



# Local Community Network

## Burnham and Highbridge LCN meeting notes Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 Morland Community Hub, Highbridge

### Attendees:

Alan Sharp, Chair  
Cllr Bob Filmer  
Cllr Lesley Millard, Burnham & Highbridge TC  
Margaret Sims, Pawlett PC  
Wendy Edgar, Pawlett PC  
Caroline, The Waffle Hub  
Marianne Leslie, Morland Community Hub  
Jane McPherson, Morland Community Hub  
Suzanne Lawrence, Young Somerset  
Liza Farley, Young Somerset  
Chris Bucksey, Fox Cycling WBC

Anne Shilton, SC LCN Link Officer (interim for B&H)  
Jeff Brown, SC Service Manager Stronger Communities

### Virtual attendee:

Sally Ferguson, Lympsham PC

### Apologies:

Cllr Suria Aujla  
Cllr Tony Grimes  
Jane Knowles, SASP  
Robin Leveridge, Lympsham PC  
Victoria Boorman, The Space  
Selina Keedwell, Somerset Youth Theatre

### 1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were given as above. It was noted that Robin Leveridge's name was misspelt in the AGM notes, and this has been corrected, with apologies.

### 2. Actions from the last meeting (AGM)

All actions are closed apart from the 'Social Value for Hinkley/ Agratas' and 'Invite Somerset Council Planners', which are still on-going. In the case of the former this will be discussed with Cllr Mike Rigby on how best to get involvement/representation. For the latter SC planning department will be invited to an LCN meeting, most likely into 2026 to answer questions from Parish & Town Councils. A request for questions will be sent out.

### **3. Children and Young People (CYP) Discussion and Presentations - “What do young people want and can we accomplish it as Burnham LCN?”**

#### **Somerset Children and Young People’s Plan**

Jeff Brown led a discussion about the topic, which was a theme for several other LCN groups too, to establish if CYP is a priority area for the coming year. It was felt important to offer young people an opportunity to voice their wishes about what they would like to see offered, from a range of places and backgrounds, as this is likely to vary. It could be that, for example, transport to existing provision from villages into towns was a barrier and if this is the case, this could be explored further by the LCN to address that situation. It was also noted that it was important to manage expectations of young people in what could be achieved by the LCN but a lack of provision in one place could possibly be addressed by expanding provision elsewhere.

It was noted that the CYP working group was met with a lot of initial enthusiasm but had decreased mainly through reduced involvement of Parishes. It had been agreed at a previous LCN meeting to disband the working group and to work with the community breakfast at King Alfred’s School. The LCN has identified CYP as a priority and there may be a need to restart the working group, but it would depend upon engagement from more LCN stakeholders, and in particular parish councils offering their voice and support, not necessarily financially.

A list of youth provisions for the towns had been made but this did not include the villages. If the theme was to be taken further, it would be important to collate that information too. There is often a children’s play area but little else beyond that age group, particularly if transport was not available. However, it was felt that a list *per se* was of little use unless the LCN were able to action some of the issues raised by young people about gaps in provision. It was decided to continue the discussion after the presentation from Selina Keedwell at Somerset Youth Theatre, to decide about the future of this theme and the working group. It was noted to invite Caroline Bullock from King Alfred’s School to attend the meeting too.

### **4. Working Group update**

The chair provided an update from the joint Burnham and Avalon and Poldens LCN highways working group with SC officers from the Highways Department. This working group is open to all LCN members and people should contact the link officer or chair if they wish to attend.

The work at the Dunball roundabout will be completed by the end of the year and the works on the Edithmead roundabout are due to start in March 2026, depending upon confirmed funding. This project will have a community officer for local concerns and liaison with the contractors.

Streetworks reminded parishes that they need to send comments on planned road closures and if nothing is submitted, it is assumed that the

plans are acceptable. The working group will monitor this to see if it is an effective way of getting local input.

Clerks are reminded to ensure that streetworks have the correct and most up to date email address to ensure that they get notifications.

The way parishes engage for enhanced highways work is changing. The working group is pushing to get full details and as soon as it is received it will be communicated but it appears that rather than requesting Keir for quote for work it will now be by contracting Somerset Highways directly. It has also been indicated that Parish councils will be able to invite other contractors to undertake tasks, if they have been approved.

It is recognised that details of this new way of working, including price lists is need by the parishes for the budget setting process.

If any parish council are considering new signage, please submit your bid as soon as possible. The street white and yellow lining tasks have now stopped over the winter and will resume again next spring.

#### **5. Reviewing and confirming the priorities for the LCN**

It was agreed that the next meeting in December should look at Broadband and connectivity issues. The theme or topic for the March meeting should be decided by a larger cohort than present. It was noted that the attendance was low and agreement was that more parish council attendance, along with other organisations would be of great benefit. The more people attended and engaged with the LCN, the more impact and influence it will gain. It is the responsibility of the members to bring forward topics and issues that they would like addressed.

The link officer explained that a review of community engagement, including LCN's has just started and it was likely that members might be approached by the consultants to offer their opinions and feedback about LCN's. All LCNs were different and at differing stages of growth and membership but had potential to make a difference locally.

It was suggested that the Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to attend in early 2026.

#### **6. AOB**

The Link Officer for Burnham and Highbridge has completed her induction and Gill Keniston-Goble would be taking on the post with immediate effect.

There was no other business.

#### **7. Date and theme of next meetings:**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Themes: broadband and connectivity, together with a presentation on CYP working group findings and the way forward.

10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – invite to police and crime commissioner.

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 (AGM) - tbc

Date	Action	Completed by & date/ongoing
30/09/25	Invite Selina Keedwell, Somerset Youth Theatre, to present findings of CYP working group to December LCN meeting, for further discussion about working group continuing.	Link officer
	Invite Caroline Bullock from King Alfred's School to attend next meeting.	Link officer
	Parish clerks to contact Streetworks at SC to ensure their contact details are correct	Parish clerks
	List or guide of prices for enhanced highways tasks for parish councils from highways dept in time for precept setting.	Link officer/ highways dept.
	Requests for new signage to be submitted ASAP	Parish clerks
	December theme – broadband & connectivity. Also CYP, as above.	Link officer
	Invite PCC to future LCN meeting	Link officer
	Consider topics/themes/issues for LCN to address and submit to link officer at any time	All
	Invite Somerset Council Planners	Link Officer
	Social Value for Hinkley/ Agratas'	Link Officer

