

Result of Consultation on the Format of National Council Meetings

The October National Council approved a paper from Neil Hurford (Oxfordshire) which proposed finding out whether (when the Covid crisis ends) National Councillors would prefer to hold meetings face to face or on line or a combination of the two. The paper is on the National Council page of the website.

The paper also suggested the possibility of hybrid meetings. (A hybrid meeting is one which is held face to face but those who cannot attend can join the meeting on line).

I circulated a questionnaire to Councillors on 28 October 2020. Twenty-one Councillors responded and the results are summarised below. You will see that there was overwhelming support for allowing Councillors who cannot attend a face to face meeting to join the meeting online. Opinions were more divided on whether some meetings should be held entirely online once the Covid crisis is over.

As previously explained the consultation is not binding. To change the arrangements a motion would need to be put down for a Council meeting.

Question 1. Which of these options do you prefer:-

- | | |
|--|----|
| A. All meetings should normally be held face to face. | 8 |
| B. All meetings should normally be held on line. | 3 |
| C. Some meetings should be held face to face and some on line. | 10 |

Question 2. Regardless of your answer to Q1, do you think a councillor who is unable to attend a face to face meeting should be permitted to join the meeting on line?

Yes 20

No 1