

## **EXMOOR LCN – HIGHWAYS SUB-GROUP**

**Friday 17 April 2026**

**Dulverton Sports Pavilion from 10.00am – 1.00pm**

### **In attendance:**

Cllr Stephen Pugsley (Chair)	Somerset Council
Cllr Frances Nicholson	Somerset Council
Cllr Roger Foxwell	Cutcombe Parish Council (Moor)
Cllrs Christine Dubery/ Margaret Rawle	Dulverton Town Council (Southern Moor)

Kate Brown & Sam Turnedge	SC Traffic Management
Ryan Chamberlain	SC Streetworks
Lorraine Warren	Kier
Tom Thurlow	Exmoor National Park Authority
Sam Murrell	SC Exmoor LCN Link Officer

### **1. Apologies**

Patrick Watts Mabbott (ENPA Volunteers), Andrew Bray (Wootton Courtenay), Mike Ellicott (Exford Parish Council), Jeremy Hickman (Exford Parish Council), Sarah Buchanan (Brompton Regis Parish Council), Paul Tucker (Bridges and Structures), Kali Martin (Highways Maintenance).

### **2. Agree the minutes taken on Friday 20 February 2026.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were **noted as an accurate record**, subject to minor typographical corrections.

Matters arising were addressed under the relevant agenda items below. Attendees reviewed the status of several bridges and highway structures, discussing ownership disputes, maintenance responsibilities, safety concerns, and the progress of planned works.

#### **Simonsbath Retaining Wall**

Retaining wall ownership unresolved. Unclear whether wall is highway-supporting or historic/private structure.

Ongoing liaison with Exmoor National Park Authority. Tom Thurlow asked to check with ENPA legal team who have the title deeds to prove whether the boundary wall is an ENPA asset or not. If it can be proven that the wall is not their responsibility then this can be passed back to Somerset Council's legal team. (SC Legal team have been waiting on a response since July 2025).

#### **Exford Bridge**

Ongoing Environment Agency constraints on material removal. Agreement to pursue vegetation clearance as interim mitigation.

### **New Bridge (Brushford)**

Tom Thurlow advised that New Bridge was the responsibility of the landowner but was problematic as listed structure, and landowner did not live at the property. ENPA as the planning authority were liaising with the landowner about maintenance and repair.

Landowner had been advised about debris build-up and the need to maintain the structure by ENPA.

They were monitoring the situation whilst maintaining a light touch approach.

Outstanding actions acknowledged as ongoing rather than closed.

### **3. Executive Report on Additional Funding for Highways Maintenance Activity.**

The group discussed the Executive report outlining **additional Highways maintenance funding**, including a £2m allocation for 2026/27.

**Funding Allocation and Priorities:** The new funding is intended for high-visibility maintenance items, with £2 million allocated this year and a total of £5 million planned over five years, prioritising issues like road markings and signage rather than potholes.

**Steering Group Composition and Process:** Sam and a colleague were seeking clarity on the steering group's membership and decision-making process, advocating for local representation and transparency, and had received confirmation that terms of reference are being drafted but not yet public.

**Data-Driven Approach and Local Intelligence:** The group discussed the use of rainfall and flooding data to prioritise drainage and gully clearance, with £850,000 earmarked for such work, and emphasised the need for local reporting to ensure critical sites are not overlooked.

**Communication with Parishes:** Participants highlighted the importance of clear communication with parishes about the distinction between the new funding and the enhanced parish maintenance process, to avoid confusion and ensure effective local engagement.

Key points raised:

- Clarification was provided that this funding is **separate** from the Enhanced Parish Maintenance process.
- It was noted that a **steering group** will oversee prioritisation of the funding.
- Members raised concerns regarding:
  - Transparency of decision-making.
  - How local intelligence from LCN Highways Working Groups will feed into priorities.
- Drainage, gullies, road markings and signage were identified as key pressures locally.

- Officers confirmed that some funding is earmarked for **data-led drainage and gully work**, with risk and flood history forming part of the assessment.

The position was noted, with further clarification requested once governance arrangements for the steering group are confirmed.

#### 4. **Enhanced Parish Maintenance Process**

The letter circulated to parishes was discussed.

Key points:

- The process enables parishes to **commission minor works** at their own cost.
- It was noted that:
  - This is distinct from the additional Executive Highways funding.
  - Timing of the letter alongside the Executive report had caused confusion.
- Members expressed concern that:
  - Parishes may be unclear about what issues will be addressed centrally versus locally funded.
  - Drainage and gully work is the most significant local issue, which is also referenced within the Executive funding.

The group agreed that clearer messaging would be helpful to parishes.

#### **Post Minute Note:**

*The Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN Highways Group, has invited Matthew Scriven, Somerset Council Head of Highways Operations, to attend the next online meeting, which is due to take place on Thursday 23 April 2026, at 10am.:*

#### **Microsoft Teams**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 374 434 065 186 0

Passcode: oe7gm9rn

*This is to provide some clarity on the Enhanced Maintenance Process (which the parishes can undertake if they wish), and the Additional Funding Budget which will be funded through Somerset Council – please see attachments for further information.*

*In order to maximise Matthew's time, it has been discussed and agreed that representatives from other LCN Highways groups may like to attend, for that part of the agenda.*

*Please note, the meeting will be chaired by Cllr Mike Best and will move on to business specific to the Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN immediately following.*

*The meeting will be facilitated by Link Officers Chris Booth and Michelle Brooks.*

## 5. **Planned Maintenance Updates**

**Cutcombe Hill Repairs** were described as being delivered:

- Quickly
- Sensitive
- With good coordination and communication

Other works where multiple maintenance tasks were undertaken together during closures, maximising the benefit of access to the network.

### **Sticklepath B3190 Bank Slip Repairs:**

An update was provided in absentia by Kali, but the scheme has since been delayed. An email was circulated from the Highways West email on Monday 20 April advising of supply chain issues.

As a result, the Highways team have taken the decision to withdraw this scheme from the current programme. At this stage, they are unable to provide any indication of when the works may be rescheduled or delivered.

### **Winter Maintenance**

This will be covered in more detail at the Highways Winter Maintenance LCN meeting on the 11 June.

- Review of winter response, grit bins and salt supplies.
- Issues noted with:
  - Missing or empty grit bins.
  - Responsibility for filling grit bins in Somerset Council car park areas. (Off the Highway. Responsibility will sit with the landowner, asset team and ultimately car parks).

### **Traffic Schemes – Kate Brown**

- **Speed and safety concerns** raised at several locations, including **Luckwell Bridge, Cutcombe.**
- **Wheddon Cross – HGV movements and damage to property**  
**Safety works to the carriageway at Wheddon Cross** were discussed as a priority location due to ongoing concerns about vehicle movements and road layout.

These works are **subject to a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)**, which is required to support the safety measures. The TRO includes a **restriction on Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements**, aimed at:

Reducing inappropriate vehicle movements through the junction.  
Improving safety for all road users.

It was noted that the TRO process is necessary to make the restriction **legally enforceable**, rather than advisory.

The scheme at Wheddon Cross was referenced during the **Action Log review**, where it was acknowledged as **live and programmed**, with enforcement elements linked to the TRO.

- **Traffic Warning and Safety Signage**

Kate confirmed that **pedestrian warning signs** between Brushford and Dulverton are included in the current programme.

These are **not Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)** but signage improvements.

- **Road Markings & White-Lining Refresh**

Kate outlined that Traffic Management is moving to a **polygon-based approach** for road markings, rather than ad-hoc junctions.

For this year, **rural polygons** are being progressed, following earlier urban works.

The focus is on:

- **Give-way markings** at junctions (not general edge lines or parking restrictions).
- Priority junctions across villages including **Winsford, Timberscombe and surrounding rural routes**.
- Faded parking lines in Dulverton (including **Union Street**) were acknowledged as needing attention.
- Historic plans exist and can be reused to ensure accuracy.

She confirmed that lining works are seasonal and delivered when road conditions and temperatures are suitable.

#### **Public Utility Works** (Ryan Chamberlain)

- **National Grid works at Barnsclose No.8 streetlight** were confirmed as programmed for **May 2026**, including carriageway excavation and reinstatement.
- Openreach proposals along the B3190 were noted, with a request for a future briefing session to ensure early engagement and coordination, particularly around market days.

#### **Surface Dressing** (Chris Tucker)

An overview of the 2026 programme and listed locations was noted.

#### **6. Exmoor Fingerpost Maintenance** (Tom Thurlow)

An update was provided on the fingerpost restoration programme.

**Restoration Progress and Funding:** Several signpost restoration projects have been approved and funded, with arrangements for volunteer days and coordination with parish councils to maintain and repaint signposts.

**Volunteer Recruitment:** The team discussed using Facebook groups and local networks to recruit volunteers interested in signpost restoration, aiming to channel community enthusiasm into practical support.

**Key points:**

- Approved repairs are progressing, including works at Brushford, Redgate and Flynn Cross.
- Volunteer support and external funding streams continue to support the programme.
- Concerns were noted regarding unauthorised access to stored fingerpost materials; this was being followed up internally.

## 7. **Review action items not captured in earlier agenda items.**

### **Follow up – Rogue Contractors, offering Private Highway Works.**

Attendees discussed reports of door-to-door traders offering highway-adjacent or private works. Officers confirmed that the reported activity was not connected to Somerset Council or authorised Highways works. It was agreed that suspected rogue trading should be reported to the police, and that sharing information through the Working Group supports community awareness.

### **The Action Log was reviewed.**

- Several items were confirmed as **completed** or **in progress**.
- Ongoing issues relating to bridges and retaining structures were noted as long-term risks, with continued monitoring required.
- Members agreed the importance of keeping such items live in recognition of safety and access implications.

## 8. **Parish business**

- **Great House Street, Timberscombe**

Members explicitly requested an update on the situation, noting concern that the issue may require a larger scheme and that communities needed clarity on likely timescales.

This was identified as an issue normally falling to Kali's area of responsibility.

- **Upton Trees, Upton**

Concern was raised that no further update had been received regarding the **trees at Upton**. The group requested that this be followed up, noting the issue as important and outstanding.

- **Carnarvon stores (Brushford Drainage Repair)**

Attendees discussed the historic drainage scheme at Carnarvon Stores, Brushford noting that works were only partially completed several years ago due to the discovery of underground services. Officers confirmed that no further scheme is currently programmed. Ongoing correspondence with Brushford Parish Council regarding concerns about associated impacts, including the village sign, was noted.

- **Kemps Way, Dulverton (Unadopted Road)**

Attendees discussed the ongoing condition of Kemps Way, noting that the road remains unadopted. This was confirmed as the principal constraint preventing inclusion within Traffic Management and planned maintenance programmes. Interim safety measures have been undertaken, but members expressed concern that conditions continue to

deteriorate. Progress is dependent on resolution of adoption issues before further works can be considered.

- **Porlock Parish Council Queries**

Attendees discussed drainage issues within Porlock car parks, noting that responsibility lies with the asset owner rather than Highways. Parking and lining matters were also referenced, with clarification provided on the role of the Parking and Traffic Management teams. The importance of clear signage, coordination and communication when works affect Porlock was noted.

It was noted that some drainage issues reported by Porlock Parish Council had been inspected and found not to be defective. It was agreed that direct liaison with Paul Keal, Highways Superintendent would be helpful to clarify locations, explain inspection outcomes, and distinguish between Highways responsibilities and car park/asset issues. Provision of photographs for any outstanding concerns was encouraged.

**9. Recommendations to the Panel (SP)**

The following themes were agreed for escalation:

- Need for **clear governance and transparency** around allocation of additional Highways funding.
- Formal recognition of intelligence generated through LCN Highways Working Groups.
- Continued prioritisation of drainage and flood-risk locations on Exmoor.

**10. Dates and Venues for meetings going forward:**

- **June meeting** focused on winter maintenance will take place on Thursday 11 June. The Moorland Hall, Cutcombe has been booked for this purpose. Invite Jeremy Fry and Highways Wardens to participate.
- Adjust AGM timing subject to LCN Governance Review outcomes. (Likely to be the autumn date formerly reserved for winter maintenance review).

Proposed Exmoor LCN Dates Venues to be confirmed	Highways Sub-Group Dates – Dulverton Sports Pavilion
Thursday 11 June at The Moorland Hall, Cutcombe. <b>REARRANGED</b> . <i>Now to be focussed on winter maintenance with highways wardens.</i>	Friday 10 July 10am – 1pm

**11. Meeting closed at 12:30pm.**

**Standard Post Minute Note**

A request was made to access the mapping portal. Information on this is provided below. (Please note. This was not discussed at length in the meeting and has now been added as a post minute note).

**One.network:** [Link to Causeway one.network](#)

One.Network will show all works that has a Streetworks permit raised:

- Planned works (Statutory Undertaker and Highway Works)
- Works in progress (Statutory Undertaker and Highway Works)
- Temporary Traffic Signal Licences
- Planned and current road closures
- Scaffolding
- Major Events

Here is the Wellington & Wiveliscombe LCN You Tube Playlist where you can access the One.network training session: [One Network Training Session Presentation](#)

**Public Information Portal (PIP):** [Link to Public Information Portal](#)

PIP focuses specifically on future Highways works. These are projects that haven't yet been scheduled with definitive start or finish dates. While PIP might not be as all-encompassing as One.Network, it offers a valuable early glimpse into upcoming Highways schemes. This allows LCNs to identify and address any concerns or questions well before the works are fully planned and executed

**Somerset Highways Works Programme Interactive Map:** [Link to Somerset Highways Works Programme - Interactive Map](#)

Instructions on finding the information on the Somerset Council website:

- On the Somerset Council home page [Somerset Council](#) scroll down the page to 'Our Services' and click the link 'Roads, travel and parking'
- In the 'Roads, travel and parking page', scroll down and click the link 'Roadworks and closures' which opens a sub-menu below 'Pages in Roadworks and closures'
- Find and click the link 'Somerset Highways Annual Works Map' which will open a new page
- On this page there is a brief description about the map and as you scroll down there is a link named 'Open the Annual Works Map', click this link to open the interactive map which will display the county of Somerset. Use the scroll button on your mouse to zoom in and find your area and press and hold the left mouse button to move the map around
- In the top right corner of the page is the search bar for location searches and just below that is the map Layers button (black bordered white square with a horizontal wavy line on top of 2 straight lines).
- Click this link to open the layers menu, where you can select a number of assets to display on the map including 'Gullies' and 'Gully Rounds'
- The displayed assets and routes are interactive in that if you click an individual 'gully' or a 'Gully Round' route, a pop-up box will appear with the associated asset data.