

## Councillor Surgery's proposal

Following some training that I had taken part in on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, one of the main items of discussion was on improving council and councillor communication with their local communities.

There are several ways in which we are already doing this through various Facebook, Instagram and social media channels and attending events.

Another suggestion to myself was through council surgeries. Having spoken to members of the community I had discovered that the council used to run these and was an idea to restart them before covid however post covid they were not restarted.

The surgeries work in so that any member of the public may come to a location in which the surgery is held and talk and ask councillors questions on local issues including concerns they may have, ideas for the council and to generally gain a better understanding of what the council does and how we function. It is also a useful opportunity to signpost support to people and to refer matters further up the local government chain to district and county council. It is a great way to get a better understanding on the ground of how local people feel about local issues. It will also have a positive impact on the council, improving our better communication with the local community.

Having done some investigating I found an example of this:

Lydney town council

[https://lydneytowncouncil.co.uk/?page\\_id=1015](https://lydneytowncouncil.co.uk/?page_id=1015)

Lydney hold their surgeries every other month with a notice going out with times, dates and locations to their noticeboard.

There is also some helpful documents online to assist councillors in understanding the role surgeries play within the local community in which I can point to councillors interested.

We would advertise this on our noticeboard and through our various social media channels. We could also contact the local schools and advertise it through their newsletters if they would be willing to do so.

The aim would be to put together a rota in which councillors can sign up. If we did not get two councillors during one of the sessions, we would have to cancel the session.

To see if this is beneficial data could be collected to see how many people attended and where they heard/saw that the surgery was taking place. We could also ask the public directly if they feel this is beneficial.