

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Chris Shaw

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DATE: 25th February 2021

To: The Members of Northwich Town Council

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL online using Zoom video conferencing to be held on Monday 1st March 2021 at 6.00pm.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Shaw

Chris Shaw
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. **To receive a presentation from LSEP regarding the Lostock Sustainable Energy Plant**
2. **To receive a presentation from Matt Bryan regarding E Scooters for Northwich**
3. **Apologies for absence or absence**
4. **Declaration of interest**
 - * Members to declare any interest under the following categories:
 - * Pecuniary interest
 - * Outside bodies interest
 - * Family, friend or close associate interest
5. **Open Forum**

Members of the public will be allowed to speak at the Open Forum section of this meeting on the understanding that any topics raised will have been forwarded in writing to the Town Clerk at the above address prior to the date of the meeting. Public Question Time to be a maximum of 10 minutes.
6. **Signing of the Minutes**

6.1 Of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021 (minutes attached)
[Members are required to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record](#)
7. **Reports of Committees**

7.1 To note Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16th February 2021 (minutes attached)
7.2 To note Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16th February 2021 (minutes attached)

- 8. PCSO Report**
To receive a report from our Town Centre PCSO
Report to be given at the meeting
- 9. Town Clerk's Report**
To consider the Town Clerks Report attached
- 10. Resignation**
To note resignation of Cllr Gavin Erlam
Report attached
- 11. To Approve Finance Committee Recommendations**
Report attached
[Decision of the Council requested](#)
- 12. Northwich Krazy Races**
To note that this event will be rescheduled to 2021
Report attached
- 13. CW&C Councillor Updates**
To receive updates from members
- 14. Outside Bodies**
To receive an update from any member attending meetings of outside bodies
Correspondence received
 - **Stakeholder Bulletin – Police & Crime Commissioner**
 - **Chalc updates**
- 15. Date of next meeting**
The next meeting will be Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 6.00pm

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2021 VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

Present:	Cllr K Rimmer	Town Mayor
Councillors:	Cllr D Bowden Cllr A Cooper Cllr S Naylor Cllr G Emmett Cllr A Stott Cllr Ms. J Thomas Cllr Mrs. K Cernik	Cllr Mrs. L Nelson Cllr T. Melville Cllr.B. Cernik Cllr M McNamee Cllr Miss C Fox Cllr Mrs. J. Illidge Cllr. M. Rowley
Also present:	Chris Shaw Liza Clansey Theresa Cash	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk Council Secretary/Mayor's P.A.

NTC 20/91 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs, G Erlam, A. Lockett, A Gerrard, H Rowlands and S Eastwood. Cllr G.Edwards was not present.

It was noted that Cllr. Miss S. Eastwood has requested a Leave of Absence for 6 months for personal reasons. This was approved by all Members.

NTC 20/92 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

- Pecuniary Interest
- Outside Bodies Interest
- Family, Friend or Close Associate interest

Cllr S Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr A Cooper declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr. K Cernik declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr. B.Cernik declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council

NTC 20/93 OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers.

Date.....

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Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor

NTC 20/94 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

- 4.1 The minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 11th January, 2021 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr Nelson, seconded by Cllr Bowden. Minutes to be signed by the Mayor. All in favour.
- 4.2 The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on Monday 25th January, 2021 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr. Emmett, seconded by Cllr.Nelson. All in favour.

NTC 20/95 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 5.1 To note Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2021..
Noted by Cllr Stott
- 5.2 To note Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2021. Noted by Cllr Nelson.

NTC 20/96 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were no events attended by the Mayor during January

NTC 20/97 FLOOD REPORT

On Wednesday 20th January, Northwich Town centre was once again hit with severe flooding which effected local businesses, schools, residents and the road network.

This time the flooding was much worse with the river rising 700 mm higher than previously in 2019, the flood defence did its job but the issue is surface water having nowhere to go.

We were asked to help with the distribution of sand bags throughout the town centre working with CW&C Highways, we were then deployed to the A49 to deliver sandbags to properties there and help where we could.

We were then called to Eaton Lane in Davenham to close the road which again was severely flooded with concerns regarding cars trying to drive through the flood waters.

Thursday saw the water levels rise considerably overnight with most of the area around Crown Street under water, NTC staff continued to work throughout the day where help was needed, this included the filling and deployment of sandbags, traffic management and welfare help for our staff and partners. Our staff tried their best to keep the water from going into Church Walk School but unfortunately we just couldn't stop it. We continued to offer support and resources to the evacuation of Weaver Court, we also aided local businesses.

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

Friday saw the river recede and the clean-up operation began around the town, this clean-up is still in progress as we continue to remove debris from around the area again working alongside our partners.

Following on from the flooding Northwich Town Council held an emergency meeting and resolved to help businesses affected by the flooding. A subcommittee was set up and we discussed how we could best help and it was agreed it would be in the form of removal of damaged stock, help with the hire of equipment and removal of flood water from cellars if possible. It was also agreed that the help would be co-ordinated with the BID and the Northwich BID Manager would be invited to the Sub Committee meetings

Above is a very brief summary of the events of last week but I would just like to put on record that all agencies worked above and beyond and did all they could to try and protect our town.

A personal thankyou from me goes to all the Northwich Town Council staff, businesses and the Northwich Community who again went beyond the call of duty and stepped up to help as many people as they could.

Cllr Rimmer wanted to add his concern over the losses suffered, but thanked all who helped. Cllr Cooper agreed that a Multi Team effort was put in at various sites. Along with himself, Cllrs. Naylor Cllrs Cernik's and our M.P. attended the scene constantly, and already have had debriefing meetings with the CE of CW&C regarding ongoing plans. It is now understood the scale of the issue and now Clls. Cooper and Naylor who are determined to work with United Utilities to resolve the problem finally. Cllr.Rowley commented the scale of the problems in neighbouring Manchester and Liverpool which were also affected. Bearing in mind that Northwich has sunk due to historical mining.

Cllr. Naylor wished to pay tribute to NTC's Town Clerk, and how he has reacted to both this recent problem and the ongoing COVID-19 situation. All response services worked very well and the only observation was the residents of Weaver Court being left so long without essential services before being evacuated. Found it heartening to speak to businesses who have had major flooding within 2 years, and also to see Church Walk school badly affected.

Cllr Illidge offered thanks to all involved in this massive operation. Is concerned about housing developments on known flood plains, and need to work somehow to stop Central Government agreeing to Appeals when refused by CW&C

Cllr. B Cernik commented that 220 homes objected to by CW&C at Saxons Marina which were subsequently agreed on Appeals. Together with Cllr. Melville they are looking for changes in training in relation to planning with more emphasis being placed on conditions within the NNP. CW&C has now set a line to review flooding in Northwich for discussion with recommendations and actions with longer term plans for future drainage system.

Cllr Rowley gave update regarding the Planning Policy Guidance by the Environment Agency. Repeat flooding to businesses in respect of blight may deter future businesses from staying too long in the town.

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

Cllr. Bowden commented regarding the flood defences working very well and suggested a letter of thanks is sent to David Brown, Senior Officer at EA to show NTC appreciation for his control and presence, and requests the Area Director is copied in..

This action was proposed by Cllr. Bowden and seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour..

Cllr. Fox mentioned the National Planning Policy Framework has issued a draft for consultation, and considers the Planning and Environment Committee respond to this. Suggested this be brought to next Planning Committee meeting to discuss.

Proposed by Cllr. Fox, seconded by Cllr. Cooper, who wished to add regarding the tree planting on Belway development in view of the 2019 floods. Showed members an illustration of planting in the Urban Woodland which looks positive and progress made.

NTC20/98 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Verdin Park Gates & Piers

The gates and piers to the entrance at Verdin Park are now back in position after a full refurbishment and repair. The gates have been restored back to their former glory. Adjustment needs to be done to the surfacing under the gates as this is currently too high

We will now look at illuminating the gates and costs to refurbish the fencing to the front of the park.

Northwich Town Council Open Spaces

We are still assessing the flood damage to our open spaces, on initial inspection damage seems to be minimal and the clean-up can be undertaken by our own staff. This will be mainly deep cleansing of our sites such as the paddling pool and play equipment at Church Walk and Vickersway Park.

Cemetery Chapels

Our chapels within Witton Cemetery are over 120 years old and are showing signs of damage, the roof is in need of replacement and we have movement in areas of the buildings. I propose that we have the building surveyed to identify any issues and look at obtain costs to repair. Once we have an estimated cost we can start to explore what funding is available to us.

Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All in favour.

Resolved

AED's .

We continue to install accessible AED's around the town and are currently working with our partners Community Rail to have them installed at Northwich & Greenbank Railway Stations. Plans are also in place to install a device on Manchester Road and have all Northwich Town Council AED's moved outside to be full accessible to the public.

We also want to place one within Winnington Urban Village but this proving difficult to identify a suitable building. The Community Building would seem the most appropriate, efforts to locate an owner/manager has been so far unsuccessful. Cllr. K. Cernik has agreed to contact CW&C who will have details of who is responsible, and whom we can approach for agreement.

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NTC 20/99 PRECEPT 2021-2022

Justification statement was distributed to Members prior to this meeting. Cllr Cooper commented he was proud of the way the extra work was carried out in respect of COVID. Highlighted other improvements included in the budget in an effort to get people back into Town Centre. Thanks passed to Town Clerk and Assistant. There is therefore no increase in the Precept unlike CW&C who are having to raise their Precept as a reduction of funding to them continues. NTC Precept stays at £76.86 to a Band D property resulting in 0% increase. Proposed to accept by Cllr.Nelson, seconded

by Cllr. Cooper.

Approved

NTC 20/100 ASSET REGISTER 2021-2022

The Asset Register report was distributed among Members prior to this meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 20/101 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 2021-2022

The Financial Regulations report was distributed among Members prior to this meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. McNamee. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 20/102 FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT 2021-2022

The Financial Risk Assessment report was distributed among Members prior to this meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Nelson, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 20/103 INTERIM AUDIT 2020-2021

The Interim Audit report was distributed among Members prior to this meeting.

Town Clerk wished to thank Liza and Cath for the work they put in.

Proposed by Cllr Naylor, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 20/104 DATA PROTECTION ACT

Members received an update and report prior to this meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. B Cernik. All in favour.

Approved

NTC 20/105 STANDING ORDERS 2021-2022

Members received a copy of Standing Orders prior to this meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Stott, seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All in favour.

Approved

Date.....

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NTC 20/106 NTC VEHICLES

A report outlining the current situation was sent to Members prior to this meeting, with recommendations. Cllr. Cooper enquired regarding the emissions output in respect of any replacement vehicles, and if any other competitive quotes were obtained. Town Clerk explained that the new vehicles proposed have lower emissions and are more economical to run. Cheshire Self Drive have always offered good service and backup. No other quotes obtained due to the reasons above and that CSD are a local long standing company we prefer to do business with rather than use a nationwide company. Cllr. Illidge agreed we should keep to local firms.

Proposed by Cllr. Emmett, seconded by Cllr. Illidge. All in favour.

NTC 20/107 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr. Naylor updated Members with the following:-

Attended Planning meeting with Cllr. Cooper in respect of proposed development of approx.. 400 houses situated on the former Wade Works. Considering access points.

Power Plant at TATA site on Griffiths Road. Danish owned company want to increase the annual tonnage processed which will increase HGV traffic from 276 to 434 trips per day. This would be in addition to the Reinscience vehicles travelling to their site.

Business Development meeting to discuss the new Market leisure site hopefully up and running shortly.

Cllr. K Cernik updated Members regarding E-Scooter scheme which has been rolled out in Chester successfully. Would Members be interested in having a speaker join us to explain details of the scheme possibly in Northwich. Will explore further details.

Cllr. B Cernik commented how children seem to be catching up with lessons during the current crisis, and distance learning going well. In respect of Church Walk School wished to thank NTC for evacuating children into the nearby Brio Leisure Centre since the recent flooding. It is hoped children will be back at school shortly occupying upstairs rooms. Cllr. B Cernik continued to advise that CW&C budget has been huge and shared an illustrated graph among Members to show the Bridging Funding Gap, with comparisons over past years showing a marked drop in funding, despite demands for increased services. Advised various cuts need to be made in addition to huge pressures on existing CW&C staff.

Cllr. Cooper gave update to Members regarding a couple of consultations, the Cycling Infrastructure Improvement funds. 2 routes in Northwich making better use of pavements close to the Police Station and Leicester Street roundabout. Second consultation, the Waste Strategy Review – (waste collections). Explained the options available which will cover the next 10 years. Basically will mean larger receptacles with less frequent collections. It is more appropriate for individual residents to respond. Cllr. Rimmer added he would encourage every resident to respond, and is dismayed that CW&C assume everybody has transport to enable them to use the Recycling Centres. Mentioned green waste collections delayed restart again.

Date.....

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

Cllr. Nelson added that residents should be aware that paper copies of the Consultation are available as not everyone has internet access. Cllr. Emmett commented on the cost of providing new bins and the disposal of existing ones. Cllr. K. Cernik added that CW&C intends to run focus groups, and will provide further information. Closing date of the consultation is 18th March.

NTC 20/108 OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no meetings attended by Representatives.

NTC 20/109 CW&C CORRESPONDENCE

Members attention was drawn to the current consultations taking place. Cllr. Rimmer mentioned the upcoming Census 2021 will happen on 21st March.

NTC 20/90 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next Full Council Meeting (Zoom Virtual) will be held on Monday 1st February, 2021 at 6.00pm. Usual details will be sent prior to this meeting.

Meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

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**Cllr. K. Rimmer
Town Mayor**

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2021
VIA ZOOM

Members Present A. Stott
 A. Cooper
 L Nelson
 K. Rimmer

Also present Chris Shaw – Town Clerk
 Theresa Cash - Council Secretary/Mayor's P.A.

PL 20/39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, OR ABSENCE

Cllrs. Eastwood, (leave of absence) Bowden, Fox and Rowley did not attend.

PL 20/40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

- Pecuniary Interest
- Outside Bodies Interest
- Family, Friend or Close Associate interest
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Cllr. Cooper declared an interest in Application No. 7.

PL 20/41 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19th January, 2021, and noted at Full Council Meeting of 1st February, 2021, were approved, as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Cooper seconded by Cllr Nelson.

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All in favour. Minutes to be signed by Cllr. Stott Chair of Committee.

PL 20/42 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. 21/00055/FUL

Residential development for 395 dwellings with associated access, car parking and landscaping.

Land off Hargreaves Road Northwich

We note that this development is proposed for previously developed land that has been allocated for residential use in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan. We also note that the scheme seeks to provide a considerable number of homes for social rent and shared ownership, which is welcome.

The proposal on the Wade Works portion of the site is on land that has heavy historic contamination. A number of local residents have been in touch to share stories of various hazardous and toxic materials that have been buried on the site (or in the former basement of the site). It is of the highest importance that if housing is to be delivered on this site all such material is identified and safely disposed of. Clearly the future residents of this scheme may wish to grow produce in their gardens and they should be able to do so with the confidence that this will be safe for human consumption.

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Date

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Cllr. A. Stott
Chair

With regards to the scheme, we have the following comments:

Highways

- We would not wish to see vehicular access to the development from James Street, except in emergencies, owing to the narrow width along the length and closed junction at the end.
- During development, access to the scheme should be via Hargreaves Road to minimise neighbour disturbance.
- Middlewich Road is currently close to its design capacity at peak times, with traffic into Northwich regularly queuing back to Agecroft Road even at weekends. For this reason, we believe the junction with Hargreaves Road should be signalised to ease access and egress for vehicles and cyclists. This is especially the case if James Street is not to be used as a vehicular access.
- We welcome the proposal to widen the footpath at the northern end of Middlewich Road. We would like to see this proposal formalised into a S278 agreement and would welcome further discussions on how this work will proceed so as to minimise the impact on residents and commuters.

Site Layout

- The line of trees that currently forms a boundary between Wade Works and the Liverpool Street footpath should be retained in order to provide screening for the houses from the Waste Transfer station at Griffiths Park Industrial Estate. This may require a reconfiguration of the internal layout of the scheme to accommodate this.
- The site layout shows a row of car parking spaces on Birkenhead Street. If this is to be put in as part of the development, we would request that Birkenhead Street is improved and brought up to an adoptable standard.

Environment

- We would welcome a tree planting scheme between the development and Wade Brook so as to reduce surface water run off.

Developer Contributions

- We would welcome contributions towards:
 - Additional primary and secondary school places;
 - Additional medical and dental places;
 - Improvements to disabled access at Northwich Station;
 - Improvements to James Street Play Area (toddler play) and Belmont Road Play Area (junior play)

2. 21/00106/FUL

Single storey front and side extensions, single storey and two storey rear extension, additional front roof light , alterations to windows.
Benkowa, 18 Lime Avenue, Northwich CW9 8DS

No objections

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Date

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**Cllr. A. Stott
Chair**

3. 20/04657/FUL
New driveway to provide off road parking for 6 vehicles, including repairs to sandstone wall.
149 Chester Road Northwich CW8 4AD
The Planning Committee would like to see that the applicant retains as many original materials as possible to preserve the character of the surrounding area
4. 21/00200/FUL
Erection of a single storey side extension to form a new lobby entrance.
Edmundson Electrical, Denton Drive Northwich CW9 7LU
No objections
5. 21/00112/FUL
Two storey extension to sider and rear.
128 Shipbrook Road Rudheath Northwich CW9 7HF
No objections
6. 21/00324/TPO
1 x Oak and 1 x Beech (within the Group G6 of the TPO) - crown reduction and removal of dead wood from both trees to maintain tree health and reduce overhang to properties.
219A London Road Northwich CW9 8AN
The Committee suggests referral to the Tree Officer
7. 21/00292/FUL
Single storey rear extension
26 The Crescent Northwich CW9 8AD
**Cllr. Cooper declared an interest in this application as applicant is known to him. **
No objections

PL 20/43 DECISION NOTICES

1. 20/04467/S73
Variation of condition 9 (delivery hours) of planning permission 12/04020/S73 amendment to application 20/02328/S73.
22 London Road, Northwich CW9 5HD
Awaiting decision
2. 20/03247/FUL AMENDMENT/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Demolition of existing double garage, construction of single storey office reception building and change of use of land to commercial use to allow the adjacent dental practice to create direct pedestrian access to the practice.
The Coach House, 118 Chester Road Northwich
Approved

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Date

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**Cllr. A. Stott
Chair**

3. 20/04636/FUL
Change of use from a Nightclub to 'Nutrition at the Hangout'
32 High Street, Northwich CW9 5BL
.Awaiting decision
4. 20/04630/LBC
Replacement of roller bearings, installation of guide wheels, installation of guide wheel tracks and replacement of cable ducting.
Town Bridge, Northwich
Approved
5. 20/04661/FUL
Demolition of existing garage, single storey side extension.
14 Castle Court Northwich CW8 1TA
Awaiting decision
6. 20/04659/FUL
Single storey side and rear extensions
42 Burnside Way, Northwich CW8 4XS
Awaiting decision
7. 20/04723/FUL
Temporary use of the site as Contractors compound and material management area.
Land at Griffiths Road, Lostock Gralam, Northwich
Awaiting decision

PL 20/44 NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK - DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Cllr. Fox had proposed this matter to be discussed at Planning from the last Full meeting of the Council. As Cllr. Fox was not present, it was agreed to defer this item, and in the interim period request Cllr. Fox to circulate points to consider among members. Consultation open until end of March 2021.

PL 20/38 NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Planning and Environment Committee meeting via Zoom technology will take place on Tuesday, 16th March, 2021, at 5.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

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**Cllr. A. Stott
Chair**

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2021 VIA ZOOM

Members Present : Cllr Mrs L Nelson (Chair)

Cllr Mr K Rimmer
Cllr Mr T Melville
Cllr Mr S Naylor

Also Present : Chris Shaw – Town Clerk
Liza Clansey – Assistant Town Clerk

FIN 20/51 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE**

Cllr M Rowley was not present. Apologies received from Cllr Ms H Rowlands & Cllr G Emmett

FIN 20/52 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr S Naylor wished to declare an interest in any matters relating to CW&C

FIN 20/53 **SIGNING OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 and noted at Town Council Monday 2nd February 2021 were approved

Proposed: Cllr K Rimmer, seconded Cllr Mrs L Nelson, all approved

FIN 20/54 **DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET**

TC & ATC answered various members' questions relating to budget headings.

IT support – this expenditure is overspent, mainly due to the Council becoming virtual over the last 12 months, lap tops and i pads purchased and extra support needed

Holidays – Staff holiday expenditure looks underspent but ATC explained office based staff holidays are shown under “admin” so this figure doesn't give a true reflection of holiday costs.

Outside staff holidays are recorded as they complete hourly time sheets each day

Vickersway Park – Chair commented that it was good to see we even with Covid we managed to get some income on the shop over the last year

Proposed: Cllr K Rimmer, seconded Cllr Mrs L Nelson, all approved

FIN 20/55 **BACS DUE FOR PAYMENT**

TC and ATC answered various members' questions relating to Bacs payments

AMR Alan Radband– cost relating to Christmas light installation

Cheshire Self-drive – TC confirmed the logo cost was not included in the monthly rental charges

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Cllr Mrs L Nelson
Chair

Hand plastics – rechargeable to contract work
D Hickson - Subway tidy up, cost split with BID
Simply signs – recharge to contract work
Sutcliffe Play – recharge to contract work
Warnhill – We now receive less invoices as one PO done for the month so one larger invoice rather than individual invoices for each order
Wickstead – recharge to contract work

Amendments made to correct bacs payment front sheet:

January 2021 not 2020

Bacs payments 17,370.63 (not 17,299.83) which then amended the following figures as detailed:

Total 50,036.44 (not 59,965.64)

To approve 56,977.92 (not 56,907.12)

Grand total 155,732.13 (not 155,661.33)

Proposed by Cllr K Rimmer approved with amendments to front sheet, seconded by Cllr Mrs L Nelson, all approved

FIN 20/56 BANK PAYMENTS TO BE CHECK BY FINANCE

Members approved evidence for payments from July 2020 (June 2020 invoices)

Jupiter Play and Leisure £378.00

Rigby Taylor - £150.00

Proposed by Cllr Mrs L Nelson and seconded by Cllr K Rimmer, all agreed

Members approved evidence for payments from December 2020 (November 2020 invoices)

Columbaria - £1123.20

Road Sweeper Services Ltd - £348.76

Proposed by Cllr Mrs L Nelson and seconded by Cllr K Rimmer, all agreed

Members picked two suppliers from June payments (May invoices), evidence to be brought to finance meeting in March 2021 and chosen by Cllr K Rimmer

BJT Professional Electrical - £762.00

B&S chains – 263.47

Members picked two suppliers from December 2020 payments (November 2020 invoices), evidence to be brought to finance meeting in March 2021 and chosen by Cllr Mrs L Nelson

F Morrey & Sons – £675.00

Shorrocks Trichem - £133.06

FIN 20/57 OFFICE 365

Over the past years we have upgraded our IT provisions, we now have various provides for our web site, emails and domain names etc.

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**Cllr Mrs L Nelson
Chair**

We have looked into streamlining our IT provisions which would mean one company would look after our emails and website. All emails would migrate to Microsoft and members would then have a .gov email rather than a .org. which is currently being used.

Microsoft Teams would be used rather than Zoom as this is a more stable secure platform for meetings going forward.

Two quotations were received and discussed in detail.

Element Hosting Services were the chosen supplier with an annual cost of £2669.15.

Proposed by Cllr K Rimmer and seconded by Cllr S Naylor all agreed

FIN 20/58 AED MOVED TO EXTERNAL LOCATION

Over the last 5 years we have been installing AED's in and around the town, we have now installed 10 devices and continue to increase the number of devices going forward.

We currently have AED's on the inside of the buildings in Witton Cemetery, Vickersway Park & Church Walk Play when this facility is open in the summer months.

If we move these devices to outside areas they would then become more accessible as follows:

Vickersway Park – Move outside the shop, this device will be accessible while the park is open

Witton Cemetery – Move outside the office, this device will be accessible 24 hrs a day

Church Walk – Look to move onto the outside fence if possible so that this will also be accessible 24 hrs a day, if this cannot be achieved then the cabinet will be placed to the back of the shop and will be accessible when the park is open

The cost for the external the cabinet and installation:

Cabinet - £450.00 x 3	£1350.00
Installation - £200 x 3	£600.00
Total cost	£1950.00

Cllr Mrs L Nelson enquired if an AED could be fitted to the outside of Leftwich School, ATC to contact the school to see if they would be interested in this.

Proposed by Cllr K Rimmer and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Nelson, all agreed to move the AEDs to a more accessible external location

FIN 20/59 SUNFLOWER FRIENDLY TOWN

To help make Northwich even more accessible to visitors, the BID, Barons Quay, Northwich Town Council and Rotary in Northwich are working together to create a Sunflower friendly town. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower scheme was set up because not all disabilities are visible – some are hidden and not immediately obvious, such as learning difficulties, mental health as well as mobility, speech, visual or hearing impairments. Living with a hidden disability can make daily life more demanding for many people, but it can be difficult for others to identify, acknowledge or understand the challenges you face.

Wearing the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower discreetly indicates to staff, colleagues and health professionals that people may need additional support, help or a little more time. Normally this scheme is run just with individual businesses, but we are taking a town wide approach and encouraging businesses to register and to take part in training to upskill staff.

.....
Date

.....
**Cllr Mrs L Nelson
Chair**

Alongside training for staff members, we will also look to work with local partners to promote the scheme and provide a stock of lanyards to host in selected businesses in the town centre.

BID, Barons Quay and the Rotary are all contributing £500 towards this.

Proposed NTC give a £500 contribution towards the lanyards.

Proposed by Cllr K Rimmer and seconded by Cllr Mrs L Nelson, all agreed

FIN 20/60 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting Tuesday 16th March 2021 9.30

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15

.....
Date

.....
Cllr Mrs L Nelson
Chair

REPORT TO: Full Council
MEETING DATE: 1st March 2021
AGENDA ITEM: 9
PREPARED BY: Chris Shaw
SUBJECT: Town Clerks Report



Cemetery Chapels

Two months ago, the stained-glass windows were damaged to both chapels, these have now been fully repaired and re installed.

AED's

We have now been in contact with the Community Centre Winnington village who have now agreed that an AED can be positioned outside the building. This will be completed in the next week and thanks to Cllr Kate Cernik for making contact.

Park Benches

All our benches are now being fully refurbished within all our parks ready for the the summer months.

COVID Recovery

We are still working with partners on the Covid recovery for the town centre, we continue to offer support to community groups and businesses.

Working with Northwich BID we will now be looking at the following for the town centre

- Spring clean of the town centre
- Increased cleaning of neglected areas
- Start to introduce small events on a weekly basis to slowly increase the footfall and support local traders
- Bringing the Artisan Market back in May

Town Centre Flooding

We are still offering support to local business where needed after the flooding, which has included the loan of pumps, dehumidifiers and barriers.

After discussions with Highways sandbags are now stored in the NTC depot and these can be deployed if need at short notice by NTC staff.

Town Centre Telephone Box

As you know we purchased the telephone box outside the Penny Black as it was not being used enough to warrant BT keeping it in use. We have been thinking of ideas to use it for including a book library and info point. Have looked at these we think it would be best put to use as a floral display to coincide with the in-bloom competition we enter each year.

I will now obtain some costs to have the telephone box refurbished and frames fabricated to hold the planters.

REPORT TO: Full Council
MEETING DATE: 1st March 2021
AGENDA ITEM: 10
PREPARED BY: Chris Shaw
SUBJECT: Resignation



Due to the recent resignation of Cllr Gavin Erlam I have now notified CW&C of the Casual Vacancy. (attached)

If no election is called then we can decide if we wish to Co-Opt going forward

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL

CASUAL VACANCY

NOTICE OF VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO SECTION 87(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THAT **A VACANCY** HAS BEEN DECLARED ON THE ABOVE PARISH COUNCIL FOR A MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE **WINNINGTON & CASTLE WARD** OF **NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL**.

ANY TEN ELECTORS IN THE **WINNINGTON & CASTLE WARD** MAY CALL AN ELECTION BY WRITING TO: THE RETURNING OFFICER, CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL, COUNCIL OFFICES, 4 CIVIC WAY, ELLESMERE PORT, CH65 0BE; REQUESTING THAT AN ELECTION BE HELD TO FILL THE SAID VACANCY, SUCH REQUEST TO BE MADE WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS (NOT COUNTING SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS) FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE.

IN THE EVENT OF NO ELECTION BEING CALLED, THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL FILL THE VACANCY BY CO-OPTION.

DATED ...24TH FEBRUARY 2021.....

SIGNED...CHRIS SHAW.....CLERK TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Full Council
MEETING DATE: 1st March 2021
AGENDA ITEM: 11
PREPARED BY: Chris Shaw
SUBJECT: Finance Committee Recommendations



To approve Finance Committee recommendations below

1. Office 365

To award Element Hosting the contract to manage NTC domains and Office 365 accounts at a cost of £2669.15 per annum.

2. AED's

To reposition existing NTC AED's outside to make them 24/7 accessible for the community.

Total Cost £1950

3. Sunflower Friendly Town

To support Northwich BID, Barons Quay, and Rotary in making Northwich a Sunflower Flower Town.

Financial Contribution £500

Decision of the Council is requested

REPORT TO: Full Council
MEETING DATE: 1st March 2021
AGENDA ITEM: 12
PREPARED BY: Chris Shaw
SUBJECT: Krazy Races



Krazy Races was originally planned for June 2020 but because of the Covid pandemic has been rescheduled on two occasions.

Due to the current situation and the uncertainty regarding largescale events we have decided to reschedule for June 2022. The event was discussed with the Event Organiser and Cheshire West & Chester Events Team, all aspects of the event was discussed, and we felt that rescheduling to 2022 was the safest option.

We want this event to be the biggest and best event Northwich has ever put on and we would like to see as many people as possible take part and attend, by rescheduling we felt that we can then achieve this goal.

From: Shelley Smith [mailto:shelley.smith@cheshire.pnn.police.uk] **On Behalf Of** Corporate Communications
Sent: 16 February 2021 10:55
To: Corporate Communications
Subject: Stakeholder Bulletin – special edition ~[OFFICIAL]~
Importance: High

Stakeholder Special – Police budget

16 February 2021



I'm pleased to inform you that a budget which will allow Cheshire Police to continue to deliver a truly local community police service in 2021/22 has been agreed.

The budget has been supported by the county's Police and Crime Panel after I developed it in response to a public consultation on policing priorities and funding. It will allow increased investment in areas that the 2,282 residents who responded to the consultation said were a priority for them.

As well as allowing Cheshire Constabulary to enhance its community policing model, which sees a dedicated PC and PCSO for every area in Cheshire, the budget for 2021/22 will also allow us to:

- Recruit of an additional 88 police officers - taking the total number of officers in Cheshire to 2,224 – the highest level since 2010 and before austerity slashed numbers to an historic low of 1,919 in 2014/15
- Invest to bolster the recording and investigation of crimes, including serious and organised crime
- Make significant investment in tackling death and serious injuries on our roads, to support plans for further average-speed schemes on Cheshire's most dangerous roads
- Allow further investment in the Force Control Centre to bolster the service for callers to 999 and 101
- Provide funding for the recently-developed Stalking and domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Team.

The policing precept – the element of council tax that pays for policing – will rise by £1.25 per month (for the average Band D property over 12 months) to help fund this year's budget.

68 per cent of the respondents to the consultation said they would be willing to support a rise in the policing precept to help Cheshire Police invest in community policing and tackle serious and complex crime.

The consultation also provided Cheshire residents with the opportunity to state their policing priorities.

Increased police visibility was the top priority, followed by dealing with serious and organised crime and then dealing with anti-social behaviour.

The consultation also asked respondents how safe they feel in their area, using a sliding scale from 1-10 with 10 being very safe and 1 very unsafe. 78 per cent of respondents rated how safe they feel in their area as '7' or above.

I'm confident that this budget will allow us to continue to deliver a truly local police service which protects Cheshire residents and builds on the foundations that we have laid so far.

I want to thank all those residents who responded to the survey or attended our online events to share their views.

When the government announced its provisional funding settlement for Cheshire late last year, the Chief Constable advised me that, without a precept increase, Cheshire Police would be unable to maintain its existing level of service and would be unable to meet the additional operational demands and pressures that we face.

In reaching my decision regarding the precept, I have carefully considered the views of the public, any government announcements, and the recommendations made to me by the Chief Constable.

It is important to note that policing is still recovering from years of cuts and the demands we face continue to grow, both in volume and complexity. With the support of the public, however, we have been able to invest in our front line and I believe this budget will provide the Chief Constable with the resources needed to make our communities safer.



David Keane – Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire

I welcome the budget, which is necessary to develop and enhance our community policing model.

It enables dedicated PCSOs and police officers to continue to work with communities to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and make our roads safer.

The increase will also ensure that Cheshire Constabulary has the resources that are critical to tackle some of the complex challenges of serious and organised crime and provide the necessary technology to investigate online crime and abuse.

We will prioritise the protection of vulnerable people and put victims and witnesses at the heart of everything we do and working with our partners and communities, will make Cheshire even safer.



Chief Constable Darren Martland – Cheshire Constabulary

Stay in touch

To receive regular updates on the work we are doing during the coronavirus crisis, please register for updates on Cheshire Police and PCC Alert or follow our social media channels. Further details below:

Cheshire PCC

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @CheshirePCC

Website: www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk

Register for updates: [Cheshire PCC Alert](#)

Cheshire Constabulary

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @cheshirepolice

Website: <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/>

Register for updates: [Cheshire Police Alert](#)

This communication is intended for the addressee(s) only. Please notify the sender if received in error. Internet email is not to be treated as a secure means of communication. The Constabulary monitors all Internet and email activity and requires it is used for official communications only. Thank you for your co-operation.

NEWS Roundup

Week Ending 5.02.21



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ChALC Focus

REMINDER: Zoom Meetings – Amber-IT Virtual Training Sessions

A range of course sessions to suit all abilities are on offer from Amber-IT from 15th February through to 16th March – see training schedule [here](#) for full details

Please contact Nikki Hewitt directly on nikkihewitt@chalc.org.uk to check availability and book your place

NALC Focus

Local Council Award Scheme update, ChALC training session and seeking national panel members

The LCAS criteria has been updated and now any council wishing to submit an application needs to ensure that they meet these changes. ChALC will be hosting another **FREE session** at 2pm on 17th February to raise awareness about the scheme and outline the process, please contact sharonangus-crawshaw@chalc.org.uk to book a place. NALC are also actively encouraging more members to join the national accreditation panel – if you are interested in this opportunity please complete this form <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P2MVLZW> and NALC will be in touch.

Coronavirus Information for Town and Parish Councils

Updated information is available on the NALC website [here](#) to help you plan ahead and manage risks.



OTHER INFORMATION

Fisher German LLP Planning Services offers expertise to local councils

A growing team of planners with an established presence across the North and West Midlands and a strong passion and profound expertise for delivering rural schemes...

We have extensive experience in advising on and delivering a broad variety of rural development. We appreciate the significant challenges and pressures coming over the next few years in terms of planning policy and we are perfectly placed to assist. We can **help with neighbourhood plans, training needs or in just providing expert advice and guidance**. See [here](#) for details or contact Connor: 07816 115103 or Connor.Burns@fishergerman.co.uk

Ice and snow - top tips from Came & Company

To minimise risk from ice and snow in the winter months, Came & Company recommend that councils should consider the advice guide attached to the bulletin, which is one available for free in the Resource Centre of their web site at <https://www.parishinsurance.co.uk/resource-centre/>

Random Acts of Kindness Week

This takes place for one week each year in mid-February 14th to the 20th. It's a week dedicated to kindness and taking that extra, conscious step to brighten somebody's day. It was created by the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation with the intention of encouraging more harmony and kindness between people by offering thoughtful gestures of kindness, no matter how big or small. See links <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/kindness-at-work> and <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/random-acts-of-kindness-week/>

Cold Weather Alert: Level 2 - Alert and Readiness

There is a 80% probability of severe cold weather between 0900 on Saturday 06 Feb and 2100 on Tuesday 09 Feb in parts of England. See <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/cold-weather-alert/?tab=coldWeatherAlert&season=normal#?tab=coldWeatherAlert>

CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER Focus

Live Well
Cheshire West

Live Well Cheshire West – Raynaud's Awareness

February is Raynaud's awareness month. The primary form of Raynaud's often starts between the ages of 15 and 25. It is most common in women and people living in cold places. The secondary form of Raynaud's phenomenon usually starts after the ages of 35 to 40. It is most common in people who have a disease that affects blood flow to the organs and other body tissues. For information and services that support sufferers of Raynaud's please visit the Live Well site [HERE](#).

Reminder: Leisure, Health and Wellbeing Services in Cheshire West and Chester on 9th February at 6pm

Town and Parish Connections Event - Please email nikkihewitt@chalc.org.uk to register your interest in attending this online meeting by Monday 8 February 2021. A 'join the meeting' link will then be sent to you.

4 Member Briefings

1692 - Best4Business programme update: Overview of current programme position as we head towards the first phase Go Live date, on 8 February.

1693 - Garden Waste Service suspension to be extended: Information on why the garden waste service suspension is being extended to ensure essential waste collection services operate smoothly for residents.

1694 - Borough wide contingency plans for further heavy rainfall events between Wednesday, 27 January and Friday, 29 January: Information on the contingency actions being taken by our Highways, Localities and Streetcare Services following recent flooding events caused by Storm Christoph and further forecast heavy rainfall.

1695 - COVID-19 national policy change regarding Lateral Flow Testing (LFT): The Government has announced a temporary suspension of the need for a confirmatory PCR test following a positive Lateral Flow Test result. There is now a legal duty to self-isolate following positive Lateral Flow Test result.

CHESHIRE EAST Focus

Council seeks views on new proposals to boost cycling and walking

Cheshire East Council is seeking people's views on a second phase of 'active travel' schemes to boost cycling and walking – following the award of additional government funding. The council wants to hear people's views on proposals for five new active travel projects across Cheshire East towns. The **consultation runs until 3 March 2021**. To find out more and have your say, visit: <https://cheshireeastactivetravel.commonplace.is/>

Please encourage take up of Flu Vaccines

Matt Tyrer, Director of Public Health for Cheshire East. The flu vaccination will protect you and those around you from a nasty virus that kills around tens of thousands of people each year. Please get yourself protected if you haven't already done so. This year, more than ever, it's vital that we get the vaccine and stop the NHS being overwhelmed by a combination of both Flu and Covid-19. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtuDOW_k3MM&feature=youtu.be
Thank You.

Help with Heating your Home

Cheshire East Council has been providing winter wellbeing support to elderly and vulnerable residents. Information about help and support can be found on the council website [here](#)

Pennysmart CIC – holistic money advice

This is a new service available in Cheshire East. Pennysmart Community Interest Company is a social enterprise that supports community facing organisations to tackle poverty, debt and financial exclusion. Information is attached to the bulletin.

JOB VACANCIES

Re-advertisement: Utkinton & Cotebrook Parish Council Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (part time)

6 hours per week

Closing Date: 5th February 2021

Cheshire East Social Action Partnership - Volunteering and Engagement Support Role

CESAP are looking for someone to join the Social Action Partnership Team initially on a temporary 6 month/ part time basis (2-3 days a week) - with an opportunity for a permanent position. Salary: up to £26K (pro-rata)

Closing date is Thursday 11th February 2021.

For full details of the role and how to apply please see the document attached to this bulletin.

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

Did you miss a bulletin? Or are you searching for a previous article? Previous weekly bulletins can be found and downloaded from the ChALC website [here](#). Copies of any attachments can be provided on request.



NEWS Roundup

Week Ending 12.02.21



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ChALC Focus

UPCOMING TRAINING REMINDERS

Advanced Zoom Training: Giving the Right Impression

Tuesday 16th February 7.00 – 8.00pm

Members £25 Non-members £40

Local Council Award Scheme FREE Virtual Session

Wednesday 17th February 2.00 – 3.00pm

The latest schedule with full details and course/session outlines can be downloaded from our website [here](#)

Please contact Sharon Angus-Crawshaw directly on sharonangus-crawshaw@chalc.org.uk to book your place

NALC Focus

Coronavirus Information for Town and Parish Councils

Updated information is available on the NALC website [here](#) to help you plan ahead and manage risks.

LOCAL COUNCIL Focus

Ashton Hayes Emergency Flood Relief Fund

This fund has been established by Ashton Hayes and Horton cum Peel Parish Council and is seeking donations from local people and businesses who are concerned about the wellbeing and future of those individuals and families who have been significantly and directly affected by the floods within the parish. See <https://www.spacehive.com/emergency-flooding-relief-fund>

Notice Boards: request from Little Warford

Ross Thompson, Chairman, would find it useful to hear from any Parish Council that have invested in a vandal proof notice board and/or had repeated problems of vandalism, and if they were able to take any steps to prevent it. Also any recommendations about someone to erect a new notice board would be appreciated. Please contact sharonangus-crawshaw@chalc.org.uk if you are able to help.

CESHIRE WEST & CHESTER Focus

6 Member Briefings

Please click on the hyperlinks below to access the full briefing.

[1701 - COVID-19 - new variants identified](#): To update members on the spread of new variants in the north west.

[1702 - Children's Mental Health Week \(1-7 February\)](#): This week is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on children's mental health.

[1703 - Youth Work Services consultation](#): An eight-week public consultation, opening Wednesday, 10 February 2021. The consultation will seek the views of young people, parents/carers, and third sector providers on what the targeted Youth Work delivery model should look like.

[1704 - Brio achieves excellent score in Quest review](#): To provide an update on the recent Quest Review undertaken at Brio facilities (December 2020).

[1705 - Flooding in Cheshire West and Chester - latest Information](#): To update members on the continued response to the recent flooding incidents in Cheshire West and Chester.

[1706 - Member Briefing mass vaccination site - Chester Racecourse.pdf](#): The first NHS large-scale COVID-19 vaccination centre in the borough is set to open in mid-February at Chester Racecourse.

CESHIRE EAST Focus

Covid-19 Briefing for Elected Members 11.02.21

Please see the attached document for information about: -

- Vaccination Programme Update
- Food and Energy Vouchers
- Business Grants update
- Covid-19 Enforcement and Compliance
- Vaccination Programme update from Cheshire CCG

Cheshire East Active Travel Proposals

CEC are developing a number of schemes across the borough which will promote Active Travel by improving walking and cycling facilities, making them safer and easier to access. They want to hear your views on the Tranche 2 proposals, which include 5 schemes within Crewe, Macclesfield, Congleton and Wilmslow and an update to the Tranche 1 scheme proposed in Sandbach. See [here](#) for further information and to have your say.

Sustainable Nantwich – plastic litter to global action

Local environment group Sustainable Nantwich is hosting an online event on Wednesday 17th February at 6pm. The virtual session will be a talk with Chester based climate change strategy expert Niall Mac Fadyen and everyone is welcome by following this link on the night - [Sustainable Nantwich expert talk](#)

JOB VACANCIES

Shavington cum Gresty Parish Council

Clerk and RFO

37 hours per week (full-time)

Salary: £28,785 - £33,782

Closing Date: 12 March 2021

Anderton with Marbury Parish Council **Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

5 hours per week

Salary: £12 per hour

Closing Date: 12 March 2021

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

OTHER INFORMATION



Fisher German LLP Planning Services offers expertise to local councils

We can help local councils with neighbourhood plans, training needs or in just providing expert advice and guidance. See [here](#) for details or contact Connor: 07816 115103 or Connor.Burns@fishergerman.co.uk



Did you miss a bulletin? Or are you searching for a previous article? Previous weekly bulletins can be found and downloaded from the ChALC website [here](#). Copies of any attachments can be provided on request.

NEWS Roundup

Week Ending 19.02.21



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ChALC Focus

ChALC Energy Partnership

Does your council buy electricity for street lighting and/or buildings? Do you pull your hair out when you phone round for quotes trying to explain what a parish/town council is and what unmetered supply is?

If you've answered "yes" to both questions, then today is a good day. CHALC has created a partnership with Northamptonshire-based **Clear Utility Solutions (CUS)** to take the pain out of buying electricity for member councils.

CHALC has been working with Chris and Ben at CUS, to design a service specifically tailored to parish and town councils in Cheshire. CUS is a specialist in unmetered supplies and they know and understand the parish and town council market.

To find out how they can help you, it couldn't be easier and only takes a few minutes. Simply visit our dedicated portal on the CUS website to get started –

<https://www.clearutilitysolutions.com/chalc-partnership>

There are two options: if you have all your paperwork ready and just need a quote choose the Self Serve option. If you need help to go through the process choose the Easy Serve option and one of the CUS team will get in touch to guide you through the whole process from start to finish or if you prefer just pick up the phone and get straight through to a human on 0333 3447 749!

The plan is to create a buying group of councils meaning that as well as getting great service, member councils will benefit from exclusive pricing too. And the more councils that use it, the better the prices will be.

UPCOMING TRAINING REMINDERS

Zoom: Getting the most from Virtual Meetings
23rd February at 11.30am

Zoom: Capturing Feedback and recording Meetings
24th February at 7.00pm

*****NEW*** Additional dates for Year-end Accounts & Audit Courses**

Due to high levels of demand Steve Parkinson has now released some additional training dates in March and April

The latest schedule with full details and course/session outlines can be downloaded from our website [here](#)

Please contact Nikki Hewitt directly on nikkihewitt@chalc.org.uk to check availability and book your place

NALC Focus

Make a Change – Become a Councillor

NALC has published a series of videos as part of their Make A Change campaign. This aims to encourage people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community, to put themselves forward for election this year in May. Click [here](#) to watch the stories and find out more about becoming a councillor.

CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER Focus

Live Well
Cheshire West

1 Member Briefing

Please click on the hyperlink below to access the full briefing.

[1712 - Storm Christoph – public webinar – 2 March 2021](#): To inform members about a public webinar that will address issues surrounding the recent flooding in parts of Cheshire West and Chester.

Live Well Cheshire West - Annual Purple Day & epilepsy awareness

Next week sees the annual Purple Day. Purple Day is a global grassroots event formed with the intention to increase worldwide awareness of epilepsy, and to dispel common myths and fears of this neurological disorder. Live Well has both NHS information on the condition and services that can help and a really good epilepsy first aid video, this can be watched in the epilepsy section of the Long Term Condition area on Live Well [HERE](#)

CHESHIRE EAST Focus

Covid-19 Briefing for Elected Members 18.02.21

The attached document contains information about the following: -

- Covid infection rates
- Roadmap out of lockdown
- Vaccination programme and shielding update
- Councils' role in vaccination success
- Support for businesses
- Elections 2021
- Visit from Health & Safety Executive confirms our buildings are COVID-Secure

Everyone to benefit from Census 2021

A reminder that Census Day will be on Sunday 21 March. Local councils have been asked to support getting the message out wherever possible, and clerks in Cheshire East have already received information and posters to display in their public noticeboards to help encourage their residents to take part and to ensure that no-one misses out.

Local Transport Delivery Plans

Cheshire East Council are working on a series of Local Transport Delivery Plans following the adoption of the Cheshire East Local Transport Plan 2019 - 2024 (LTP) in October 2019. They now want views on the draft plans to ensure the right objectives and options for each town are identified. See webpage [here](#) for details and to give feedback. The Survey closes on 31st March 2021

Draft Air Quality Action Plan

Consultation has commenced on the updated Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). Comments and ideas are welcome and must be received by 5pm on Friday 12 March 2021. See webpage [here](#) for information. They are also running a virtual drop in session on the 22 February 2021 at 12pm for anyone that wants to ask questions or talk to the Air Quality team. To be sent the link for this drop in session email: airquality@cheshireeast.gov.uk

JOB VACANCIES

****NEW** Guilden Sutton Parish Council**
Part-Time Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)
10 hours per week
Pay: approved national rates
Closing Date: 28th February 2021

****NEW** Audlem Parish Council**
Parish Clerk
20 hours per week
Salary: £11,523.20 - £14,050.40
Closing Date: 5th March 2021

Shavington cum Gresty Parish Council
Clerk and RFO
37 hours per week (full-time)
Salary: £28,785 - £33,782
Closing Date: 12 March 2021

Anderton with Marbury Parish Council
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
5 hours per week
Salary: £12 per hour
Closing Date: 12 March 2021

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

OTHER INFORMATION

Latest News from Cheshire Community Action

See attached for the February 2021 e-news from CCA

International Women's Day - 'Choose to Challenge'

[International Women's Day](#) – which takes place on 8th March every year – campaigns for a gender equal world by celebrating women's achievements and increasing visibility, while calling out inequality. Cheshire domestic abuse charity, My CWA and rape crisis charity, [RASASC* Cheshire & Merseyside](#) are joining forces ahead of International Women's Day to appeal to you for help with this year's #ChooseToChallenge campaign. They want your #ChooseToChallenge selfies to share in their International Women's Day support campaign. Simply strike the pose, take your selfie and send your photos to info@mycwa.org.uk before 8th March and they'll add them to their online gallery.

Virtual International Women's Day – Free online celebration event

Poster attached to bulletin promoting an event hosted by Motherwell Cheshire CIO

The advertisement for Clear Utility Solutions features a central image of a glowing lightbulb. To the left of the lightbulb is a large, stylized arrow pointing upwards, composed of blue, teal, and green segments. Above the lightbulb are the logos for the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) and Clear Utility Solutions. To the right of the lightbulb is a blue banner with the text '25 YEARS Industry Knowledge'. Below the lightbulb is a list of bullet points: 'Clear Utility Solutions Partnership with Cheshire Association of Local Councils ChALC', 'Exclusive Cheshire ChALC service and prices', 'Fast and easy dedicated digital service channels', 'Managed account and after care service', and '86719.221 kg CO2e of local council emissions have been prevented to date'. Below the list are logos for '100% GREEN ENERGY' and 'Trustpilot'. At the bottom of the advertisement is the phone number '0333 344 7749', the website 'www.clearutilitysolutions.com', and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC)

Clear Utility Solutions

25 YEARS
Industry Knowledge

- Clear Utility Solutions Partnership with Cheshire Association of Local Councils ChALC
- Exclusive Cheshire ChALC service and prices
- Fast and easy dedicated digital service channels
- Managed account and after care service
- 86719.221 kg CO2e of local council emissions have been prevented to date

100% GREEN ENERGY

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COVID-19 Briefing For All Elected Members

Key messages from Executive Leadership Team – Lorraine O'Donnell, Frank Jordan and Jane Burns

Dear member,

Here is today's briefing to help keep you informed and up to date with the latest developments in relation to COVID-19.

COVID infection rates

In Cheshire East we are seeing a continued decline in infection rates and seeing pressure on hospitals and the number of deaths related to COVID falling.

A similar picture is being reported across England – however, infection rates in England and in Cheshire East are still relatively high when compared to rates last summer, following the first national lockdown.

The rolling 7 day incidence in Cheshire East has fallen from nearly 500 per 100,000 at the start of January, to approximately 120 per 100,000 today (18 February).

These figures are for Cheshire East as a whole. Across the borough we have seen local areas with higher and lower infection rates. As just one example, we have seen much higher rates in some parts of Crewe.

We know that wider determinants of health are important in understand people's risk of COVID-19. Based on the [work of Public Health England](#), we know that rates of COVID-19 cases are higher in urban areas and in areas that are more deprived. This may be one factor in these higher rates of infection seen in Crewe, along with others such as the presence of a large testing centre in the town, and the occupations of the people living there in roles that are public-facing.

However, it is important to bear in mind that these rates for smaller geographical areas are based on comparatively small numbers of cases, and natural variation in these small numbers can radically affect rates and, as our numbers continue to fall, this variation is likely to appear more pronounced.

Roadmap out of lockdown

We are looking ahead to the anticipated announcement by the Prime Minister on Monday 22 February, with the promised outline of the "roadmap out of lockdown."

Teams across the council are planning ahead for how the government's plans to lift lockdown may impact on services. This includes education, economic development, communities and social care services, to name a few.

The wider opening of schools is just one example of the challenges we must address if and when lockdown restrictions are eased, as we found when school opened to more pupils following lockdown last year. We continue to work closely with schools and the Department for Education to manage current restrictions and look ahead to whatever may be announced next week.

Vaccination programme and shielding update

More than 15 million people in the UK have now received their first dose of the vaccine, which is a significant milestone and means everyone in the top four priority groups has been offered a jab by 15 February.

From last Monday, people aged over 65 and those aged 18-65 with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk, will be contacted by the national booking service and / or GP to invite them for a vaccination.

If you know anyone who is aged over 70 who hasn't received their first dose yet, please ask them to come forward for an appointment at nhs.uk/covidvaccination or by phoning 119.

We are also working with Cheshire CCG to ensure that all members of council staff who qualify for vaccination due to their work are offered a vaccine at the appropriate time. This includes staff who qualify in priority group 2 "all those 80 years of age and over and **frontline health and social care workers**." We have also been working closely with care homes to support vaccination of priority group 1 "residents in a care home for older adults and their carers."

Earlier this week, 1.7 million people in England were added to the list of people advised to shield due to new criteria being added to identify those who may be clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV). This adds around 800,000 new people to the vaccination priority list nationwide.

In Cheshire East, 2,613 individuals aged between 18 and 70, have been added to the shielded patient list, bringing the total to 20,174 people.

The new additions have been included as a new predictive risk model is being used to help clinicians identify adults with multiple risk factors that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19. This is called the QCovid algorithm.

The algorithm takes into account ethnicity, sex registered at birth, BMI, medical conditions, and other socio-economic factors.

Almost 50% of the new additions in Cheshire East, live in the Crewe area.

The communities team are working to understand how this increase in the number of people advised to shield is going to impact on the local work force and economy. We will also reach out to those newly added to the list, offering support and advice as we have to the CEV population in Cheshire East throughout the pandemic.

Looking ahead, on week beginning 1 March, we are expecting that individuals aged 70 and over with multiple risk factors (as determined by QCovid algorithm), will be added to the shielding list. Whilst all people aged 70 and over should have been offered a vaccine, people who have been identified with multiple risk factors are still advised to shield regardless of whether or not they have received a vaccine.

Councils' role in vaccination success

The Local Government Association (LGA) have highlighted the role of local councils in the success of the vaccination programme, saying, "practical offers of help such as free lifts to vaccination centres, waiving parking charges, online Q&As and

translating information into different languages is making a real impact on encouraging uptake locally, in line with the priority groups.”

Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government added: “Councils are playing a vital role in the vaccination programme that has now seen over 13 million people receive their first COVID-19 vaccine.

“From helping set up vaccination centres in sports centres, places of worship and theatre buildings, to using their local networks to ensure accurate information reaches all members of our communities, councils have risen to the challenge.

“Councils are saving lives by ensuring more members of our communities have access to vaccines quickly and safely.”

[Read the LGA's media release here.](#)

Support for businesses

We know that members are interested in the detail of our support for businesses.

Since November, we have approved 16,000 business support grant applications, totalling £30.3m. In the last week we have paid out a total £1.9m.

With regard to the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), we have approved 1,500 applications since November and made payments totalling £3.1m. In the last week we have made payments totalling £650,000.

In addition to processing grants, we have visited more than 1,000 retail businesses across the borough recently to advise on safe practices. We found that in 97 per cent of shops and businesses, managers and staff were fully compliant with signage and social distancing measures to keep their customers and staff safe.

However, we have had to advise a number of businesses where employees have not been protected in the workplace and where outbreaks have been reported. It is important that businesses do follow the guidelines as they risk temporary disruption to their operations in the event of a serious outbreak.

We continue to see good levels of compliance by businesses and members of the public in Cheshire East, but if you think a business is not following guidance please let us know using [the online reporting form](#).

Elections 2021

Government has confirmed that local elections in May 2021 will go ahead.

Our elections team are working hard to put COVID-secure voting arrangements in place. This will include extra measures at polling stations, for example, social distancing, PPE and training for polling staff, which will all come at additional cost.

We are asking voters to apply early if they are considering postal voting. Anyone wanting to apply can find out more by visiting the [Electoral Commission website](#). We are also asking people to make sure that they are registered to vote in order to have their say at the elections.

[For more information, visit the council's website and search under voting and elections](#)

Elections in Cheshire East on 6 May are:

- Police and Crime Commissioner Election
- Crewe West Borough By Election (postponed from May 2020)
- Crewe Town Council – West Ward By Election (postponed from May 2020)
- Bollington Town Council – Central Ward (1 Seat)
- Knutsford Town Council – Bexton Ward (1 Seat)
- Knutsford Town Council – Nether Ward (1 Seat)
- Macclesfield Town Council – Central Ward (1 Seat)
- Middlewich Town Council – Cledford Ward (2 Seats)
- Wilmslow Town Council – Lacey Green Ward (1 Seat)
- Handforth Parish Council – West Ward (1 Seat)
- Haslington Parish Council – Village Ward (3 Seats)

In addition, a small number of Neighbourhood Planning Referendums will take place on the same day. Further information is available on the [neighbourhood planning page](#).

Polling Stations will be open on 6 May between 7am to 10pm.

Visit from Health & Safety Executive confirms our buildings are COVID-Secure

Last Friday, we had three unannounced visits from the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) at Municipal Buildings, Delamere House and Crewe Library, to check on the COVID-Secure measures we have in place and see how we are doing.

The inspector walked around the buildings, spoke to staff on site and asked various questions regarding the control measures we have in place. He also spoke with our facilities management team to ask questions about our COVID-Secure risk assessments.

The HSE have given us a clean bill of health in terms of the measures we currently have in place, meaning that our buildings meet the high standards that are set.

Thank you to everyone who is involved in keeping our buildings safe to work in for those who are unable to work from home – in particular our facilities management team. And thank you to everyone for following the COVID-Secure measures we have put in place.

As a reminder, you can [view the workplace risk assessments for each of our buildings on our staff pages](#).

Welcome from

our new Came & Company Local Council Insurance regional representative



My name is Richard Matthews and I wanted to take the time to introduce myself as the representative for your region of Came & Company Local Council Insurance.

I joined Came & Company in 2017 having previously worked within the insurance industry for almost 18 years. Came & Company provide specialist council insurance, and our expertise and knowledge of the sector enables us to create bespoke insurance solutions designed to meet the specific needs of each local council.

Some of you will already be aware of Came & Company Local Council Insurance and many of you will have been existing clients of ours for many years now. We were established in 2008, founded on the belief that whether acting as a local councillor, trustee, employee or volunteer, good people giving of themselves for the benefit of their community, should be appropriately protected.

We continue to help protect good people doing the right thing for their communities, specifically where councils and volunteers remain unknowingly exposed. Our proposition has remained a constant for over ten years, providing advice and specialist insurance to the local councils of England and Wales. Through our strong relationships with the SLCC, NALC and One Voice Wales, we continue to develop our understanding of this ever-changing sector, in order that our proposition remains relevant. As a result, we now provide insurance solutions to in excess of 4,000 local councils and community groups.

I look forward to working with you all.

Please get in touch

To find out more about the services we offer, please don't hesitate to contact me or by visiting www.parishinsurance.co.uk.

M: 07770 931630

E: richard.matthews@cameandcompany.co.uk

 @CameandCo

Richard Matthews
Account Executive - Community
Came & Company Local Council Insurance

Specialist Local Council and Community Insurance Brokers with traditional values

Providing specialist insurance solutions to:

- Town and Local Councils
- Charities, Not for Profit and Voluntary Organisations
- Village Halls and Community Buildings

What should you consider when placing insurance?

Cost remains increasingly important (albeit 'cheaper' premiums are often achieved at the expense of cover and usually represent a false economy), along with policy cover. We believe it is the service proposition which sits alongside a policy that is increasingly important.

This has driven the continued expansion of our regional account executive team, who are strategically situated across the country, affording us the opportunity to meet with our clients face to face and talk in detail about the risks and responsibilities that you hold.

Unlike dealing direct with a single insurer, we can provide quotations from three insurers.



Good morning!

If we thought 2020 was unprecedented, 2021 has certainly already shown us you really never know what's around the corner. We've had great news in the form of new funding for community-led housing, been amazed by the resilience of our community buildings network and our very own trustee, Jackie Weaver, became an overnight internet sensation!

Find out more below about:

- How Pathfinder East are **continuing to help Cheshire East's vulnerable** throughout the pandemic;
- What a **£4 million Government boost** means for Community-led Housing;
- How **investing in rural affordable housing** could be **crucial for post-pandemic economic recovery**, and the role neighbourhood plans can play;
- Bunbury Village Hall's **impressive success throughout the pandemic**.

Take care and stay safe,

The Team at CCA

Queens House Annexe, Queens Road, Chester, CH1 3BQ

01244 400222

enquiries@cheshireaction.org.uk

PATHFINDER EAST - SUPPORTING CHESHIRE EAST'S VULNERABLE THROUGHOUT LOCKDOWN



Despite challenging circumstances throughout lockdown our Pathfinder East team have been busy helping people throughout Cheshire East, from **helping with attendance allowance applications to signposting those in need of mental health support** during these difficult times.

Pathfinder service user, Graham Fenney, who suffered a Stroke in January 2020 leaving him with mild cognitive issues, spoke to us this month about how Debbie from Pathfinder East helped him secure a new mortgage after receiving worrying letters from his lender.

Graham says: "It's a **huge weight off my mind**. When I got the letter saying I needed to pay so much money, I didn't know what to do or who to turn to. I'm certain that if Debbie hadn't called me and helped with everything **I would have lost my home.**"

[Read more...](#)

Email us to find out more about the Pathfinder East service

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES £4M BOOST FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING



Following our launch of [Cheshire Community Homes](#) last year, we are delighted that the **Government has announced that £4m in revenue funding** has been allocated to a renewed Community Housing Fund.

The announcement is a great success for the community-led housing sector demonstrating the **Government's commitment to this agenda** at a time when COVID-19 and an economic downturn have put immense pressure on public finances.

[Read more...](#)

Email us to find out more about Community-Led Housing

PROVIDING RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING THROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS



A recent [report](#) commissioned by CPRE, English Rural and the Rural Services Network outlines that **investing in rural affordable housing could be the key to post-pandemic recovery for rural communities.**

Find out how we supported the Kelsall Neighbourhood Plan at the upcoming webinar: **Providing rural affordable housing through Neighbourhood Plans.** Kelsall's Neighbourhood Plan influenced development proposals to **meet the need for more retirement housing and an extended GP surgery** in the village.

[Read more...](#)

Register: Providing rural affordable housing through
neighbourhood plans webinar

BUNBURY VILLAGE HALL CELEBRATES SURVIVAL THROUGHOUT PANDEMIC



Bunbury Village Hall has praised CCA for our support throughout the pandemic in helping to keep the local community hub afloat.

David Ellis, treasurer and trustee at Bunbury Village Hall, says: "Thanks to Cheshire Community Action's invaluable advice we were able to reopen after the first lockdown and have been busier than ever!

"We're looking forward to welcoming our community back once lockdown take three is lifted and it's safe to operate again!"

[Read more...](#)

Find out more about our Community Buildings Advice Service



Social Action Partnership Volunteering and Engagement Support Role

6 Months Fixed Term, Part Time Role, 2-3 days per week, with potential to extend/ become a Permanent Position. Would especially suit a self-employed/ freelance/ voluntary sector consultant, or VCFSE Secondment Opportunity. Up to £26k pa pro rata depending on experience. Currently homebased.

We are looking for someone who can provide support to our team to assist with volunteering development, including working with volunteer coordinators and helping to develop resources, and supporting our communications and engagement activities. Relevant experience will be beneficial but being an energetic self-starter who can adapt their skills and who is passionate about supporting and communicating effectively with others will be more important. Good organisational and communication skills will be essential.

The Social Action Partnership is a long-term partnership with Cheshire East Council aimed at improving Cheshire East residents' health and wellbeing, undertaking social action, supporting collaboration, and underpinned by a thriving Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Sector.

Since launching the new Social Action Partnership service, we have assisted the Cheshire East Council People Helping People volunteering initiative, including developing a network of 16 Volunteer Coordination Points that have matched people volunteering their time to vulnerable people needing help through the Covid-19 pandemic. This has recently extended to volunteer support for local vaccination sites. This model of working has proved highly successful and we are now looking to sustain and build on this for the future benefit of Cheshire East residents. Key tasks of the new Support Role will include:

- Help to develop and maintain a package of support, training, policies, and resources for volunteers in Cheshire East, working closely with our team and the Council's Communities Team
- Provide advice, support, and information for volunteer coordinators, including helping to access volunteers and ensuring they are managed safely and effectively
- Support in developing new volunteer opportunities, including working with partners to develop volunteering projects, and with our team to help secure grants and investment
- Support in responding to volunteer enquiries and connecting to VCFSEs and organisations managing or needing volunteers
- Support to collate good news stories, help write press releases, campaigns such as Volunteers Week, short publicity videos, events, and other engagement activities
- Assist with regular updates on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), website and contact database updates, and creation of E-bulletins through Mailchimp

We envisage this role being for 2-3 days per week but do have some flexibility with this depending on the persons availability. Full guidance and support will be provided by our Team.

To apply please send an up-to-date CV/ profile, details of your relevant experience (please base this on the tasks detailed above), your reason for applying, and your current availability, to Chris Hart, Social Action Partnership Director at chris.hart@cesap.org.uk by Thursday 11th February 2021.

For further information about the Social Action Partnership please see our website www.cesap.org.uk or for more information about the role please contact Chris Hart as above or Caroline Lewis, VCFSE Communications & Service Delivery Manger on caroline.lewis@cesap.org.uk

COVID-19 Briefing For All Elected Members

Key messages from Executive Leadership Team – Lorraine O'Donnell, Frank Jordan and Jane Burns

Dear member,

Here is today's briefing to help keep you informed and up to date with the latest developments in relation to Covid-19.

Vaccination programme update

Alderley Park vaccination centre

A new vaccination centre at Alderley Park Conference Centre is due to open next week to help accelerate Cheshire's drive to protect residents from COVID-19.

The centre will complement the existing GP-led vaccination centres, hospital hubs and pharmacy-led vaccination centres across Cheshire.

The Alderley Park Conference Centre vaccination centre will be operated by East Cheshire NHS Trust - working closely with Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Alderley Park, on Congleton Road in Nether Alderley near Macclesfield, is a development by Bruntwood SciTech within easy reach of the M6 and M56 motorway network.

When approaching, visitors should head towards the North entrance (sign posted Alderley Park North) and follow the signs for 'Alderley Park NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Centre'. There is no need to stop at the marshalls unless you need help.

Alderley Park Conference Centre is a short walk from the multi-storey car park, and is clearly signposted. [Please find a map of the site here.](#)

Call for people aged 70 and over to contact NHS for a COVID-19 jab

People aged 70 and over who have not yet been vaccinated against Covid and who would like to be are today being asked to contact the NHS to arrange a jab.

Until now the NHS has asked people to wait until they are contacted to help ensure that those who are most vulnerable are protected first - and that remains the case for most people.

However, to ensure absolutely everyone is offered the vaccine, people aged 70 and over can now contact the NHS so they can be vaccinated by the middle of this month.

The easiest way to arrange a vaccination is through the national booking service: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>

The system allows patients to choose a time slot and location that suits them.

Anyone unable to book online can call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm seven days a week. If a suitable and convenient slot is not available people can also call their GP practice.

Many who have not yet booked an appointment are already receiving follow up letters and phone calls this week to encourage them to take up the offer of a jab.

GP teams have also been asked to contact their clinically extremely vulnerable patients, who have been asked to shield, to ensure they have been offered the vaccine.

Please see below for links to further vaccine programme updates from Cheshire CCG.

Food and energy vouchers

We are distributing more food and energy vouchers to vulnerable children and families ahead of the February half term.

With the help of schools, colleges, early years settings and other family support services, more than 11,000 vouchers have been distributed to date, funded from our share of the government's £170 million Covid Winter Grant Scheme, which launched in December last year.

The fund, which ends on 31 March 2021, aims to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy, water bills and other essentials.

In addition to the vouchers, families in need are now also able to receive refurbished white goods such as cookers, fridges, washing machines and microwaves. The council recognises that for some families if, for example, their cooker stops working, they may not be able to afford to replace it.

More than 9,000 vulnerable children and young people were identified by the council, including those eligible for income-related free school meals. These families received their first batch of vouchers mid-December to cover the Christmas school holidays.

Children eligible for free school meals during term time have continued to be supported by schools, either by healthy food parcels or supermarket vouchers.

For more information on the scheme, visit:

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/covidwintergrant or [read our media release](#).

Business grants update

Since November, a total 14,000 business grants have been made with about £26m paid out in total.

Of this, around 1,400 Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG) have been paid to a total of £2.82m.

The team have processed 561 applications in the last week. They are clearing the backlog. By the end of March, we anticipate having paid out more than £4.5m in ARG.

The funding the council holds for Covid business support is in place until March 2022. We are now planning how those resources can be used in business recovery.

Some businesses have been refused grants. This has chiefly been related to businesses choosing to close as a commercial decision rather than being required to close as a result of legislation/restrictions.

Enforcement and compliance

Our regulatory teams have continued to work with businesses to monitor compliance with COVID-19 regulations and guidance.

Over the last few weeks, our officers have directly monitored 942 businesses and seen a 97% compliance rate, with the remaining 3% with minor issues, which have been addressed through engagement and education.

We continue to see good levels of compliance by businesses and members of the public in Cheshire East, but if you think a business is not following guidance please [let us know using the online reporting form](#).

Cheshire Police have continued to enforce COVID regulations with 685 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued to people in Cheshire. Many of these fines relate to parties or gatherings involving people from more than one household. They include 126 fines issued in Crewe and 60 in Macclesfield.

[Read the Cheshire Police media release here](#).

Vaccination programme update from Cheshire CCG

Cheshire CCG have provided the latest of their weekly updates regarding the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Cheshire.

This week's updates include information on the following:

- New vaccination centre at Chester Racecourse and Alderley Park
- NHS Volunteer Responders scheme
- Vaccination programme – 'What you need to know'
- Vaccination call for over 70s

[Read the 11-02-21 CCG vaccination update here](#).

[Read the 08-02-21 CCG vaccination update here](#).

Ice and Snow - Top tips from Came & Company

To minimise risk from ice and snow in the winter months, we recommend that councils should consider the following:

- A written risk assessment should be carried out and kept on council files.
- The council should take reasonable care to ensure the safety of the public, employees and volunteers.
- All employees and volunteers should be made aware that the clearance of snow and ice could be a seven-days-a-week task (including bank holidays), receive adequate training, and wear the appropriate protective clothing.
- We recommend that the council communicates its plans to the community. This can be via a website, newsletter, noticeboard or published minutes of a meeting. If plans change this should also be communicated effectively.
- Once a clearance programme is implemented, it should be maintained for the whole period of adverse weather and plans to manage the process communicated.
- Where a council takes on the responsibility for clearing snow or ice from paths, it should exercise reasonable care in doing so. Care should be taken in deciding
where to move the snow – making sure entrances, side roads or drains are not blocked. Clear the middle of the path first so that there is a safe surface on which to walk.
- After the snow and ice has been cleared do not use water as this may cause black ice. Use salt or grit on the treated areas.
- Also, if the building is to be used over the winter months the council needs to ensure that 'users' can enter and leave the building safely which means that if they are not gritting the paths or car park the building should be closed for that period.

For more information on how to minimise risks to unoccupied buildings please get in touch and this is just one guide available for free in the Resource Centre of our web site at <https://www.parishinsurance.co.uk/resource-centre/>

Richard Matthews – Regional Representative for Cheshire.

Richard.matthews@cameandcompany.co.uk

Direct Tel. 07770931630

The opinions and views expressed in the above articles are those of the author only and are for guidance purposes only. The authors disclaim any liability for reliance upon those opinions and would encourage readers to rely upon more than one source before making a decision based on the information.



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Who we are:

Pennysmart Community Interest Company is a social enterprise that supports community facing organisations to tackle poverty, debt and financial exclusion. Our vision is to be recognised as a provider of high quality money advice services for the UK, whilst bringing real long term jobs, skills and training for local people.

Our services:

Pennysmart provides professional money advice and casework support to the clients of other organisations. Organisations whose main focus may not be money advice, but benefit indirectly because their service users struggle to access benefit entitlements, manage their money, deal with debt problems, or make sure all statutory provision is explored before grant assistance can be given.

Organisations we work with:

- charitable trusts • grant-giving bodies • social landlord's • employers
- local authorities • churches • foodbanks • energy suppliers
- any disadvantaged community facing organisations.

For further details, or for a free service quotation and specification:



01244 651211



www.pennysmart.org.uk



enquiries@pennysmart.org.uk

Why Pennysmart are different.



We have had success working at all levels from one-off events, to projects across regions to national services.



No queues or waiting lists, because we don't serve the general public, we can offer your beneficiaries access to a dedicated professional adviser within 48 working hours or less.



We offer the cost effectiveness of remote advice (mainly telephone) coupled with support of ongoing casework/advocacy to secure the best outcomes, for even the hardest to reach clients.



We use a holistic 'Money Health Check' approach which covers budgeting, income maximisation, money management and access to the most appropriate debt solution to increase financial resilience and reduce risk of falling back into debt crisis.



On average each client receiving the service can expect to be on average £2500+ better off per annum and those commissioning/funding the service can expect client to be up to £15 better off for every £1 of funding paid.



We do not rely on volunteers, all our advisers are IMA qualified professionals and licensed DRO intermediaries.



Remote delivery enables tailoring to clients least likely to access mainstream provision, in the comfort of their homes, or from the premises of their support workers.



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Tel No:.....

Postcode:

Best day (please tick): ☐ **Mon** ☐ **Tues** ☐ **Wed** ☐ **Thurs** ☐ **Fri**

Best time (please tick): ☐ **Morning** ☐ **Afternoon**



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#choosetochallenge

Virtual International Women's Day



6th-8th March 2021

Join Motherwell Cheshire CIO for
uplifting, free online celebration

We have a variety of Speakers,
Workshops, Performances, a
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much more

Open to all



Cheshire West
and Chester

For more information please visit
<https://www.motherwellcheshirecio.com>

#encourage #inspire #empower