



# Your Local Community Network

Chard &  
Blackdowns LCN

# Agenda

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1. Elect the Chair of the Local Community Network
2. Appoint the Vice-Chair of the Local Community Network
3. Consider the Yearly Report of the LCN's work in the last 12 months
4. Overview of Highlights from LCNs across Somerset
5. Consider the Priorities and areas of focus for the LCN for the next 12 months
6. Agree the schedule of meetings for the next 12 months

# Highlights from Yearly Report

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- Initial meetings/formation of the Roads & Transport working group
  - Follow up consultation around themes, TORs and volunteer recruitment
- Initial meeting of the Environment working group
  - Wider LCN awareness raising of the Wild Neroche project
- Early discussions around the need for a Health & Wellbeing working group

## Next steps and outstanding actions

- Increase officer support for the LCN through dedicated Link Worker
- Increase participation in working group activity
- Build upon relationship with local businesses and stakeholders

# LCN Highlights – Children and Young People

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## Taunton **Young People's working group**

- Collaborative networking group of organisations working with CYP
- Development of new free training for volunteers who work with CYP delivered by Somerset Youth Alliance
- New Safe Spaces in Taunton and Yeovil supported by collaborative working with SASP and MIND
- Taunton Minster supported by Somerset Youth Alliance with new working model to deliver young people's space
- Violence Reduction Unit now funding Young Somerset to deliver walking hub sessions in Taunton McDonalds and Coffee #1 Bridgwater

Other LCNs have facilitated Children and Young People Working Groups, bringing a wide range of statutory and VCFSE partners together, supporting and enabling the delivery and development of local action plans to fill gaps in local services and meet local need.

# LCN Highlights – Highways and Traffic

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## Exmoor Pilot LCN – **Highways and Traffic Working group**

- Significantly improved communications between SC and the parishes regarding planned work on the Highways Network – with regular meetings informing the planning of works around local events and business priorities.
- Delivery of a major capital project which involved a Five-month road closure on Exmoor through a cooperative approach to planning and delivery through the facilitation of the LCN bringing the project delivery in ahead of schedule and with a positive community response.
- Almost all LCNs (with the exception of Bridgwater and Taunton to date) have now had their initial Highways and Traffic working group with very positive feedback received in main LCN meetings.

# LCN Highlights – Flooding and Emergency Planning

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Delivery of **Flooding and Community Resilience workshops** across many LCN areas has significantly increased the number of City, Town and Parish Councils who now have up to date and realistic Emergency Plans.

These plans have been developed in collaboration with neighbouring parishes improving the experience of residents and reducing risks across communities.

# LCN Highlights – Active Travel

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LCNs including Bridgwater and Levels and Moors have **Active Travel Working groups** delivering a series of actions :

- New and extended active travel and multiuser routes
- Development of new Active Travel Hub in Bridgwater
- Links between Colleges and local campaigns and groups
- New Bike workshops
- Planning for extended Bike ability courses

# LCN Highlights – Other

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LCNs are also considering how to address issues and topics including Health and Wellbeing, Housing, Economic Development, Support for businesses and Climate, Environment and Conservation.

Many LCNs have facilitated local conversations about local topics with guest speakers discussing significant projects and local issues including bus services, illegal raves, road safety and the Tone Dale Mill project.

# Priorities for Year 2

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What matters to residents in our communities?

Reflections from previous speakers and discussions

Are there topics / areas missing from the initial list?

How can we promote the purpose and work of LCN's?

How can we find out more from residents?

# Highlights and themes

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Transport: Local  
transport solutions,  
Active Travel

Access to medical  
Services

Youth provision

Climate and  
Environment

Highways  
Road Maintenance  
A358

Planning Policy

Anti-Social  
Behaviour

Flooding

Road Safety  
Speed of traffic

Communication and  
connectivity

Rural Isolation

Conservation

# Dates for future Meetings

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- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025