

Avalon and Poldens AGM Wednesday 10th July 2024

LCN core membership attendance:

Name:	Representing
Cllr Matthew Martin (Chair)	Somerset Council
Cllr Bryan Knickerbocker (Vice Chair)	Street Parish Council
Cllr Charles Casson	Stawell Parish Council
Cllr Geoff Barnett	Catcott Parish Council
Cllr Heather Shearer	Somerset Council
Cllr James Hall	Catcott Parish Council
Cllr John Harvey	Walton Parish Council
Cllr Julie Welch	Edington Parish Council
Cllr Lindsay MacDougall	Glastonbury Town Council
Cllr Liz Leyshon	Somerset Council
Cllr Sam Gilbert	Edington Parish Council
Cllr Stephen Page	Somerset Council
Cllr Tim Kerley	Somerset Council

Other attendees:

Name:	Representing
Emmaline Kay	LCN Link Officer
Cllr Hugh Gange-Harris	Stawell Parish Council
Jessica Lewin	YMCA/Connect Somerset
Micheal Hardwick-Ford	LCN Team
Nathan Turnbull	LCN Officer
Cllr Simon Jackson	Barton St David Parish Council
Siobhan White	YMCA/Connect Somerset

Virtual attendees:

Name:	Representing:
Cllr Andy Dingwall	Somerset Council
Georgia Terry (Unverified)	Cossington Parish Council
Julie Cooper	LCN Team
Kate Hellard	LCN Development Lead

Apologies

Cllr Chris Bennetts	Meare Parish Council
Jenny Lawrence	Ashcott Parish Council
John Dodson	Street Neighbourhood Watch Association
Laura Wolfers	Street & Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce
Phillip Jay	Stawell Parish Council
Cllr Ros Wyke	Somerset Council
Cllr Simon Carswell	Somerset Council
Cllr Suria Aujla	Somerset Council

Notes

1) Elect the Chair of the Local Community Network.

Cllr Bryan Knickerbocker was nominated by Cllr Matthew Martin, seconded by Cllr Heather Shearer.

Cllr Bryan Knickerbocker provided a brief introduction of himself and was unanimously elected as Chair.

The incoming Chair thanked the outgoing Chair, Councillor Matt Martin, for his contributions over the past year.

2) Appoint the Vice-Chair of the Local Community Network.

Nominations - Cllr Stephen Page & Cllr Chris Bennetts, nominated by Cllr Heather Shearer, seconded by Cllr Bryan Knickerbocker.

Cllr Stephen Page provided a brief introduction of himself. Although Cllr Chris Bennetts was not present, she had agreed to be nominated. After a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Stephen Page and Cllr Chris Bennetts would be nominated as Co-Vice Chairs for the upcoming year.

Vote result: 11 for and 1 against

Cllrs Stephen Page and Chris Bennetts appointed as Co-Vice Chairs.

3) Following a brief overview of the Annual Report the LCN discussed key points and actions still to be completed.

Link Officer Nathan Turnbull presented the report, including from active working groups: Health and Wellbeing and Highways. Members will be able to read the full report once published.

It was recognised that greater engagement from the parishes within the LCN is needed to build better relationships and involve more people.

Action 1: The Chair and Co-Vice Chairs will visit all the Parishes within LCN 17 to introduce themselves and encourage greater involvement and engagement from each community.

4)

Overview of Highlights from LCNs across Somerset

The LCN link officers present provided an overview of the work of the LCNs across Somerset. More information is available in the slide pack, which can be viewed [here](#).

The meeting reviewed highlights from other LCNs in Somerset, including their work on issues such as children and young people, active travel, highways and traffic, health and wellbeing, housing, economic development, business support, and climate, environment, and conservation.

There was interest in understanding the focus of working groups from neighbouring LCNs, with an acknowledgment that this LCN might link up with them at a later date.

5) Consider the priorities and areas of focus for the LCN for the next 12 months.

At this point, the room divided into breakout sessions, including participants online.
Breakout Groups Feedback:

1. **Organization and Communication:**

- Establish subgroups and improve communications.
- Ensure continuity at meetings and between them.
- Begin implementing the priorities stated in the yearly report.

2. **Flooding:**

- Conduct an experience and skills audit of LCN parishes, and share historical information (e.g., on flooding) to identify gaps and determine who can address these priorities (similar to the Vale of Frome questionnaire).
- Raise awareness of care opportunities in Somerset, and promote support packages, such as those for fostering.

3. **Effective Communication:**

- Define and understand the issues.
- Identify themes and problem statements.
- Consider local, group, industry-led, town hubs, and Somerset-wide approaches.
- Explore devolving responsibilities from the Council to Parish Councils.

What Does the LCN Need to Get Started?

- Organize all the working groups or clarify the focus for each working group.
- Address key areas such as highways and active travel.

Gravity Headline:

LCN link officer Emmaline Kay provided feedback to the LCN meeting:

“As you may be aware, the report presented to Full Council on 18th June 2024 referenced the Council’s ambition to establish a Gravity Enterprise Zone Local Community Forum. This Forum would include representatives from both site owners—This is Gravity Limited and Agratas (as well as any future occupiers)—alongside Council officers. The Local Community Forum aims to ensure there is a platform for the local community to engage with the project and receive comprehensive updates from relevant stakeholders involved in the project’s delivery. It will also serve as a vehicle for raising issues and providing feedback, which will be reported back to the Executive Sub-Committee for action.

The Local Community Networks are key local stakeholders and, therefore, could play an important role in the Forum's delivery to ensure the interests of the communities are represented.

We expect the details of how the Forum will operate to emerge soon. The LCNs closest to the site, and thus most affected by the development, should consider how they wish to engage with the Forum in due course.”

Action 2: LCN Priorities: Send an email to all parishes asking for their top five priorities for the LCN. (Chair & Co-Vice Chairs)

Action 3: Working Groups: Review the current working groups (Highways and Health & Wellbeing) to determine if they should continue or if new groups should be formed. (LCN Members)

Action 4: Gravity Enterprise Zone: Consider how the LCN wants to engage with the Gravity Enterprise Zone Local Community Forum. (LCN Members)

Agree the schedule of meetings for the next 12 months.

Table of Actions:

Date asked	Information	Responsibility
10th July 2024	Action 1: Increase Engagement: The Chair and Co-Vice Chairs will visit all the Parishes within LCN 17 to introduce themselves and encourage greater involvement and engagement from each community.	Chair & Co-Vice Chairs
10th July 2024	Action 2: LCN Priorities: Send an email to all parishes asking for their top five priorities for the LCN.	Chair & Co-Vice Chairs
10th July 2024	Action 3: Working Groups: Review the current working groups (Highways and Health & Well-being) to determine if they should continue or if new groups should be formed.	LCN Members
10th July 2024	Action 4: Gravity Enterprise Zone: Consider how the LCN wants to engage with the Gravity Enterprise Zone Local Community Forum.	LCN Members