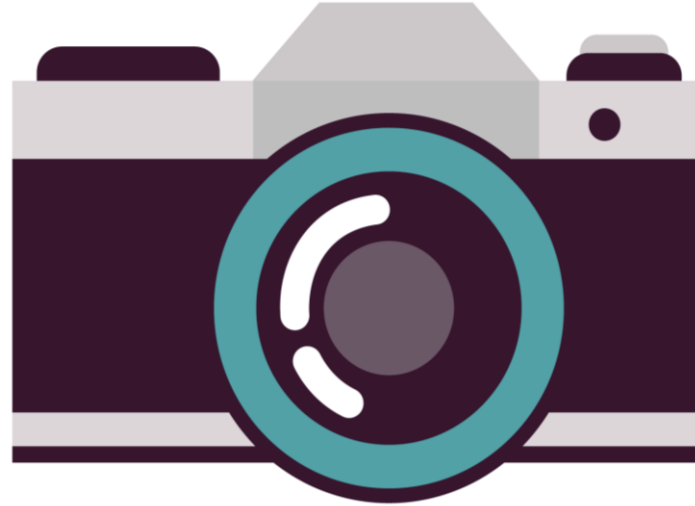


## Please Note



This event is being photographed for publicity purposes.

Images taken at this venue may be used by Somerset Council staff for promotional materials, including our website, press releases and social media posts.

If you do not want your image used, please let a member of the Local Community Network team know. **Thank you.**



# Your Local Community Network

**Bridgwater LCN**

# Agenda

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1. Agree the notes of the last meeting, September 2024.
  - 1a Vice Chair – interim/temporary position
2. Updates from working groups.
  1. Business support working group – Roger Smith, Chamber of Commerce
  2. Active Travel & Transport – continuation? New chair?
  3. Highways – with Burnham LCN
3. Presentation from Fodo Higginson, Community Health and Wellbeing Officer, Somerset Association of Local Councils
4. Presentation from Dawn Denton, Frome town centre.
5. Any other business
  - Boundary changes and possibility of other parish council areas joining Bridgwater LCN.
  - Core membership review. Possible working group
6. Date of next meeting: 3rd March 2025, likely to be Westfield Church to be confirmed

## Update on working groups

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1. Business support
2. Active Travel
3. Highways – Burnham  
LCN

# Presentations

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- Fodo Higginson, Community Health & Wellbeing Officer, Somerset Association of Local Councils
- Dawn Denton, Frome town development



SALC are working with Somerset Council, Public Health and other partners, to help support Somerset's city, town and parish Councils to actively engage in and deliver, Community Health & Wellbeing projects locally.

The Community Health & Wellbeing team are available to help – to talk through project ideas and work with your council to develop these ideas into worthwhile, long-lasting projects of all sizes.



## 11 factors that can affect health & wellbeing

**Culture & Creativity**

**Employment, Education & Training**

**Environment & Climate Change**

**Equality & Diversity**

**Health & Community Services**

**Finance**

**Housing & Infrastructure**

**Food & Nutrition**

**Physical Activity**

**Social Connections & Families**

**Transport**



## **Seed Grants up to £1500**

to scope out ideas

## **Small Grants up to £2500**

for smaller projects or smaller councils

## **Large Grants up to £35,000**

for larger projects, group of Councils working together

## **The Grants are for city, town and parish councils in Somerset:**

- Working alone.
- Collaborating with other local councils
- Collaborating with local or national organisations
- Funding is mainly for revenue expenditure - we will fund a small amount of capital within a larger project.
- The grant will be paid to one council even if several are collaborating.
- The grant recipient council will need to have the power to undertake the project or sufficient S137 capacity to receive a grant. In exceptional circumstances we can pay the grant to a collaborating organisation.

## Eligible Projects will:

- Target one or more of the 11 identified factors
- Have identified a local need - Seed funding can be used to pilot an idea.
- Be new projects
- Demonstrate how the project will be monitored and evaluated.
- Show long-lasting impact on the community.
- Demonstrate the council is committed to a long-term engagement
- Show financial input from the council, or councils
- Show minuted evidence that the council supports the project and application for funding.
- Have a clearly laid out budget

## **Application forms are different for the 3 levels of grants - all require:**

- An overview of the project along with identified need for the project.
- An explanation of previous council involvement with this project or any other community health & wellbeing projects.
- A budget that includes a balanced income and expenditure for this specific project, along with any additional explanations about a broader project.
- Plans for the future, including how the project will be sustained.
- An understanding and identification of any risks.
- How you will gather information to monitor and evaluate success.

Our programme has already supported several projects across Somerset, from community gardens and social clubs to bike maintenance workshops. It's designed to be accessible to city, town and parish councils, helping you create a healthier, more connected community:

### **Large Grant example:**

**South East Somerset LCN – Youth Outreach** This project is all about getting young people more engaged and helping those who might be struggling. This was a large grant because the project covers all parishes in the LCN area and needed significant funding to provide youth outreach services across the patch. The 4 larger councils pitched in financially to match fund the £35K grant. They're also teaming up with local schools and organisations.

### **Seed Grant Example:**

**Shepton Mallet Town Council – Youth Council** This is a grant to scope out young people's interest in taking an active role in decision making in Shepton Mallet. The council will be working with the school and existing youth provision to reach all young people.

## Small Grant examples:

**Lympsham Parish Council - Chatty Hour Club** A weekly session for more isolated residents to meet, chat socialise and bring in the occasional speaker on useful topics like fraud prevention.

**Bishop Hull Parish Council - Allotment Project** This project tackles the growing demand for allotments by installing raised beds and seating, making the space accessible for everyone, including those with mobility issues.

**Crewkerne Parish Council - Nature Reserve Project** This project is all about making the local nature reserve more accessible and educational. They're updating welcome boards, improving access, and creating fun ways for families to explore the reserve and learn about local wildlife.

**Curry Rivel Parish Council - Cookery Skills Project** Offering cookery classes to help families and individuals on low incomes learn how to prepare nutritious meals on a budget. It's about building essential life skills while also providing a social space where people can connect, share recipes, and improve their confidence in the kitchen.

**Burnham-on-Sea Town Council - On Your Bike** To cover bike maintenance & road safety advice the council brought in On Your Bike. They even worked with the police to engage disaffected young people, offering them something constructive to do.

**This Community Health & Wellbeing programme is about us helping you to support your communities to live happier healthier lives**

**To start a conversation contact:**

**Fodo Higginson**

**Community Health & Wellbeing Officer**

**Somerset Association of Local Councils**

**HWBSupport@somerset-alc.org.uk**

**Mb: 07932265419**

**Website**

**<https://somerset-alc.org.uk/health-wellbeing/>**



*BUSINESS  
LESSONS  
FROM  
FROM*

CLr Dawn Denton



# SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats



# *STRENGTHS*

Journalists living in Frome

TV locations

Internationally acclaimed businesses

Independent market

Well-connected

Proactive town council

New blood with ideas, skills and businesses

Thriving art scene

Music venues

Circular economy – strong social enterprises /  
community focused projects

Festivals



# *WEAKNESSES*

Skills development

Shops target audience not majority

Parking charges on Sundays

New blood – raised house prices /  
change demographic

Journalists

Shops close on Sundays

High council tax / business rates

Ineffective Chamber of Commerce

Too many little projects and not  
collective-think



# *THREATS*

Cost of living

Business rates

Bus cuts

Unemployment

Businesses leaving town

Shrinking voluntary sector

Serving the wealthy demographic  
with wine bars



# *OPPORTUNITIES*

Tourism

Lottery funding for Cheese & Grain

Devolution

LCN

Community groups

FTC focusing on business development  
and support for growth

Building on the town brand

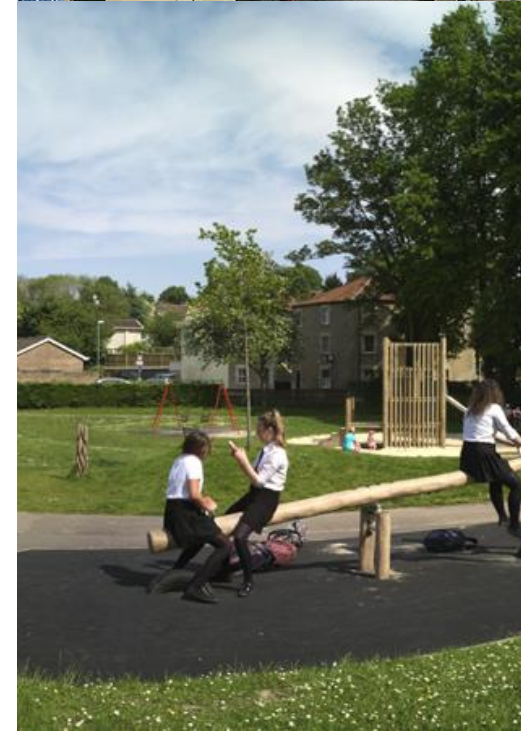
Festivals

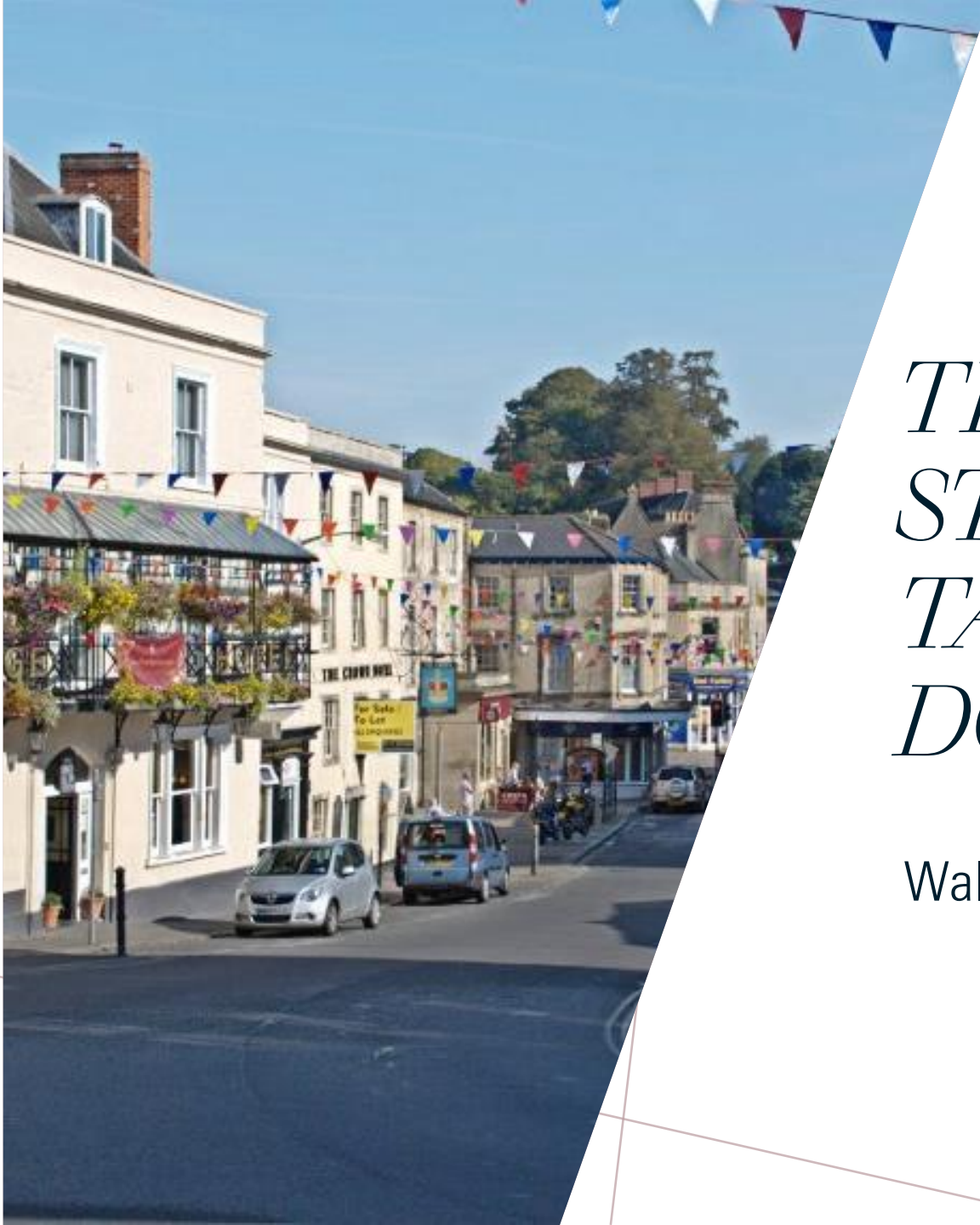
River



# *SUMMARY*

Turn **THREATS** into **OPPORTUNITIES**  
Turn **WEAKNESSES** into **STRENGTHS**  
Ask your community what they need  
**Do more of what works and less of what doesn't**





*THE WAY TO GET  
STARTED IS TO QUIT  
TALKING AND BEGIN  
DOING.*

Walt Disney

## **Any other business**

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- Boundary changes for Bridgwater LCN ?



# **Any other business**

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- Core membership review for Bridgwater LCN

# Dates for the next meetings

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At 6.30 – 8.30 pm:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025, likely Westfield Church, to be confirmed
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 (AGM), Town Hall