

# Covid Recovery

## O&S Task and Finish Group

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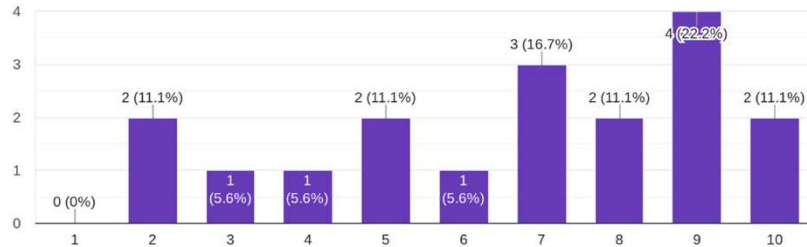
# Establishing Impact

- The Overview & Scrutiny committee established a Task & Finish group to establish the impact COVID 19 has had on Teignbridge communities. The cross-party Task & Finish group was split into three groups; rural, coastal and urban.
- An online survey was constructed in order to gather information around the impact of COVID 19. This was sent to Parish Councils, voluntary organisations/community groups and local businesses.
- Task & Finish group members also conducted individual and group meetings with the various sectors, where information was gathered through conversational means.



1. Has Covid 19 had a significant impact on the work of the Parish Council?

18 responses



The main areas of impact were:

- Having to work online
- Increased costs for cleaning, licenses for online conferencing
- Understanding guidance
- Site visits for planning ceased
- Disseminating info to Parishioners as limited IT
- Increased workload for staff and Councillors
- Loss of Town Hall income
- Project delivery delay
- Technology failures
- Lack of technical skills for some Councillors
- Working from home increased task time



Concerns raised by residents and businesses to Parish Councils included:

- Calls for help for essential supplies of food and medicines
- Wellbeing of vulnerable people
- Impact on education
- Impact on business
- Food poverty
- Fuel poverty
- Isolation/loneliness
- Fear of the illness



Concerns for particularly vulnerable groups were:

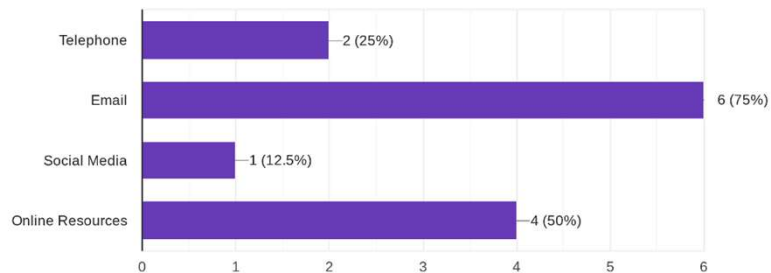
- Elderly becoming more reliant on support as they had become fearful
- Education disrupted
- Those that struggle financially cannot access services online
- Isolation of elderly and vulnerable
- Small groups were stopped so social and support networks were diminished
- Job losses
- Digital exclusion
- Reluctance to ask for help



88.9% of business had communication with TDC

5a. What form did that communication take?

8 responses



100% of rural businesses gave a rating of 7 or above for communication with TDC.

Comments on communication included:

- A good experience with Teignbridge so far
- More regular updates on financial support and funding welcomed
- TDC are doing a good job-keep it up!



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All responses indicated a 7 or above satisfaction rate for communications with TDC.

Comments on communication included:

- The need for more social media friendly information to share with communities
- Happy with regular updates
- Kept well informed
- Received direct emails with relevant information
- Communication improved during 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown
- A single point of contact for Parish Councils is need to avoid miscommunication and duplication



Common areas of impact were highlighted across rural, coastal and urban areas of the district, these were:

- Isolation & loneliness,
- Broadband & technology access
- Organisational restructuring
- Mental health difficulties, including Covid anxiety
- Financial hardship
- Business concerns were around new methods of working, speed of grant payments, cashflow, long term viability, ability to survive
- Job losses





It was highlighted that access to public transport was particularly challenging for those in rural communities who had no other means of accessing health services, transportation to a place of employment or to look for work.



Those businesses and voluntary organisations that had a pre-existing relationship with the Council or its partner organisation, Teign CVS, felt that they had been well informed during the lockdown period. The need to establish effective and broad communication networks has become imperative.





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