

Dowsborough LCN meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Wembdon Village Hall

Attendance:

Simon Stretton, (Chair), Spaxton PC

Cllr Mike Caswell (Vice Chair)

Cllr Brian Bolt, Somerset Council

Fodo Higginson, SALC

Loretta Whetlor, SALC

Lin Hook, Chilton Trinity PC

Peter Felton, Chilton Trinity PC

John Vassalli, Durleigh PC

Robin Leighton, Durleigh PC

Gary Mansfield, Durleith PC

David Comley, Enmore PC

Steve Skinner, Kilve PC

Kevin Ferriday, Nether Stowey PC

Caro Slaymaker, Nether Stowey PC

Tina Gardener, Otterhampton PC

John McVerry, Stockland Bristol

Chris Ford, Stogursey PC

Richard Ward, Stogursey PC

Bridget Hedaux, Wembdon PC

Paul King, Wembdon PC

Sarah Nason, Holford PC

Karen Scott Kilve PC

Patrick Tully, Over Stowey PC

Amanda McMurren, Over Stowey PC

Anne Shilton, LCN Link Officer, Somerset Council

Sam Murrell, Somerset Council

Emma Plummer, Somerset Council

Emily Window, Somerset Council

**1. Agree the notes of the last meeting**

The notes of the last meeting were agreed.

**2. Election of the Vice Chair**

Cllr Simon Stretton from Spaxton Parish Council, nominated Cllr Mike Caswell from Somerset Council, Cllr Kevin Ferriday from Nether Stowey seconded. Cllr Mike Caswell accepted the nomination. Cllr Mike Caswell was duly elected as Vice Chair of the Dowsborough LCN.

**3. Update for the Highway and Traffic working group**

Anne provided a brief update on the highways and traffic working group, mentioning that there had not been a meeting since April. She is trying to schedule a new meeting and will inform interested parties once a date is set. The new highways scheme pricing list was also discussed.

**4. Update on Connectivity including Connecting Devon and Somerset**

Mike provided an update on connectivity, expressing frustration with the lack of information and support from CDS. Several attendees shared their experiences and challenges with broadband connectivity, including issues with Airband and Openreach. They highlighted the negative impact on their daily lives, businesses and the need for reliable broadband in the modern age.

Some attendees suggested exploring alternative solutions like Starlink for better connectivity. They also emphasized the need for formal complaints and collective action to address the issues with CDS and other broadband providers.

**5. Discussion regarding potential Health and Wellbeing working group – what are the issues for residents in our area?**

A presentation on health and well-being was given by a guest speaker from SALC, Fodo (presentation and more information attached). The discussion focused on the broad spectrum of health and well-being, including physical, mental, and social well-being. Attendees were encouraged to consider factors such as transport, social connection, environment and access to services when supporting their communities. There is some grant funding available for parish councils who are interested in undertaking projects under this banner.

**6. Action and next steps**

A discussion on working groups and deciding if a continuation of the highways is

required or if new working group opportunities would be better for the LCN; these included a health and wellbeing group and a Connectivity group would be useful. It was decided that members of the meeting would go back to their Parishes to consult them to see if a health and wellbeing group would be beneficial.

A small number of people came forward to agree on a working group for connectivity, as so few members agreed on this it was decided that this would be a sub-working group with no involvement from the Link Officer. It was agreed that Mike Caswell would chair this sub-working group and they would feedback into the main LCN meeting on their findings and work.

**7. Dates and possible venues for future meetings**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (AGM) – Wembdon Village Hall

Date	Actions	By whom
11/9/2024	Parish councils to consider if a health and wellbeing working group would be wanted and report to the next meeting.	All
11/09/2024	Highways working group to set next meeting date and meet before the next full LCN meeting.	Link Officer
11/09/2024	Attendees encouraged to make complaints as a collective to the broadband companies. Please contact Mike Caswell.	Mike Caswell