

## **Burnham LCN meeting notes – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024, at Princess Theatre and Arts Centre**

Attendees: -

Cllr Mike Murphy – Somerset Council  
Cllr Peter Clayton – Somerset Council  
Fodo Higginson – SALC  
Matin Chatterton – Brean Parish Council  
Maureen Phillips – Burnham Without Parish Council  
Kevin Bray – East Brent Parish Council  
Robin Leveridge – Lympsham Parish Council  
Jim Murray – East Brent Parish Council  
Sam Warren – Pawlett Parish Council  
Alan Sharp – Woolavington Parish Council  
Jane Watkins – Public  
Gordon Boyer – Public  
Emmaline Kay – Somerset Council LCN Link Officer  
Emily Window – Somerset Council LCN Projects Officer

Virtual attendees -

Doreen Smith – Connect Somerset  
Megan Harnedy – Somerset Council Link Officer  
Suria Aujla – Somerset Council

### **1. Appoint the Vice-Chair of the Local Community Network**

Cllr Peter Clayton from Somerset Council was nominated by Cllr Bob Filmer from Somerset Council, this was seconded by Cllr Jim Murray from East Huntspill. Cllr Peter Clayton was duly elected as Vice Chair of the Burnham LCN.

### **2. Update from Youn Peoples Working Group**

Doreen Smith gave an update on the working group

**Young People's Workshop:** The workshop was held on 10 September and included participants from two parishes and one town council, along with Hannah from the Somerset Youth Alliance.

The discussion focused on what rural communities are doing or planning for young people.

There was a need for more volunteers and potential funding for activities.

**Potential Funding:** Doreen mentioned that she approached Spark for potential funding and is in discussion with **Kate** about putting something together for LCNs generally. The funding could be for potential research or activities based on what young people want.

**Next Meeting:** The next Youth Working Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday. They

will be working with King Alfred School to engage young people and find out their needs. The approach will not be a survey but working with young people on activities to understand their needs.

**Expansion of Priorities:** There was a discussion on whether the Youth Working Group should expand its focus to include children, young people, and families. Doreen sought guidance from the LCN on this matter.

### **3. Feedback from Highways working group**

**General Feedback from Highways Group:** Discussion on scheme promotions and the Parish Price List.

Details of scheduled maintenance within the LCN area up to the end of the financial year, including routine environmental and other maintenance work.

Concerns about the continuation of this information as Craig, who compiled it, is leaving.

**Enhanced Highway Maintenance Scheme:** Parish and town councils can request Kier to cost a project, which will then be reviewed and a cost provided.

Concerns about budget cuts and the need for more detailed information on the minimum level of service to be provided by the Council.

**Highways Presentation Feedback:** Traffic surveys not undertaken by county highways need permission.

Clarification on road servicing and safety issues, including the criteria for filling potholes and surface dressing schedules.

Possibility for parish and town councils to request and pay for additional road defects to be fixed under the enhanced maintenance schedule.

#### **Road Safety and Footpaths:**

Reporting road safety concerns to traffic management.

Standard letter for parish and town councils to remind householders and landowners of their obligations regarding footpaths and hedges.

#### **General Points:**

Importance of having a holistic view of transport and highway impacts of planning applications.

Need for a global traffic model to assess the impact of developments on traffic flow.

Integration of public transport to alleviate car usage issues.

### **4. Planning questions**

**Cooperation Between Parishes and Town Councils:** It was suggested that parishes and town councils should communicate more effectively about major applications.

Currently, only the clerk of the particular parish is informed, but it was proposed that adjoining parish clerks should also be notified to ensure a consensus of opinion on the impact of developments.

**Traffic Impacts:** Concerns were raised about the traffic impacts of developments, particularly around the Edis speed roundabout and other traffic bottlenecks. It was noted

that there has been a lack of coordination by planners when looking at schemes in various parishes.

The need for better consultation with highways and the chief planner was emphasized to address these traffic issues.

**Public Transport Integration:** The importance of better utilizing and integrating public transport to alleviate car usage issues was highlighted.

**Impact on Facilities:** The impact of developments on facilities such as GP surgeries was discussed. It was noted that the Brent Area Medical Centre serves multiple areas, and with ongoing developments, the strain on such facilities is increasing.

**Global Traffic Model:** The idea of having a global traffic model to assess the impact of developments on traffic flow was proposed. This model would help in real-time modelling of traffic impacts and provide better solutions for traffic management.

**Sustainability and Enforcement:** Concerns were raised about the theoretical approach to planning and the actual delivery of sustainable outcomes. It was noted that there is a lack of enforcement officers to ensure that planning conditions are adhered to.

#### 5. **Topic discussion feedback: Transport and Health and wellbeing**

Fodo Higgins introduced the SALC Community health and well-being programme, offering grants for projects that enhance community health. This initiative aims to support local councils in implementing health and well-being projects.

**Programme Overview:** Fodo outlined the SALC Community health and well-being programme, funded by public health through Somerset Council, designed to support local councils in engaging with health and well-being projects. The programme offers grants to facilitate projects that improve physical, mental, and social well-being within communities.

**Grant Opportunities:** The programme provides various grants, including seed funds for scoping ideas, small grants for innovative projects, and large grants for significant initiatives. Fodo encouraged councils to apply for these grants to support health and well-being activities, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and diversity in project planning.

**Community Engagement:** Fodo stressed the need for councils to be proactive in identifying community needs through reviews and plans, suggesting collaboration with organizations like Community Council Somerset and village agents to gather insights and develop targeted health and well-being projects.

#### 6. **Meeting dates and high priority issues**

**Meeting Attendance Concerns:** Doreen expressed concerns about declining attendance at LCN meetings and the need for a strategy to engage more parishes. This points to a challenge in maintaining active participation and collaboration among local councils.

**7. Dates: -**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June - AGM**

| Date     | Action   | To be completed by            |
|----------|--|-------------------------------|
| 24/09/24 | LCN meeting attendees – investigate reasons for declining attendance – make sure all parish clerks are included in LCN notifications and reminders | LCN Link/Chair and Vice-Chair |
| 24/09/24 | Community Transport – Explore the feasibility of establishing a transport working group to address local transport issues                          | LCN Link                      |
| 24/09/24 | Warm spaces – gather feedback on effectiveness of the “warm space” initiatives and consider winter preparedness                                    | All                           |
| 24/09/24 | Secure accessible venues with good Wi-Fi for future LCNs   | Link officer                  |