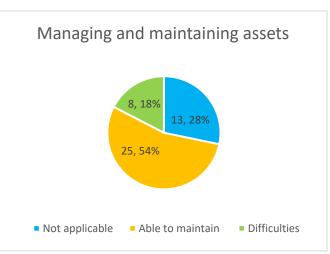
# **Number Crunching**

The following charts show the basic responses to the first four questions, which asked about increases/decreases and the ability to maintain links and assets.









It appears that overall about half of the local councils responding experienced little change in terms of meetings and events. Most were able to maintain links with organisations and those local councils that had assets were able to maintain them, although sometimes at an increased revenue cost to comply with restrictions and regulations.

However, written responses and comments made do provide a more nuanced picture that help to explain the more polarised responses. These are bulleted below.

#### Have you seen an increase/decrease in attendance at council meetings?

- Since Face to Face meetings have re-started, I almost had to cancel one meeting due to not being quorate. Zoom meetings always had around 90% attendance.
- We had improved public attendance (average 12-14) when we held online Council meetings.
   We are now back to normal in-person meetings and attendance has dropped back to 4-5. We have had a request from a member of the public to stream council meetings and we are investigating costs.
- The attendance during the zoom meetings was a lot more people that would normally attend we could also stream live on YouTube which really helped our residents.
- Virtual meetings were not well attended at all in comparison to pre-Covid attendance. Now that
  meetings are being held in person, we are seeing a rise in the number of resident attendees
  again.
- There was an increase at the meetings during lockdown when the council were using Zoom. Since returning to face to face meetings the council have experienced a decline in attendance, although this has picked up in the last month or so.
- During the pandemic when our meetings were on Zoom a number of people who would normally have attended a physical meeting did not attend.
- There has been no material change in attendance by residents, besides a modest increase whilst meetings were held on Zoom.
- Some members of the public continued to attend when our meetings were held on-line. Other members of the parish contacted the clerk by email to request items to be raised at meetings
- We started meetings in person in September, so far there have been no attendances at Council Meetings by members of the public. We had good attendance at our virtual meetings from councillors and members of the public prior to these finishing in May this year.
- We saw an overall decrease in attendance whilst we went online. Now that we are back face to face, we are seeing the same attendance as before.

# Have you seen an increase/decrease in the number of events you hold or the attendance at them?

- Yes a decrease in the number of events. We normally hold up to 4 events a year in the hall but have not held any. 2 outdoor events have been cancelled – 1 was held on the new, local radio station as an alternative.
- Not held Annual Carnival. Restricted Remembrance Event live streamed to residents.
   Restricted Christmas Lights Switch On live streamed to residents
- We have reduced capacity due to Covid, so revenue greatly reduced.
- Village events were ceased for the lockdown period but the Council is now looking to hold events again next year.
- During the "full Lockdown "periods no event could run. When certain restrictions were lifted, we saw an actual increase in the hall use. Because other facilities were not able to get Covid Safe.
- Decrease. We have had to cancel most events and that has had an impact on Council business
  as I think Cllrs now feel demotivated and there is a definite lack of enthusiasm. We have always
  been a council enthused and encouraged by community engagement at our popular events and
  whilst we have done other events like a scarecrow festival, Cllrs have definitely felt less
  engaged.

- Covid had a huge impact on our Civic centre and Institute, both of which are income generating buildings. This is gradually returning. Our outdoor market suffered in the first wave of lockdown but has returned to pre Covid levels.
- The number of face to face events decreased during the main pandemic. We have begun to organise events again, but in a more low-key fashion than previously. We do anticipate that the number of events will return to pre-pandemic levels slowly.
- We didn't hold any events during 2020 and only started again in September with a Fun Run.
   We're hopeful to run all our usual events for the rest of 2021 and into 2022 COVID willing!

# Have you been able to maintain links that you developed with organisations during lockdowns?

- Mostly but often with significant delays and, in a very few cases, no response at all
- Borough Councils have been very unresponsive on occasions and difficult to contact. However
  it's mixed as some Borough Services continue to respond promptly. Other suppliers and
  contractors have been very hard to maintain links with during lockdowns.
- Not as instant. Everything takes longer and people getting back to you takes a lot longer
- Yes and no. Some volunteer led organisations were still operational. Others, such as the library, were closed and staff furloughed. Our relationship with a new radio station that started in the first lockdown has gone from strength to strength.
- Yes, our Outreach Officer was in constant contact with old and new organisation's in readiness of re-opening.
- Yes. A local Whatsapp group was very helpful. The village hall closed down. Our first PC
  meeting after Covid emerged was the catalyst for a cross-village covid support initiative which
  helped a lot of people in need during the crisis. So in some ways our communication increased!
- Yes via social media, email and other technologies such as zoom
- Yes by holding meetings on-line
- Yes and this has improved as a more personal interaction take place due to zoom meetings in comparison to email contact.
- No. Due to the cancellation of so many events, we haven't engaged so much with community
  groups although we have tried. We also regularly met with Developers on our new housing
  estate and whilst that is now picking up, that all got postponed which meant issues were more
  difficult to solve quicker.
- In general, links with organisations were maintained which were difficult during the first lockdown but improved with each lockdown.
- Yes, it has been worth subscribing to Zoom as we have continued with Working Groups, Partnership working with other groups by Zoom. We are continuing to use Zoom as it provides an easy way to meet without taking time out for travel or paying for room hire.

# Have you struggled to manage and maintain your assets (e.g. village halls, play areas, allotments) with lockdown?

- Not really. We have an excellent caretaker who has maintained the venue. We also took the
  opportunity to carry out decoration and maintenance work while the venue was closed to the
  public.
- No daily management Yes getting quotations for work on our assest has been difficult and continues to be a problem as contractors are so busy.

- The Parish Council have struggled to manage and maintain the parish hall during lockdown and have relied on councillors volunteering to carry out additional cleaning etc.
- The costs to our Play Area have escalated beyond all expectations! Our Jubilee Field was used SO much during lockdown but that has had an effect on maintenance costs. Combined with an increase in materials (wood for fences, chippings etc), our maintenance costs are now huge.
- It is harder to obtain quotes, and engage with trade people since COVID started and this doesn't appear to be easing much.
- Fortunately we had a member of staff who continued to attend at our place of work throughout and they volunteered to conduct the weekly H&S checks.
- The responsibility fell to our dedicated caretaker. We are very lucky her dedication to the hall's maintenance has been outstanding.
- No. The Village Hall trustees benefitted from a grant from Cheshire East which helped offset a reduction in annual income.
- No, turnover down and reduced revenue, but managed to keep afloat as our balances were quite healthy.
- No, our assets are outside so it was not a problem to check them or get repairs done.
- One issue was that our insurance company said that after an initial grace period in the early part
  of the pandemic, it could not continue to insure our two buildings unless we turned off
  electricity/gas/water etc. This was not easy to implement as one building provides an electricity
  supply to a 'streetlight' on parish council-owned land and we wanted to keep that light
  illuminated, and secondly cutting off energy supplies meant that we could not keep central
  heating going, which raises problems for older buildings in particular.
- The main difficulty was security from unwanted visitors.

### **Staff Management**

"Managing communication and providing enough support were the main challenges especially when working separately. In addition, it has been a challenge to manage the feelings of isolation, stress and anxiety experienced by staff during the pandemic which were caused by the need to constantly react to an ever-changing landscape"

It seems most councils responding employ a clerk as the only member of staff, and as most normally work from home there have been few operational issues. In some councils the councillors have stepped up to undertake tasks, and there have been reports of some outstanding caretakers. However, there has obviously been impact in terms of working in isolation and the subsequent need to be aware of and deal with any staff welfare issues.

- Just the lack of face to face contact with councillors. This has caused some issues with things like newsletter distribution and signing of documents
- Staff have been managed by social distancing and virtual meetings. The main challenge has been keeping risk assessments up to date with all the changes and communicating these changes
- Clerk and Village gardener (contract) all done via Teams, Email and telephone
- Staff in offices worked alternate days and at home. Office is now Covid Friendly and will remain so. Parish Warden works alone outdoors.
- Challenges arose mainly with trying to juggle home schooling.

- Remotely main challenges are communication and feeling isolated, although home working is better and more productive
- We only have one caretaker the rest of the works are undertaken, when necessary, by council members.
- The only paid member of staff is the Clerk/RFO who normally works from home. Councillors volunteered to do additional cleaning of the parish hall as required.
- We furloughed staff from the income generating areas of the council and considered the possibility of furloughing other staff which did not take place. Luckily MS Teams was already in place on all officer lap tops so we could continue to operate as soon as the first lockdown started. Working from home has had its benefits and challenges. Some officers have said they are more productive at home as there are fewer interruptions. Some prefer being in the office. Those managing staff have had to ensure they are in contact regularly with their staff to motivate, manage and carry out welfare checks.
- The Clerk and Assistant Clerk both work from home now rather than the office. It has become more difficult to delegate work when not sharing an office but we are getting used to a new system to do this.

#### **Compliance with Covid restrictions**

"The guidance received has been very clear via ACRES. Initially it was a lot to get our heads around but everyone was very positive and committed to the outcomes. The constant cleaning is the main burden that was ongoing. But everyone was very mindful of the protection it provided and the privilege for groups to still be able to meet. So everyone really worked extremely hard to maintain the guidelines and cleaning regimes."

For some councils there were no issues at all, and others reported various business challenges. Some took advantage of new ways of working and through using Zoom. Those councils with venues had additional tasks. A key concern noted has been ongoing engagement with suppliers and contacts which has been described as slow or non-existent. Responses below show the differing levels of concern.

- Some inconvenience relating to slow or non-existent responses from third parties. Some difficulty in arranging two signatories on cheques at lockdown
- Councillors have different views but Chair conscious of age vulnerability of council members and ability to meet health and safety aspect of meetings
- Not difficult as Lockdown made meetings easier on zoom
- For our small Parish Council it has been easier for us as we were using video conferencing, which, after initial hesitation, was preferred to face-to-face meetings, particularly in the winter months.
- The obvious challenge was holding remote meetings but we had a dry run with training and Parish Councillors were all able to participate effectively. Day to day business has become more difficult because of unresponsive suppliers and contacts.
- Basic tasks became more complex due to not meeting e.g. wet signatures on documents but there was always a way round the difficulties. It became obvious that the informal catch ups at the start and end of meetings were incredibly useful. These didn't happen on Zoom.
- Pretty easy to be honest, small team and outdoor working for some has helped.

- It was made a lot easier when we were able to carry out business via Zoom. Since then we
  have struggled with the size of the room that meetings take place in to maintain social
  distancing.
- As I work from home that part has been straight forward. Getting cheques signed and papers authorised was a frustration but it was possible by only meeting outside.
   We moved to bank transfer and email authorisation which has been much better.
- Social distancing and cleaning requirements have been fully observed and both councillors and residents have complied.
- Day to day business was mostly conducted by telephone / email / videoconferencing. We subscribed to Zoom to manage our Parish Council meetings and were able to invite members of the public to participate, which some did.
- Face to face meetings required care in distancing people but the church where we meet is of an adequate size.
- First, the period of isolation caused difficulties because of the need to hold meetings on Zoom
  instead of in person. Whilst some councillors adapted easily, others found it much harder to use
  the technology, particularly where visual and aural disabilities became more of an issue.
  Second, the restart of face to face meetings has been difficult because of the need for wider
  separation of individuals (again exacerbating the impact of some disabilities) and the problem of
  open windows creating cold draughts that made the meeting room uncomfortably cold and
  inhospitable.
- Very easy, as all administrative work is done remotely and face-to-face has been managed within the government guidelines
- We have plenty of reminders at the workplace, although it is easy to forget the rules when at work, when most of the time staff are coming from their safe home environment where the rules haven't applied in the same way.
- We had to quickly get up to speed with new technology and ensure all Cllrs could access online meetings etc. That has also brought added costs.
- The main problem was the fact that there was no compatibility between agencies for online meetings. CWaC Members were unable to access our PC meetings. We found that the police could not access any online meeting that they had not originated and the same seemed to apply to CWaC. What is needed is consistency and compatibility, where all agencies use the same online platform and can access each other's meetings. We went 18 months without our PCSO being able to attend online PC meetings.
- Very difficult due to the additional cleaning protocols required when the parish hall was in use i.e. toilet facilities
- Not especially. Meetings have taken place over Zoom. The office has been closed to the public
  and remains so whilst Covid is prevalent. The Civic and Institute are open with risk assessments
  in place, track and trace etc.
- Not difficult. The building was closed for most of 2020 and until September 2021. Most other business has been carried on via email as usual. The Village Hall Management Group have installed hand sanitisers at all entrances to the building, have purchased sneeze screens for use in meetings and a room air purifier to clean the air.
- As all meetings were being held remotely and the venue was closed during the main pandemic
  it was easy to comply with the covid restrictions. We conducted a thorough risk assessment
  before re-opening the venue and installed the necessary hand sanitisers and all other

necessary items. The venue is now open again and we have not encountered any particular issues.

#### Were there any challenges in following guidance?

"The guidance has been lengthy and ambiguous more than difficult to access. This is evident as the rules have been applied differently by different organisations and have resulted on occasions in conflict"

Many responses reported little or no challenges. There were a variety of advice sources quoted (including ChALC) although some had difficulty with finding or accessing advice. Issues with official guidance included understanding the relevant detail, length and ambiguity, and keeping track with updates.



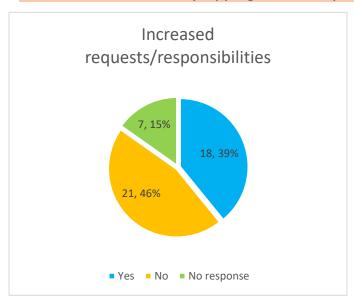
- Not in our case. We have utilised ChALC, CW&C, NALC and others to obtain the necessary information required.
- No but lack of clarity has sometimes been a problem.
- No, we all signed up to the Gov. email system, CEC send regular emails and all officers keep up to date with other news outlets or missives from other organisations.
- ACRE kept the Parish Council fully informed and updated with the latest Government guidelines. Additional consumables were required, including the purchase of additional equipment required to comply with Government guidance i.e. signage, hand sanitiser (incl. dispensers), additional waste bins, paper hand towels (rather than hand driers) etc.
- Yes, finding advice. Having a regular report/resource of advice would have been useful. For example, we invented our COVID-19 rules for our parks. Every local council must have been doing the same. If there had been a resource of rules to post in a park, it would have been helpful and more consistent.
- When playgrounds were allowed to reopen after Lockdown 1, we were sent Government guidance on how to reopen playgrounds safely but some of it just wasn't feasible for a smaller Parish Council. Plus, the way in which different Parish and Town Councils reacted to the guidance was huge (because it wasn't all feasible, such as setting up a queue system for pieces of play equipment etc) so it was really difficult to gain reassurance that you were meeting guidelines. (I think we were but it was still unsettling!)

- We found that when major changes were announced it took about a week for the detailed guidance to be issued and there seemed to be an expectation that the Council knew all the details before the announcements. ACRE were very helpful in regard to the Village Hall
- It initially took a couple of virtual meetings to discuss the various guidelines and how to adopt them. After that it was notices in place signage and clear communication to all involved. Everyone really did work for the greater good.
- No issues except for the guidance itself which has often been confusing.
- Just keeping up to date and in some cases interpreting the information
- Mainly the removal of the provision to meet legally remotely. The removal of these restrictions caused unnecessary anxiety and stress.
- The last minute hope we could continue to officially meet by zoom was a frustration especially
  as it was during the May annual meeting time. Our solution was to delay it until June (not 100%
  in line with standing orders) but I understand other PC's moved the meeting to earlier in May.
- Principle Authority used Covid to reduce work-loads which was frustrating. As always local Council hard to get to do anything. Great support from SLCC/ChALC and other Parish Clerks. HMRC website also helpful with Covid controls.
- The frequency of updates was a challenge but as the Clerk had delegated powers for hall reopening, measures could still be taken between council meetings Virtual meetings became productive once we fathomed the software. Etiquette was interesting at times.
- Trying to keep track of Govt advice when we were getting back to thinking of reopening buildings was a challenge, and that remains now – should we impose specific spacing requirements etc on our users or do we just say it is up to users to be sensible?!
- Yes. Lack of guidance on meetings once the regulations permitting remote meetings expired during lockdown. This was very poor from Central Government and we were left trying to operate in the face of conflicting advice
- It has at times been difficult to understand what on earth is going on and what the rules are for any particular time

## Was there an increase in requests/responsibilities for certain areas?

"This has been our area of impact. More members of the public using rights of way, more litter being left, members of the public not necessarily familiar with the Countryside Code.

More fly tipping whilst recycling centres have been closed"



Whilst under half of the responses reported an increase, there were three distinct areas highlighted, namely a growth in Litter, in Dog Waste and the expanded use of Public Rights of Way leading to more requests to keep them clear. Increasing numbers of road users and inconsiderate parking were also mentioned. Responses also acknowledged an increase in residents volunteering to litter pick within their communities, and some of the more descriptive examples are bulleted below.

- During this time we noticed our playing field (once reopened) being used much more and the
  roads around the village became busier with parked cars from people travelling to our village
  from towns (some tens of miles away!) to use the network of footpaths. This led to some
  inconsiderate and inappropriate parking issues that the Council had to deal with. There was also
  a noticeable increase in litter and of groups of cyclists passing through the village.
- Yes, as we are a rural parish we saw an increase in the number of people enjoying the countryside. This entailed more traffic on the PROWs and at times we needed to ask CWaC to cut them back to allow for social distancing etc. This was in addition to the normal cutting schedule. The amount of dog fouling also increased in the early days of the pandemic as more people were at home but following publicity campaigns and the setting up of a resident advisory panel, things have improved again. We also created the 'Bridging the Gap' initiative which pulled together dozens of volunteers. They carried out numerous activities from delivering food to the elderly and vulnerable to undertaking pastoral work with those who required it. This took quite a lot of organising.
- As we own land next to Pickmere Lake, we have experienced very serious problems of hundreds of visitors to the lake during the first lockdown (when other recreational facilities were closed), and now Pickmere Lake is 'on the map' again we are getting many more visitors to the lake especially in good weather than we did pre-lockdown – although there are no toilet etc facilities there nor much parking provision. We have had continuing liaison with police and district council but the problems remain.
- Volunteer litter pickers increased massively. We have had to install new bins solely for volunteer pickers to use to avoid filling street bins. Footpath clearance requests increased as did complaints about dog poo. One local active covid denier challenged the council about reopening the hall sooner.
- We had local residents litter picking and being co-ordinated by the Parish Warden and used our Apprentice from the Walled Garden to maintain public footpaths and keep clear during the pandemic. Resident requests were minimal. We had a great unity during the time, was lovely to see everyone pulling together.
- There was definitely an increase in public use of footpaths. Again an increase in litter but
  managed locally by enthusiastic caretaker and her family (in their bubble) We did see an
  increase in many people walking around the footpaths in our rural community. There was a
  dramatic increase in litter. This has been since acknowledge by Parish Council and a public bin
  is to sited. This is very much appreciated.
- Yes, hugely! Everyone is now very aware of the PROW's in our area (which is great!) but there
  has been a huge increase in the residents who are requesting that they are cleared or that
  hedges are cut back etc. Likewise, Litter has increased hugely. However, the great news is that
  our litter picking volunteers has also increased hugely (people looking for things to do during
  Lockdown that felt useful) so that is one good thing to come from Covid.

#### **Additional Comments**

#### **Business Matters**

- There has been a steady increase in requests to hire the parish hall since most restrictions were lifted which is hopefully a sign that things are returning back to 'normal'.
- There has been much to consider and the everchanging rules have at times been hard to keep up with. It's disappointing that although many rules have been relaxed, the cleaning regimes and rules have not. This is very frustrating and difficult to manage given that other hirers in the area seem to be relaxing their rules and not maintaining their cleaning regulations in line with the Govt. guidance.
- I think we successfully kept ourselves available for the public and continued with normal business during Covid. The Covid emergency was an opportunity to show what the PC exists for as we introduced a covid-help initiative with lots of volunteers.
- Our Parish Council is small and by definition lacks resilience. There is only one part time
  employee and so the likelihood of adverse consequences for the Parish Council resulting from
  Covid is high and the impact would be significant.
- Covid and the restrictions have made it less easy, but we have managed using Zoom/Teams where necessary
- NALC have not replied about the pay grade for 21/22 and it is nearly the end of the year so isn't fair that our pay have been kept at 2020 amounts when we have done even more work during covid

#### **Face to Face and Virtual Meetings**

- Lifting the ability of parish councils to meet virtually came too quickly and had no flexibility. A
  more gradual approach, leaving it up to individual councils would have been much more helpful.
  Three of our Councillors resigned because they were not ready (ie too scared) to return to in
  person meetings when we were forced to do so. We have not been able to recruit replacement
  Councillors and so this has been a great loss to the community
- I think Covid has demonstrated the need for hybrid meetings and the use of technology in meetings. However, many councils don't have the funds, venues or knowledge to adapt and bring this to their residents and more guidance and support would be wonderful.
- After the initial dislike of virtual meetings, the council embraced the technology and we did not
  miss a meeting. It has been more difficult since the virtual meetings were discontinued in May
  as people were not ready to go back to face to face meetings so we adopted delegated
  authority to the clerk and held discussion groups on zoom which worked well and maintained
  good attendance from members of the public. Some of our regular attendees are now not able
  to attend face to face meetings. As stated before the main issues were around getting works
  done due to suppliers and trades people not working.
- The frustration of the government refusing to permit on line meetings to continue. A number of Councillors felt uncomfortable with attending face to face meetings and would have preferred to have the option to continue with on line meetings
- For our Parish Council, I think that video conferencing has been a very useful tool although, obviously, face-to-face meetings are necessary in certain instances.

- The delay in the decision making for councils to have the ability to choose between remote and face to face meetings when CWAC covid figures are on the increase is concerning.
- The move to online meetings was technically interesting in a rural parish where some parts have very poor Internet and Mobile Phone coverage. However, we managed to get around most problems. The government grants that we managed to successfully apply for made all the difference in allowing the community buildings to survive the closures.
- Overall Council has continued to operate as usual. Unfortunately we had 2 new councillors coopted just before the first lockdown and they have got used to virtual meetings and now struggle to attend face-to-face meetings due to work and caring responsibilities.
- We held out first face to face council meeting last week, and no members of the public attended, not that they do generally, but we cannot assess if the latest zero attendance was Covid related.
- To reiterate, the decision by central government to forbid meetings on Zoom after May this year was insane. No councillor I have spoken to can understand the logic of that decision.
- We felt that the removal of the Zoom option for Council meetings in May was premature and as a result we brought our meeting forward to ensure it was legal. We do feel that the option for Zoom meetings should have remained as an ongoing option.
- I would like the option to run hybrid meetings and not lose the virtual meeting option
- Zoom was an ideal forum to get infront of residents and so going back to face to face eliminates such a large number of our residents who cannot attend meetings due to family or illness issues
- We lost 2 councillors as a result of having to use remote meetings

#### Community

- The PC joined with Church and local community to deliver a community support scheme. This
  was an increase in Member's time and PC resources but has been wound up now as no longer
  needed.
- Our council stepped up. A local group was set up with council involvement and financial support, to ensure local vulnerable residents received shopping, prescriptions and put together a leaflet that was delivered to all houses with details of shops and restaurants that were offering delivery services. Councillors that live alone clearly struggled with not meeting people. They would speak more regularly and for longer on the phone, wanting and needing company and conversation.
- The council maintained contact through covid with residents emailing important information re vaccination clinics, updated rules from government, exchanging local news, info about support groups

#### Advice

 The communications sent by ACRES have been excellent. They have also assisted when further guidance was requested. The ACRES community facility has been absolutely superb communication facility and assistance with all Covid related questions, guideline updates.

#### Recommendations

It is proposed that the following actions are given consideration, developed and implemented: -

- Coordination of improved and more timely guidance aimed at local councils
- Explore how to improve compatible online systems for meetings between various agencies
- Increased access to mental health support for local council staff and vulnerable councillors
- Support to improve communication and responses from third party suppliers/principal authorities
- Ongoing development of virtual meeting skills and support for hybrid meetings/virtual meeting
- Support for volunteer development and management
- Partnerships with PROW Teams, and resourcing local councils to maintain Rights of Way
- Support for volunteer development and management
- Partnerships with PROW Teams, and resourcing local councils to maintain ROW

### **Participation**

Responses were received from the following councils: -

Alsager	Hatherton and Walgherton	Newbold Astbury cum Moreton
Antrobus	Higher Hurdsfield	Peover Superior
Ashley	Holmes Chapel	Pickmere
Ashton Hayes and Horton cum	Huntington	Plumley Toft & Bexton
Peel	-	
Brereton	Ince	Sandymoor
Bunbury	Kettleshulme	Saughall and Shotwick Park
Calverley	Little Leigh	Somerford
Carrington	Lower Peover	Stoke and Hurleston
Cholmondeston and Wettenhall	Lymm	Styal
Darnhall	Malpas	Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall
Davenham	Marbury and District	Utkinton
Goostrey	Mere	Walton
Grappenhall and Thelwall	Mobberley	Wincham
Great Budworth	Mottram St Andrew	Winsford
Handley and District	Neston Town Council	Worleston and District
Hartford	Nether Alderley	