

House Keeping

- Please introduce yourself when you speak
- Please use the raise hand function so we don't all speak over each other



Your Local Community Network

**Cheddar and
Axbridge LCN**

Agenda

1. Introduction (including any apologies for absence)
2. Updates from working groups:
 1. Highways
 2. Climate
 3. Access to services
3. Neighbourhood plans, community plans, the local plan. Presentation from CCS followed by discussion.
4. Health and wellbeing- SALC
5. Agree theme and discussion of next meeting (13th March 2025 Blackford Hall)

Highways Working Group

Cheddar and Axbridge LCN Climate and Nature Subcommittee

Primary aims:

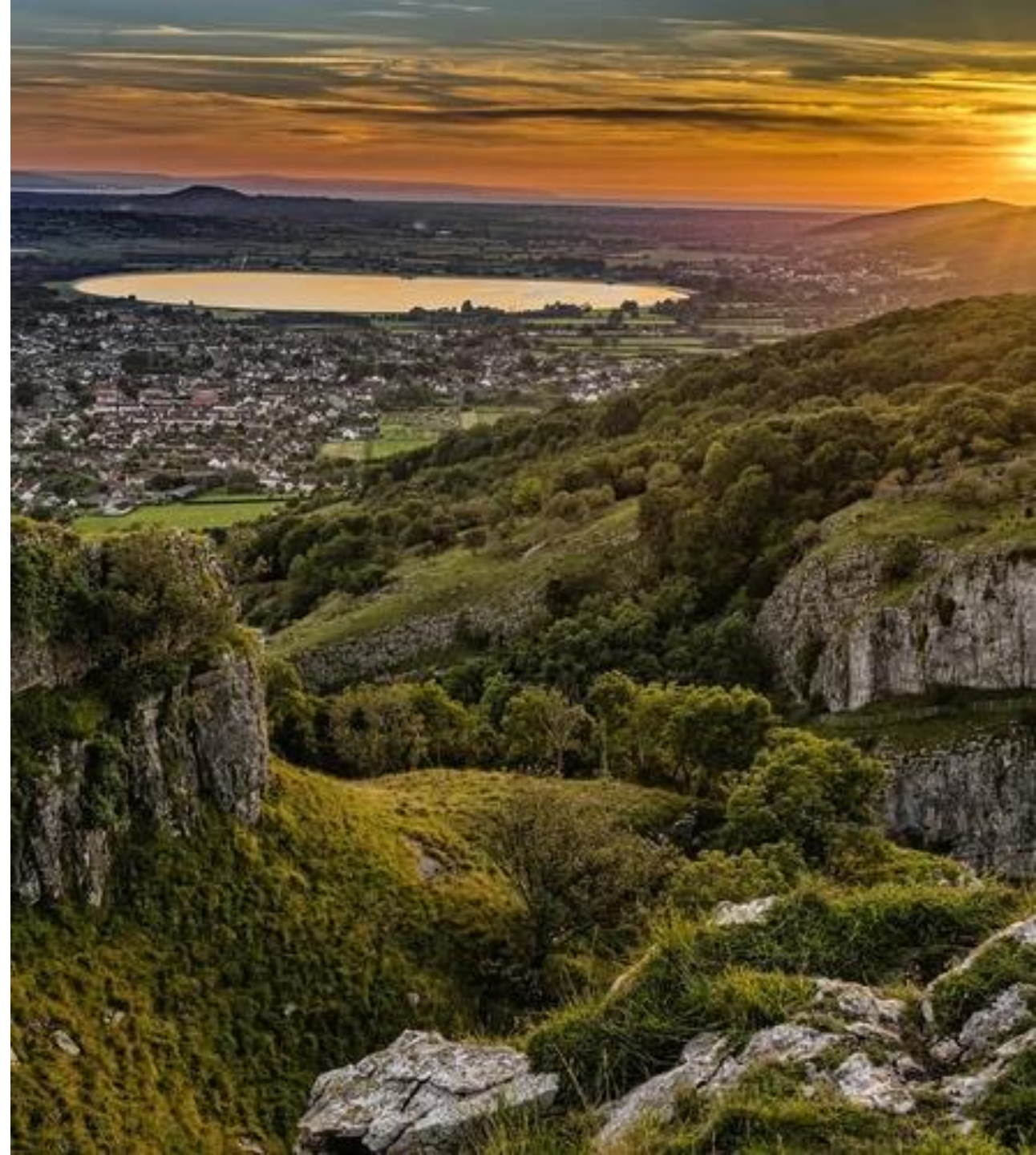
- To facilitate work on Climate and Nature actions across the 10 parishes.
- To support the delivery of Somerset County Council's Climate and Nature Emergency Strategy in the Cheddar & Axbridge LCN area



Progress and next steps

- Terms of Reference drafted
- Recruit representatives from all 10 parishes (councils and other interested groups and individuals)
- Target first meeting January/February 2025

Contact: katespooner.pc@outlook.com



Access to Services

Communication around existing services and community groups

Consideration of transport to get to these services

Parish directories with local input- asset mapping

Uncover what is missing/ how we could fill gaps



THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SOMERSET
Jane Birch – Head of Programmes

Who are we?

CCS is The Community Council for Somerset. We are a U.K. charity, established in 1926. We deliver a several programmes to enable us to deliver our vision and mission including:

- Village Agents
- Somerset Diverse Communities
- Community Buildings
- Community Reviews

Our Vision

- Supporting Somerset's communities to thrive

Our Mission

- We enable change by listening, responding to need and building connections between people and communities

Our Values

- We are kind and compassionate
- We act with honesty and integrity
- We value equality and inclusion

Community Engagement and Consultation

- Why is it important and what are the benefits?
- What tools can you use?
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Housing Needs Surveys
- Community Plans/Reviews
- Next Steps



Why is it important and what are the benefits?

- To guide council decision making
- To ensure your community's needs are considered when planning decisions are made or other policies or plans are created.
- To increase community connections and involvement in community life
- To enable community organisations and initiatives to thrive, grow or be created.
- To increase your “voice” in you LCN and with decision makers
- To provide evidence to increase success in funding bids

What tools can you use?

- Neighbourhood Plans
- Housing Needs Surveys
- Community Plan or Community Review
- Other options...

Neighbourhood Plans - purpose

- About Land-use planning
- Community plan
- Must “fit” with national and strategic planning policies
- Guides future development and conservation at a local level
- Can't reduce the scale of development in an adopted local plan
- Can identify community actions but they aren't planning policies and carry no statutory weight

Neighbourhood Plans – how to complete

- Developed by the community
- Parish Council is the “qualifying” body
- Steering group – parish councillors and the community
- Advice and support:
 - Online
 - Somerset Council
 - Other parishes
 - Government grants (10k basic grant + additional technical support)
<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/about/grant-funding/>
 - Consultants / professional planning advice

Housing Needs Survey/Assessment - purpose

- To evidence local need for affordable housing (and other types of housing if required such as housing for older people and open market housing)
- To inform parish council decisions on planning applications
- Can lead onto developing small scale affordable housing
- May influence planning policy in the longer term
- Can be used as evidence in Neighbourhood Plan policies
- Can lead onto developing small scale affordable housing using the Rural Exception policy

Housing Needs Survey/Assessment – how to complete

- Promote consultation throughout the community and to local businesses
- Survey of all residents and those with a local connection to the parish or town
- Local connection, each local plan has a variation on what that means
- Two parts
- Connect identified need with that evident on Somerset Homefinder
- Establish the correct demand based on Council housing criteria
- Share data with Somerset Council's Housing team
- Can be carried out by Somerset Council or an independent

Rural Affordable Housing – Information, Support, Resources

- Rural Housing Enabler Service
 - Expert and unbiased advice and guidance
 - Identification of housing needs
 - Locating sites
 - Hosting briefing events for landowners, parish councils and community groups
 - Technical planning assistance
 - Online resources
 - Organise community consultations and housing needs surveys

Rural Affordable Housing – Information, Support, Resources

- On our website <https://ccslovesomerset.org/rural-housing/>
- Affordable Housing webinar
- Interview with a tenant of Affordable Housing development
- Videos with other Housing expert practitioners

- Or visit www.youtube.com/@CC4Somerset

Available under the end of March 24, we have funding to complete 2 Housing Needs Surveys with parishes with a population under 3,000 to look at rural affordable housing on exception sites

Community Reviews - purpose

A document prepared by the community to develop a shared understanding of the features and characteristics of their community to identify what they want to improve and achieve in their area including a range of actions that can be delivered for the benefit of everyone locally.

It can also aid local decision making and setting priorities for your LCN.

Community Reviews – how to complete

The 4 steps;

Launch the Plan: Getting started, Establish a steering group, taking stock and planning ahead

Evidence local need and aspirations: Understand your community – consultation/survey

Agree and priorities actions: Raising awareness of the Community Review in as many ways as possible to attract interest and support for the process

Deliver and monitor actions: Organising and arranging events including recruiting volunteers for the events

Community Reviews Phase 2

We have supported 16 Parish and Town Councils to deliver Community Reviews during this year. Funded by Somerset Council and delivered on behalf of Somerset Association of Local Councils.

Ashwick, Bridgwater without, Buckland Dinham, Curry Rivel, Cutcombe, Glastonbury, Martock, Milborne Port, Milverton, Nunney, Pilton, Taunton, West Bagborough, West Monkton, Williton and Wincanton.

Community Reviews – Support available

Tools available on our website:

- Advice Sheets for the different stages
- Free Templates
 - Marketing and Communication Plan
 - Evaluation form
 - Project Plan
 - Community groups and engagement
 - Funders document checklist
- Training videos
- Question bank
- One to one support

Community Reviews Phase 1– Results

We supported 18 parishes in Phase 1

- Direct effect on controversial planning application
- Enabled the parish councils to move forward on various local projects
- Involvement of younger people and those from the wider community
- Solid evidence for the desire in the parish for a community hub to be created, and this is being used as evidence in funding bids
- Demonstrated strength of support for climate/environment actions
- Increased council understanding of local community needs
- Somerton – funded and launched Community Shed
- Langport – launched local produce market, a community garden and pétanque course
- Progress towards merger of Langport and Huish Epsicopi councils
- Drayton – overwhelming support to develop an Active Travel Route and are now fundraising to connect between Curry Rivel and Langport
- Chard – reviewing their street Market

Community Reviews – Feedback

- Leigh on Mendip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqjcgxxarHU>

Next Steps

Find out more:

- Ask other parishes that have completed different community consultations, how it has worked for them, what went well, what they wish they had done differently and most importantly find out the difference they have made
- Look at plans from other communities
- Start the conversation in your community about what the need is for? Is affordable housing a top concern, or development of your community, or community life?
- Ask for more information from your LCN Link Worker or from our team

Thank You

To find out more about us and our work:

<https://ccslovesomerset.org/>

Email: info@somersetccc.org.uk

Call: 01823 331222



Existing plans

1. Cheddar 2011-2027
 - Consultation took place in 2013/14
2. Axbridge 2023-2032
 - Consultation took place in 2016/18
3. Wedmore 2017-2032
 - Consultation took place in 2016/17

Overall Themes

1. Self-sufficiency / containment
 - Locally produced energy and food
 - Energy efficient homes
 - Climate change resilience
2. Limited transport options
 - Consensus on what kind of transport is needed and for who
3. Affordable homes for younger people
4. Homes for older people to downsize
5. Community facilities and infrastructure
 - What is missing in hard infrastructure terms
 - What are our soft infrastructure needs
6. Housing
 - How do we integrate new developments
 - What developments do we have in the pipeline

Discussion

1. What detail do we know about infrastructure and community service needs?
2. How do we know this?
3. Have we talked to residents recently?



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.



Culture & Creativity
Employment, Education & Training
Environment & Climate Change
Equality & Diversity
Health & Community Services
Finance
Housing & Infrastructure
Food & Nutrition
Physical Activity
Social Connections & Families
Transport



Eligible Projects will:

- Be Community Health & Wellbeing Projects – see 11 factors
- Have identified a local need
- Be new projects
- Demonstrate how the project will be monitored and evaluated.
- Show long-lasting commitment & impact on the community.
- Have some form of match funding
- Have a clearly laid out budget

Identifying Local Need

Carry out a Community Plan or Survey by:

- **Talking to residents – find places where people congregate**
- **Meeting with businesses, groups and organisations**
- **Holding a public meeting**
- **Conducting a formal survey – paper & online**
- **Reaching all demographics**
- **Finding primary data from Somerset Intelligence website**

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:

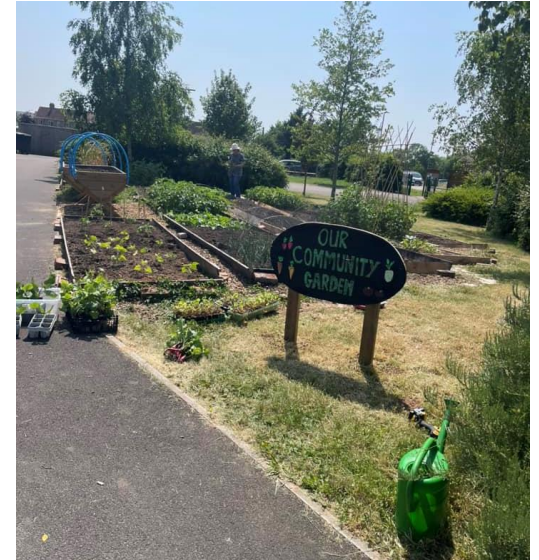
- Working alone.
- Collaborating with other local councils or organisations
- Funding is mainly for revenue expenditure
- The grant will be paid to one council
- The grant recipient council will need to have the power to undertake the project or sufficient S137 capacity

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

- An overview of the project along with identified need for the project.
- An explanation of previous council involvement with the project
- A budget that includes a balanced income and expenditure
- Plans for the future, including how the project will be sustained.
- How you will gather information to monitor and evaluate success.

Our programme has already supported many projects across Somerset. From community gardens and social clubs to bike maintenance workshops, food banks and youth outreach.

It's designed to be accessible to city, town and parish councils, helping you create a healthier, more connected community:



West Monkton Parish Council

Our Community Garden

Grant examples

Large Grant

South East Somerset LCN – Youth Outreach

Engaging young people and helping those who might be struggling. Covering all parishes in the LCN area. The 4 larger councils pitched in financially to match fund the £35K grant. They're also collaborating with local schools and organisations.

Seed Grant

Exmoor LCN

Securing a stable and sustainable future for Moorland Foodbank. An experienced project workers is employed to seek out volunteers, premises and form a new charity.

Small Grants:

Lympsham Parish Council - Chatty Hour Club - isolated residents meet & socialise

Curry Rivel Parish Council - Cookery Skills Project - cookery classes to help families and individuals on low incomes learn how to prepare nutritious meals on a budget.

Burnham-on-Sea Town Council with On Your Bike - bike maintenance & road safety advice the council brought in On Your Bike.

**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/>



Next Meeting

- 13th March 2025 at Blackford Village Hall
- What would you like to focus on/discuss?
 - Please leave a message in the chat with any ideas or suggestions for how you'd like to hear about/discuss at our next meeting and how we should best use it.