



# **Your Local Community Network AGM 2024/2025**

**Crewkerne and  
Ilminster LCN**

# Elections

Chair

Vice Chair



# Link Officer's Introduction

*The LCN has been served by Nathan Turnbull, Michelle Brooks, Sam Murrell and Fern Pearce in the current year. A new Link Officer will be recruited shortly.*

- Cllr Mike Best has Chaired every meeting this year
- We set new priorities at the AGM for topics to discuss in the year ahead
- Attendance at the main LCN meetings declined, which was partly due to a lack of cohesion and several LCN Link Officer changes.
- The two working groups: Active Travel and Highways were supported to meet regularly and to set priorities. It is hoped that this will be expanded in the coming year.

# Our Priorities and Progress

*Priorities solidified at the 2024 AGM*

## New priorities

Local Plan and  
Infrastructure

Active Travel

Highways and  
Transport

## Outcomes

As part of an early engagement exercise, a Local Planning workshop was held to consult with stakeholders on the issues that mattered to them. The outcomes will be shared soon as a part of the Local Planning Process.

The Active Travel working group has re-established itself and had the opportunity to engage with Somerset Council active travel officers and lead the way in how the council's priorities can be locally influenced.

The highways working group has started to meet more regularly. It's aim is to improve communication between Somerset Council Highways and the parishes, including understanding emerging services such as the Volunteer training and Enhanced Highways Maintenance Schemes.

# Working Group: Active Travel

## Chaired by Matt Day

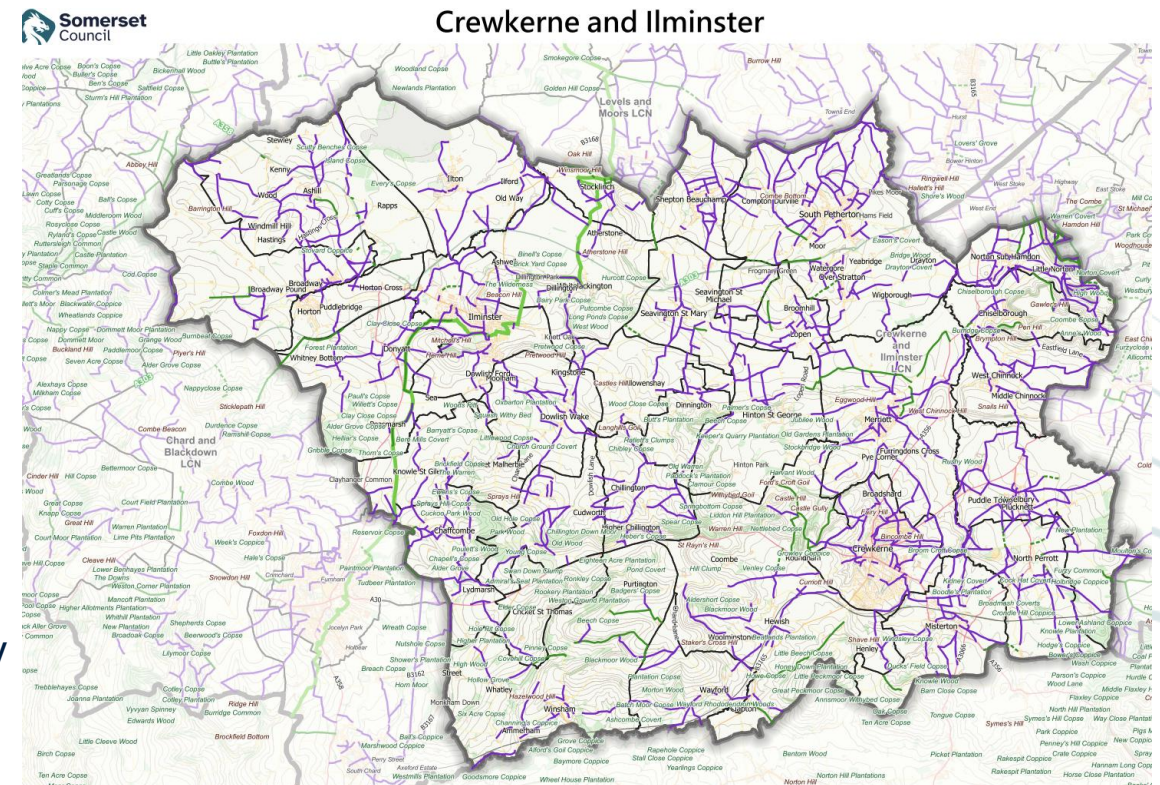
The Active Travel working group formed in March last year. It's aim is to improve Active Travel options for leisure and commuting journeys.

The group is made up of representatives from Crewkerne Town Council, Iminster Town Council, Somerset Council (Ward Members and Officers), Merriott and Hinton St George Parish Councils, Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP), Space4Crewkerne and Iminster Cyclists

### Current priorities:

1. Improve Active Travel safety and connectivity between Iminster Town Centre and Southfields roundabout
2. Maintenance of the Chard-Iminster Shared Path
3. Create a safe and direct Shared Path from the Taylor Wimpey site to Crewkerne Town Centre
4. Promote Walking in our area

These were endorsed at LCN meeting held 30 January 2025



# Working Group: Highways

## Chaired by Cllr Mike Best

Achieved greater understanding of Enhanced Highways Maintenance (EHM) Scheme through direct engagement with Kier.

Regular chance to engage with SC Highways officers.

Facilitated relationships with neighbouring LCN areas on shared issues

Current priorities:

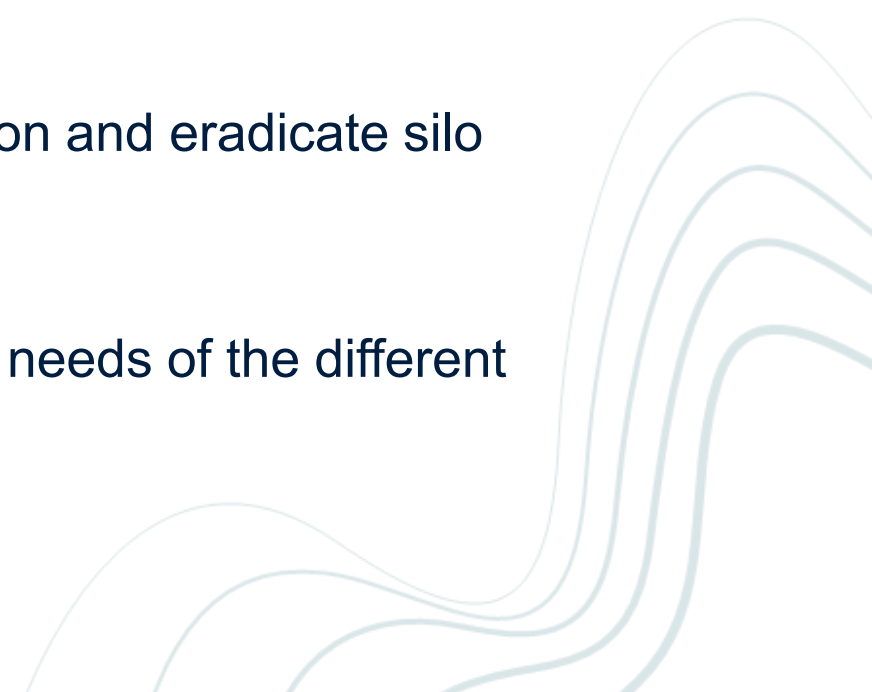
- 1) Researching gully survey information via Somerset Council Highways and Kier.
- 2) Responding to emergencies – how to cascade information quickly.
- 3) Maintenance of Speed Indicator Devices and low tech highways works.
- 4) Road safety – to include a visit from the road safety team at a future working group meeting.



EHM presentation by Kier to Highways working group


# Considerations for our LCN

- What can we work on collectively to achieve shared outcomes?
- What innovative approaches can we take to improve collaboration and communication across our LCN area to enhance localised initiatives?
- What innovative approaches can we take to improve collaboration and eradicate silo working within our community engagement efforts?
- How can we better understand the health, social, and wellbeing needs of the different demographics in our area?




# Achievements

---

A large green five-pointed star with a thin black outline, containing text.


Contributing  
to working  
groups on  
Highways  
and Active  
Travel

A large light green five-pointed star with a thin black outline, containing text.

Greater links with  
partner  
organisations and  
understanding of  
LCN work

A large red five-pointed star with a thin black outline, containing text.

Greater  
understanding  
of Somerset  
Council  
priorities.

A large blue five-pointed star with a thin black outline, containing text.

Local Plan  
early stage  
consultation  
workshop

# Link Officer's Reflections

- Working groups have been an opportunity for greater engagement and discussion of specific issues.
- While there are stronger relationships between individuals, our LCN has struggled to find issues or topics that unite us and could be taken forward.
- It is hoped that once a confirmed LCN Link Officer is in post, that there will be a chance to further ambitions and build relationships.

## Potential Future Topics...

1. Community Resilience – Emergency Planning
2. Highways and Traffic – Road Safety
3. Rural parishes working together

# Communities “exercise in a box”

Test your community  
emergency plan – before the  
crisis!

Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

www. **Somerset**  
**Prepared** .org.uk

The logo for 'Somerset Prepared' features the word 'Somerset' in green and 'Prepared' in blue. A green arrow points from the end of 'Prepared' to the right. The text '.org.uk' is positioned to the right of the arrow.

# Contents

- Introductions
- Ways to test your community emergency arrangements
- Workshop – group work
- Plenary
- Other help and support available



“No plan survives first contact with the enemy”

# Introduction

The purpose of this “exercise in a box” is for communities and community leaders to test their emergency plans and ability to deal with the emergency situations.

**Communities Prepared**  
Template Version 2.0 2024

For further tips and advice on creating a Community Emergency Plan visit:  
[www.SomersetPrepared.org.uk](http://www.SomersetPrepared.org.uk)

Community Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Emergency Plan**

Activation: **First Steps Action Card available on the reverse**

Ownership: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Local Community Network: \_\_\_\_\_

Update Due: \_\_\_\_\_ Version: \_\_\_\_\_

Contents	Page
Contact Details	3
Resources & Skills	4
Shelter	5
Local Hazards & Risk	6
Community Mapping	8
Volunteer Action Card	9
Health and Safety Aide Memor.	11

**Plan Aim**  
To enhance community resilience in a way that complements and supports the work of all responding agencies.

**Plan Objectives**  
The aim of the plan is achieved through utilising local:  
Resources  
Skills  
Knowledge

**Simple Plans Safer Places**



“A plan is not a plan until it has been tested”

# Methods for testing your plan

- **Table-top exercise.** We would recommend this option first as you will be able to fine-tune your plan quickly. It will also give you the opportunity for key people to get to know each other.
- **Walk through.** This will enable key players to have an understanding of what is required of them before an actual test.
- **Contact / call-out exercise.** This is where you test that you can make contact with the people on your call-out list. But no one should deploy.
- **Live Play Exercise** This is the stage before an actual incident. This will test all areas of your plan from communication to deal with road closures and evacuation.
- **Live incident** This will test your plan which may be scrutinised at a later date.



Charlie says: “Remember to update your plan with any learning after every exercise or real incident.”

# Table-top exercise scenarios



There are four table-top scenarios to choose from. You may wish to do all four or just one.

The scenarios include

1. Flooding
2. Total power outage
3. Severe weather
4. Food shortages



“A plan is not a plan until it has been tested.”

# What you need to run a table-top exercise



- Copies of your plan
- Maps of the area involved
- People who will implement the plan
- A room (this will vary in size according to numbers)
- Timings of how long the exercise will run for (agenda)
- Refreshments (optional)
- Pens, paper, laptops, flipcharts, projector
- A scenario.....

## And the aim of the test!



Sally says: “A table-top exercise is to test the PLAN not the PEOPLE.”

# What is your plan going forward

- What would your plan encourage your community to do?
- How would you help your neighbours?
- How would you deal with the shortages?
- What can you put in place to help with shortages?
- How will keep your community informed?
- How would you look after vulnerable people within your community?

# How we can support

- Emergency plan-writing workshops
- Somerset Prepared Small Grant Scheme
- Community Flood Action Fund
- Awareness & support events for residents
- Flooding and flood safety workshops in schools
- Formation of a Flood Group Network



# How we can support

## SOMERSET PREPARED RESILIENCE ROADSHOW

RESILIENCE DROP-IN 4-6PM  
FLOOD WARDEN WORKSHOP 6.30 - 8.30PM

Tuesday 8 July 2025

West Coker Village Hall, Churlands Close,  
94a High Street, West Coker, BA22 9AU

This event is your One-Stop-Shop for Emergency Preparedness and Resilience information. Drop in anytime between 4pm and 6pm to chat to experts and ask your resilience questions, and attend the Flood Warden workshop from 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Somerset Prepared partners attending will include Somerset Council, Somerset Rivers Authority, the Environment Agency, EVAG, and Avon and Somerset Police.

If you are a resident, Flood Warden, Parish, Town, or City Councillor please join us for a cuppa & cake & learning.

Book the Flood Warden workshop here:



EMERGENCY  
GRAB BAG

www.Somerset  
Prepared.org.uk

## SOMERSET PREPARED COMMUNITY RESILIENCE DAY 2025

Wednesday 15 October 2025

9.15am - 4pm

Taunton Racecourse Conference Centre, TA3 7BL

Help Somerset become stronger and more resilient.

Parish, Town, City Council and Community Group representatives are invited to attend this free resilience and emergency planning-focussed event. The day features a wide range of workshops networking opportunities and equipment demonstrations.

Book your free ticket here:  
<http://bit.ly/3YaSO81>



somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk  
[www.somersetprepared.org.uk](http://www.somersetprepared.org.uk)



EMERGENCY  
GRAB BAG

www.Somerset  
Prepared.org.uk



# Question Time

QUESTIONS

Contact: [somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk)