

Chesham and Chiltern Villages meeting regarding snow event:

Thank you to everyone who took the time to meet and discuss the issues faced in the Chesham and Chiltern Villages. A number of issues were raised in terms of the specific issues faced by the range of services operating in the area. Proposals were also put forward for how the services could work more closely in future such snow events but also other issues that may impact on the community.

Issues faced:

- Staff getting to work
- Pavements not being gritted was an issue as many staff wear walking– centre of Chesham was being covered by the Town Council.
- Home Care services reducing service to priority one users approximately 30% of the usual group having needs met.
- Telephone support was available for vulnerable adults from the County Council. Although this could not resolve some issues of isolation and access to shopping.
- Should severe weather occur need for a method to improve communications between services.
- Issue staff reaching schools depending on their area of intake. Staff reaching schools was also a specific issue faced.
- Police don't generally live locally therefore officers were sleeping at the station to ensure on duty for the following day. Also there was an issue with the available suitable vehicles for the police to use. Specific issue raised about the roads being grid locked.
- Carers services were making lots of use of available community resources, relatives neighbours etc. this is seen as a really positive model for future issues faced by the community.

Resolutions:

- Next year will be able to use BCC website for real time salting maps of the roads which have been covered by the service.
- Issues re running out of food and how community responds was discussed and look to extend networks to support improved community response.
- Snow Go – is a proposal being put to the Chesham Council shortly in order to better marshal community resources in response to critical events. Provides a real opportunity for building a model upon which local communities can draw up plans and structures for responding to emergencies and drawing out community resources. This links to the BCC Resilience plans.

- There was lots of discussion about indemnifying volunteers so that they could be involved in providing support clearing roads and other community responses.
- Neighbourhood watch was discussed as a group who already have strong community links and could provide a basis for a community response in times of crisis.
- There was some discussion about how to local pupils could get involved in volunteering the Chesham area.