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## New Venues for Parish Council Meetings As Council Goes Out and About

Burntwood Town Council is going out on the road around the town and are inviting more local residents to come along to their meetings to see what subjects are being discussed and how decisions affecting the town are made.

The new administration of Burntwood Town Council have indicated that they wanted to be an outward looking council and this is just one initiative to try to increase public engagement. The Council has agreed to make the proceedings of the council more accessible and to give more members of the public the opportunity to attend the Full Council meetings. It will also, the Council believes, raise the profile of the Council in the relevant communities. It will be tested over a trial period of 12 months and then reviewed.

Not all meetings will now be held at the Old Mining College Centre, the Council's home, but at community venues around the town. The next two Full Council meetings will be held at Burntwood Library [26 September 2019] and Burntwood Memorial Institute [28 November 2019]. Other venues being considered are St John's Community Church, Chase Terrace Technology College, Scout HQ, Emmanuel Church, Beacon Church, Boney Hay Primary School, Burntwood Methodist Church, Highfield School and Fulfen School. All meetings commence at 6pm.

**Councillor Sue Woodward, Leader of Burntwood Town Council, explained:** "One of the aims of the new Council is to be more focussed on our communities, not just the whole town of Burntwood but its local areas like Chase Terrace, Chasetown, Boney Hay and Burntwood village itself. This initiative is a signal that we are taking the Council to the residents rather than the residents coming to the Council.

The venue we are looking at are local churches, community organisation headquarters and so on and we hope that our hosts will also be helping to bring people in to our meetings so that people understand the opportunities and challenges we have. We hope, too, that it will increase transparency, engagement with all of our individual ward councillors and give people a real sense that the Town Council is their most local voice."

**Councillor Woodward added:** "In our current venue, if there have been more than half a dozen residents attending meetings, we've barely had room for them so we are literally creating more space for the people we represent – the residents of Burntwood - to see what goes on at Council meetings."

Ends

### Media enquiries

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