

# Local Community Network

## Hestercombe LCN meeting notes Wednesday 4 March 2026 North Petherton Rugby Club

### Attendees:

Philip Spencer, Chair / North Petherton TC  
Cllr Norman Cavill, Vice chair  
Linda Hyde, North Petherton TC  
Damian Baker, North Petherton TC  
Stuart Haskins, West Monkton PC  
Andrew Williams, Creech St Michael PC  
Charlie Cudlip, Creech St Michael PC  
Hendrick Coombs, Thurloxton PC  
David Stripp, Kingston St Mary PC  
Racheal Knight, Village Agent, Thrive  
Andy Pritchard, Mind in Somerset & Connect Somerset  
Lilly Keeley Watts, SALC  
PCSO Supervisor Lora Bray (7528), Avon & Somerset Police  
PCSO Trevor Phillips (9626) Avon & Somerset Police

Anne Shilton, SC LCN Link Officer for Hestercombe  
Michelle Brooks SC LCN Link Officer  
Chris Booth, SC LCN Link Officer

### Virtual attendees:

none

### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

Apologies from Paul Townsend (Kingston St Mary PC), Amy Shephard & Kate Welsh (West Monkton PC), Warren Leavens (Hestercombe House & Gardens), Rebecca Beautyman (Creech St Michael village hall) and Rev Dean Whittaker (North Petherton Church/The Alfred Jewel Benefice).

### 2. Local policing update

- North Petherton remains the largest and busiest local area, with ongoing work around ASB, youth engagement, school partnerships and “mini police” activities.
- 166 community engagements logged recently at schools, colleges, beat surgeries and Violence Against Women and Girls-related events.

- Issues in Willstock & Stockmoor: concerns include damage, theft and burglaries; multi-agency foot patrols planned.
- Taunton neighbourhood teams have:
  - Closed two businesses linked to ASB and criminality.
  - Conducted a drink-drive winter campaign (144 stops; 0 drink/drug drivers; 2 seizures).
  - Introduced injunctions for prolific youth offenders.
- Road safety efforts:
  - Dashcam/cyclist uploads: 72 reports, 50 warning letters, 9 prosecutions. Very useful material for police to bring road incidents to fore, also helps identify areas of safety concern. Public are asked to continue sending them to police.
  - Active Speedwatch at multiple sites with 7,686 vehicles monitored.
- Police encourage early reporting directly to them, not only posting on Facebook (which is not monitored).
- ASB in Maidenbrook Country Park, Monkton Heathfield: groups using area for drinking, resulting in broken glass and other detritus, need for policing partnership. New police grant funding programme to open April 2026, could help support proposed new changing and storage facilities, plus lighting to deter ASB.
- Sports pitch development (West Monkton): lack of S106/CIL funding leaves no pavilion/changing rooms; over 500 young people waiting to play. PC keen to get sports sessions started and working with SASP etc. Requesting police support and possible involvement. Important activities and distraction for young people in particular.
- **Road safety concerns:**
  - Accidents on Willstock Way / J24 pedestrian-cyclist crossing. Number of incidents but need reporting each time to build picture of potential danger points.
  - Increased development causing A38 congestion; need for cumulative impact assessment.
- **Car meet racing late at night** (approx. 11:45 pm–1 am): dangerous driving, noise; need for targeted police intervention.
- **Traveller encampments:** Parish councils want early warning to secure vulnerable sites. Police encourage private land owners to secure land and property and if intelligence available, will contact land owner prior to encampment.
- **Hotel for asylum seekers:** need predictable intelligence on potential protest requested. Vulnerable residents at site.

### 3. Speaker – Police & Crime Commissioner, Clare Moody

- Role of PCC highlighted as strategic, not operational.
- Five PCC priorities:

1. **Neighbourhood policing** – new tasking teams deployed for ASB, retail crime, local concerns.
  2. **Reducing serious violence** – including serious youth violence & VAWG; continuation of VRP work.
  3. **Victim support** – commissioning specialist services, ensuring local coordination.
  4. **Standards in policing** – improving vetting, internal culture and supporting good officers.
  5. **Prevention** – through early intervention and multi-agency partnership.
- PCC role to be abolished by May 2028, will be replaced by a Police & Crime Board of local authority leaders.
  - Updates on:
    - Domestic abuse research and policing improvements.
    - Road safety strategy development at an Avon & Somerset level.
    - Ongoing work to manage asylum-seeker hotel protests through intelligence and safeguarding, including local accommodation as well as Bristol and elsewhere.

#### 4. Agree notes of the last meeting and any actions

Notes agreed by all. Action log amendment – Slinky meeting was 20/02/26 and not 20/03/26. Notes from that online meeting attached.

#### 5. Updates from working groups. Highways & Transport.

Joint Taunton/Hestercombe highways meetings seen as Taunton-dominated and suggestion to form a Hestercombe-only group was discussed. More Hestercombe agenda items were encouraged to help alleviate this. (Too late for next joint meeting on 12/03/26 but could be included as AOB.)

- Officers' limited capacity could affect attendance if groups split but if dates planned in advance, highways officers more likely to attend. Day time meetings preferred and would need to find FOC venue.
- Would need agenda items from Hestercombe PCs and other stakeholders.
- Agreement: attend next joint meeting, reassess afterwards.
- Hinkley Point freight forecast revised downward, reducing projected traffic through J24. Also accommodation proposals at Huntworth now unlikely to go ahead, thus projection for 1,000 beds and resulting impact on traffic on J24.
- Issues raised for next highways meeting:
  - Haddon Farm, Clavelshay near Thurloxtton, HGV traffic damaging lanes unsuitable for lorries.

#### HYPE – children and young people

- Very successful year:
  - 113 responses to youth survey identifying needs.
  - Youth theatre Year 6 sessions across several primary schools.
  - Boombox delivered to 4 North Petherton sites & more planned for Easter.
  - Popular sessions: Art (Go Create), Rap/Spoken Word (TYCA); dance sessions less effective
  - Youth cafés and clubs thriving across parishes.
- Funding:
  - Successful bid to Hinkley Point C Community Fund: £20k over 3 years, restricted to North Petherton.
  - Awards for All grant (£20k over 2 years) pending. Hope to have response in coming week or so.
- Ask to Parishes to help sustain crucial coordinator role (Kate Welsh) if external funding does not materialise. D Stripp will contact PCs when funding outcome known to discuss future funding to support their areas.

## 6. Possibly transport working group?

Possibly initiate highways working group for just Hestercombe, to be reassessed following next joint working group in March. Could also include transport in general such as bus services and Slinky, especially considering new housing developments and increased demand for transport, particularly for those without access to cars. Could also include Active Travel within remit. Would be open to all stake holders and those with an interest in this topic and ideally have a group leader to report back to full LCN meetings regularly. Anyone with an interest, please contact Link Officer at [hestercombelcn@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:hestercombelcn@somerset.gov.uk). To be discussed at separate online meeting in early April for decision.

## 7. Any other business

Diary dates to note – please contact Link Officer for further details:

- **Joint Highways Group with Taunton LCN:** 12 March 2026, 2 – 4 pm. County Hall, Taunton
- **Emergency Planning Workshop:** 23 March 2026, 5.30 – 8.30 pm Wembdon Village Hall. Info: [bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk)
- **Flood Group meetings:** 24 March 2026, 6 – 8 pm, River Tone catchment area at Somerset Wildlife Trust offices, Taunton. Info: [bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk)
- **Flood Group meetings:** 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 6 – 8 pm, River Parrett catchment area at Langport Town Hall. Info: [bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk)

- **Hestercombe LCN AM:** 10th June 2026, 7 – 9 pm at Kingston St Mary Village Hall. Agenda items by 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 please to [hestercombelcn@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:hestercombelcn@somerset.gov.uk)
- **Parishes Conference:** 8th October 2026 at the Canalside, Bridgwater
- **Somerset Prepared Day:** 21th October 2026 at Milfield School, Street
- **SALC & SPARK Somerset Community Health & Well Being roadshows:**  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Morland Community Hub, Highbridge, 2 – 5 pm.  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Chilthorne Domer Village Hall, 10 am – 1 pm.  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April – EMN village Hall, Monksilver, 6 – 9 pm

Exploring how Councils and VCFSE organisations can work together to strengthen engagement with your community, increase external funding and better understand and meet local community need.

- Bathpool flooding recovery stage – local community drop in likely to be 9<sup>th</sup> April tbc, to meet EA, SRA, SC and other organisations involved with the recent flooding incident.
- Thrive 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year – planning as many tea parties as possible – ideas and plans welcome. Please contact village agent or come to a Talking Café. Community Christmas: Creech St Michael and Monkton Heathfield who will take it in turns to hold free Christmas lunch, starting 2026 in the BACH hall. Parish clerks donated £500 and will draw down on Somerset Community Fund. Have chef ready, just need funding, would welcome donations of fresh fruit and vegetables in particular.
- SALC have small grants still available to smaller parishes of about 1000 residents.

## 8. Dates of future meetings

10<sup>th</sup> June 2026, AM, Kingston St Mary Village Hall 7.00 – 9.00 pm.  
(Car park is up a slight hill, opposite the church. Please use the car park as much as possible.) Usually includes election of Chair and Vice Chair plus review of previous year and planning for coming year tbc.

Proposed dates for the coming year to be agreed – please hold the date until confirmed:

16<sup>th</sup> September & 16<sup>th</sup> December 2026

17<sup>th</sup> March & 16<sup>th</sup> June 2027.

Date	Action	Completed by
04/03/26	<p><b>Provide accident data for Willstock Way / J24 crossings.</b> County Highways (Lora Bray to request data) liaising with Link Officer for Taunton.</p>	Confirmation of a crossing being installed at this location during year 2026/27, date to be confirmed.
	<p><b>Follow up with police on ASB in Maidenbrook Country Park.</b> PCC Claire Moody + Local Neighbourhood Policing Team</p>	
	<p><b>Investigate funding/access for sports pavilion &amp; changing rooms.</b> PCC office to notify when grants are open for application. West Monkton PC to prepare application at that time.</p>	
	<p><b>Escalate car-meet ASB at Monkton Heathfield for targeted policing</b> Taunton &amp; Bridgwater Neighbourhood Policing Teams (Trevor/Laura)</p>	
	<p><b>Raise Haddon Farm HGV issue at next Joint Highways meeting.</b> Hestercombe LCN rep, Philip Spencer (as agreed)</p>	
	<p><b>Consider forming separate Hestercombe Highways / transport / travel group.</b> Hestercombe LCN (to revisit after next joint highways meeting). Online discussion &amp; decision tbc for early April 2026.</p>	
	<p><b>Submit additional transport issues, including increasing demand (bus routes/Slinky evidence).</b> Parish councils to forward thoughts and suggestions to Link Officer for consideration at Joint or singular highways groups.</p>	
	<p><b>Village Agent to coordinate Christmas lunch &amp; fresh food initiative as part of Thrive's 100 year anniversary.</b> Rachael Knight (Thrive Somerset) to update at following meetings.</p>	
	<p><b>Complete SC Adult Social Care Survey.</b> Action by all parish councils plus individuals by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026</p>	

	<a href="#">Residents encouraged to respond to national Adult Social Care survey to improve services</a>	
	<p><b>Continue collecting youth engagement data &amp; deliver Easter Boombox</b>  HYPE project leads (Kate + David) with support from PCs.</p> <p><i>06/03/26. Link Officer sent school numbers forecasts (primary, awaiting secondary) to David for use in forward planning and funding.</i></p>	
	<p><b>Contingency planning (“Plan B”) for youth funding if Awards for All unsuccessful.</b>  All PCs and any other funding information</p>	