

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 16 May 2023

Title: Councillor's Surgeries

Purpose of Report

For Members to review the surgeries and any amendments that might be deemed appropriate.

Recommendation:

Members to note the report and propose amendments to the format that may be appropriate.

Report:

1. At the Full Council meeting on the 15 November 2022 Members took the decision to run Councillor Surgeries.

*Members **RESOLVED** by 8 votes for, 5 against and 2 abstentions that the surgeries run from 10-30 hrs to 11-30 hrs every third Saturday of the month with each member of the council conducting two surgeries in the first 15 months*

***Proposer** Cllr Sellers **Seconded** Cllr Hamilton*

2. It was also suggested that the item could be reviewed after six months to suggest any enhancements or improvements could be considered.
3. The surgeries have been running at the Herne View annexe each month since December and so far this has had limited results. There have been suggestions made to the office that now the warmer weather is coming that perhaps these surgeries could take place on a Saturday morning for an hour in the Market House where there is likely to be greater footfall occurring.
4. So far 8 Members have put their names forward for the surgeries and we would ask that all the remaining Members contact the office to let officers know which dates they are able to assist with. The available dates are contained in **Appendix 21A**.
5. Information coming from the team at Somerset Council is that the Local Community Networks will work best when the residents' opinions of matters under consideration are being brought to the LCN meetings and not just what the councillors themselves are thinking.

AGENDA ITEM 21

6. The use of Members surgeries is being promoted by Somerset Council as a valuable tool to establish community awareness and so it is good that Ilminster has already anticipated this need and is endeavouring to make them work in an effective manner.
7. Any administration aspects can be considered by the officers in setting up the upcoming surgeries.

**Mark Tredwin
Town Clerk
May 2023**