

## **Bridgwater LCN meeting 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

### **Attendance**

#### **Somerset Councillors**

Cllr Diogo Rodrigues (Chair)  
Cllr Gill Slocombe (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Hillary Bruce  
Cllr Lee Redman

#### **Core Membership**

Cerwyn Pritchard – Avon and Somerset Police  
Fodo Higginson – SALC

#### **Other Attendees**

Angelo Lima – Town Warden  
Mrs Kate Lang – Bridgwater Without Parish Council  
Tasha – Bridgwater and Taunton College  
Roger Smith – Bridgwater Chamber of Trade  
Emily Window – LCN Project Officer  
Anne Shilton – LCN Link Officer for Bridgwater  
Jeff Brown – LCN Lead

#### **Virtual attendees**

Cllr Brian Smedley – Somerset Councillor  
Rob Semple – Bridgwater Town Council – Community Services  
Emmaline Kay – LCN Link Officer  
Bethan Foweraker – Bridgwater and Taunton College  
Helen Astill

#### **Apologies**

Jane Knowles – Somerset Activity Sports Partnership  
Craig Lloyd – Youth Unlimited  
Jacqui Pierce – The Hub  
Rachel Lilley – Bridgwater Town Council  
Helen Sworn – Spark Somerset

### **1. Agree the notes of the last meeting (AGM)**

The notes of the last meeting were agreed.

### **2. Updates on the working groups**

**Youth Provision Working Group:** The group has achieved its objectives and has been closed. However, there is an opportunity to reconvene if needed.

**Active Travel Working Group:** The group discussed achievements and challenges over the past year. Gary Perrott, the chair, is in touch with

neighbouring active county groups and other LCNs. (See item 5)

### **3. Discussion regarding potential anti-social behaviour/crime prevention working group**

**Antisocial Behaviour:** Cerwyn Pritchard, antisocial behaviour manager, Avon & Soms Police provided insights into the current situation in Bridgwater. There have been interventions against several individuals and police activity has been increased.

**Town Wardens:** Rob Semple discussed the presence of town wardens and their observations. There has been a decline in reported antisocial behaviour, but issues persist in certain areas.

**Police and Partners Meeting:** A recent meeting held by Bridgwater Town Council with police and partners identified street drinking and youth antisocial behaviour as main issues. Actions are being taken to address these, including working with Somerset housing team and businesses.

**QR Codes:** QR codes have been distributed to businesses to encourage reporting of antisocial behaviour. There is a need for more training and awareness among businesses.

### **4. Discussion regarding potential business support working group**

**Training for Retailers:** There is a suggestion for police to provide training for retailers on how to report incidents and handle antisocial behaviour

**Communication:** The importance of clear communication with the public about ongoing efforts and improvements was emphasized. Joint communications between police and council are being considered.

**Community Forums:** The possibility of community forums for residents to raise concerns was discussed. Currently, forums are limited to councillors and council staff.

### **5. Actions and next steps**

After discussion, it was agreed that there would be a working group for Business Support.

Cllr Gill Slocombe advised that Active Travel working group was producing good results but feels that this could continue in the future, with the addition of transport. A discussion was had about linking in with the Town Council forums for this working group and it was agreed that Active Travel would continue with the addition of Transport included.

A small presentation was given by Fodo Higginson, the Community Health and Wellbeing Officer from SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils). Fodo advised that the programme she is working on is having a relaunch to help the public understand further and to support City, Towns and Parish councils with developing any health and wellbeing ideas; they also have some grants available to help with this. It was agreed that Fodo would be attending the next LCN meeting to give a further presentation to show case the support available. Fodo also gave out some information cards to better explain the programme and this will be available with the notes from this meeting. ( hwbsupport@somerset-alc.org.uk www.somerset-alc.org.uk/health-wellbeing )

**6. Dates and possible venues of future meetings:**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 – venue to be confirmed.**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 – venue to be confirmed**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 (AGM) – Bridgwater Town Hall**

<b>Action Table</b>		
<b>Date asked</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
09/09/24	Bridgwater Without PC to be invited to Bridgwater Town Council crime/police forum	Anne Shilton / Rob Semple. Achieved 10/09/24
09/09/24	Chair to meet Chamber of Commerce re Business Support Working Group, followed by initial meeting of group shortly.	Diogo Rodrigues/ Roger Smith / Anne Shilton
09/09/24	Active Travel working (WG) to be re-established, with added Transport aspect. If members are happy to continue, date set for meeting and agreement on future to be made.	Gill Slocombe / Anne Shilton / chair of Active Travel WG
09/09/24	Presentation at next LCN meeting by Fodo Higginson from SALC on health & wellbeing and grants available.	Anne Shilton to book Fodo Higginson for Dec meeting. Achieved 10/09/24
10/09/24	Venue for next meeting to be booked. Now booked for	Anne Shilton,

	Bridgwater Cricket Club. Booking cancelled by Cricket Club. Still seeking new venue	Initially achieved 11/09/24.
--	---	------------------------------