



East Sussex local councils and Covid 19

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Support for communities

- We are aware of the following councils providing support for residents because they have told us, there are undoubtedly many more
- Brightling PC, Burwash PC, Buxted PC, Etchingam PC, Fletching PC, Heathfield & Waldron PC, Herstmonceux PC, Maresfield PC, Plumpton & East Chilt PCs, Withyham PC
- Battle TC, Hailsham TC, Polegate TC, Rye TC, Uckfield TC

Special mention for innovation

- Withyham supporting 4 settlements, PC helping village shop with logistics by accepting phone payments for local deliveries. PC now planning to purchase and run the PO/General Stores to prevent its closure.
- PC will use the services of volunteers who have come forward during the crisis.

Special mention contd.

- Buxted PC supporting 3 settlements, a councillor using his trade suppliers to source food turned his restaurant space into a temporary shop for local fresh produce. Timed slots for NHS & essential workers to attend.

Special mention contd.

- Rye TC supporting the much needed Rye Foodbank with a wide catchment area covering the surrounding parishes.
- An example of PCs clustering for a purpose is under the Rye Mutual Aid Group with identified support volunteers for all settlements, 10 in Rye and 9 for the outlying areas

Challenges facing local councils

- Coping with virtual meetings, Covid Regs allow for meetings to be held remotely until May 2021. The vast majority have coped well but we have a few in denial who are holding out until face to face returns.
- Creates problem if no meeting in 6 months all councillors forfeit their seats and annual return for audit cannot be signed off.

Challenges contd.

- Confusion over re-opening of play areas
- Cost of additional cleaning of PC run toilets
- Negative response in some cases by DCs for share of Covid funding to cover such additional cost, lack of clarity from Govt.
- With so many active volunteers coming forward, the clever bit will be retaining their enthusiasm post Covid.