

## Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Local Community Network - Hestercombe

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

Time: 7.00pm

Location: North Newton Village Hall

Chaired by: Phillip Spencer

### Attendance

- Cllr Norman Cavil (Vice Chair)
- Cllr Alan Bradford
- Christine Brewer- Community Council for Somerset
- Andrew Pritchard – Mind Somerset
- Amy Shepherd- West Monkton Parish
- Andrew Williams
- Cllr David Stripp- Kingston St Mary
- Rachel Crocker- Durston
- Lindsey Appleboom- Durston
- Paul Hampers
- Linda Hyde- North Petherton
- Mary Onukem (online)
- Stuart Haskins- West Monkton
- Kieran Roe- Creech St Michael (online)
  
- Emily Window –Somerset Council
- Emmaline Kay- Somerset Council
- Alex Mountain- Somerset Council
- Michelle Brooks – Somerset Council (online)
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### Apologies

- Cllr Lee Baker
- Sammie Millard- Jones- Cheddon Fitzpaine Clerk
- Elaine Harris- Community Youth Project

*Documents attached with these notes:*

- *Hestercombe LCN slides*
- *CYP Update Slides*
- *Cross LCN Active Travel Notes*
- *Monkton Heathfield Development Plan slides*

<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>Summary of key points of discussion and outcome:</b>
Item 1	<b>Agree the notes of the last meeting 19 September 2024</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed and approved, with a slight adjustment to include Ian Forrest in the attendance.</li> </ul>
Item 2	<p><b>Updates from working groups:</b></p> <p><b>Children and Young People Working Group</b></p> <p>The Chair (David Stripp) updated Hestercombe LCN about the CYP working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This included an update on funding and how every council has committed funds in their 2025-2026 budget for CYP.</li> <li>• David spoke about the challenges faced in youth work, such as resource shortages, pandemic impact and provision gaps.</li> <li>• He outlined the goals for youth work: improve life chances of young people, keeping young people safe and community connection.</li> </ul> <p><b>Highways Working Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>, will be joint with Taunton LCN (<i>The notes are attached with these</i>).</li> <li>• The group discussed traffic issues on the A361 from Watford Cross to the Pipers Inn, considering several suggestions to address these issues</li> <li>• Discussion of a proposal to avoid Wolford Cross altogether and consider a new junction onto the M5, although it was noted that Highways England has no plans for a new motorway junction at Wolford Cross in the next 20 years.</li> <li>• Concerns were raised about the impact of the Monkton Heathfield development plan on local traffic, particularly the potential for increased congestion and 'rat runs' through smaller communities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cross LCN Active Travel Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed the need for a representative to join the Active Travel Working Group. Councillor Cavill agreed to attend the cross LCN active travel group and provide feedback.</li> <li>• This group is expected to play a crucial role in addressing active travel issues and ensuring effective coordination across different areas.</li> <li>• There were significant concerns about the impact of increased traffic on local communities, particularly with the proposed developments and changes to road infrastructure. The potential for increased congestion and the need for effective traffic management were discussed.</li> </ul>
Item 3	<p><b>Presentation on Monkton Heathfield Development Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy Shepherd and Andrew Williams presented the Monkton Heathfield Development plan highlighting the impact on local traffic and the need for an Eastern Relief Road to mitigate congestion.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Monkton Heathfield development plan, part of the Taunton Dean Borough Council's core strategy from 2011, aims to create a new sustainable neighbourhood. The plan includes housing, a district centre, and a school.</li> <li>• The development is divided into two phases: MH1 and MH2. MH1 has already seen significant development, while MH2 is the focus of current discussions.</li> <li>• Traffic and infrastructure issues were raised: A major concern is the lack of an Eastern Relief Road in the current MH2 master plan. Originally, this road was intended to divert traffic around the development, but it has been omitted, leading to fears of increased congestion on the A38.</li> <li>• The A38 will have multiple crossing points and traffic lights to encourage active travel, but this is expected to slow down traffic significantly.</li> <li>• The impact of motorway closures on the M5, which frequently diverts traffic onto the A38, has not been adequately addressed in the development plan. There are concerns that motorists will seek alternative routes through smaller communities to avoid the congested A38.</li> <li>• The development is expected to bring approximately 1,400 new homes, which will add around 2,000 vehicles to the area. The plan includes a district centre and a school, but the lack of a proper relief road may lead to segregation between the existing MH1 and the new MH2 communities.</li> <li>• Both West Monkton and Creech St. Michael Parish Councils have been actively involved in discussions with the developer and planning officers, expressing their concerns about traffic and infrastructure.</li> <li>• There is a call in the group for better coordination between planning and highways departments to address these issues comprehensively</li> <li>• The community is encouraged to participate in upcoming meetings and workshops to voice their concerns and contribute to the planning process</li> </ul>
Item 4	<p><b>Local Plan Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local plan engagement clip made by Allies and Morrison Architects, introduced the first stage of the local plan engagement process, emphasizing the importance of community input in shaping the vision and objectives for Somerset.</li> <li>• It outlined the key topics for the local plan, including homes, health and well-being, economic sustainability, culture, community, transport, green spaces, and heritage.</li> <li>• This included discussion of stakeholders including, Somerset Council members, LCN representatives, city, town, and parish councillors, and community groups.</li> <li>• The next steps in the local plan process are setting the scene stage, wider public engagement, and the statutory consultation stage.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Local Plan Workshops:</b> We discussed the need for a mini workshop to gather input from the Hestercombe LCN before the main workshops on February 24th and 25th.</li> </ul>										
Item 5	<p><b>Somerset Electoral Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initial proposals for the Somerset review of county councillors have been shelved. The electoral review has been extended by 6 weeks and new proposals have been released.</li> <li>• There was a suggestion to include the electoral review discussion as part of the mini working group for the local plan.</li> <li>• Specific concerns were raised about the initial plan to group Willstock and Stockmoor with Durleigh, despite the lack of direct road connections between these areas, requiring travel through North Petherton and Bridgwater.</li> </ul>										
Item 6	<p><b>Actions, Dates and Venues of Future Meetings</b></p> <p>Next meeting dates:</p> <p>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025- Creech St Michael</p> <p>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – North Petherton Rugby Football Club</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="424 1106 1517 1973"> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1106 992 1200"><b>Minutes Adjustment:</b> Add Ian Forest to the minutes of the last meeting.</td> <td data-bbox="992 1106 1517 1200">Link Officer- completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1200 992 1368"><b>Youth Survey Outreach:</b> Provide ideas for reaching out to young people who have not yet responded to the survey to broaden the survey pool.</td> <td data-bbox="992 1200 1517 1368">All members</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1368 992 1559"><b>Cross LCN Active Travel Group:</b> Attend the cross LCN active travel group meeting and provide feedback.</td> <td data-bbox="992 1368 1517 1559">Vice Chair Cllr Norman Cavill</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1559 992 1783"><b>Mini Workshop Scheduling:</b> Arrange a mini workshop before the 24th of February to discuss the Somerset local plan and the electoral review.</td> <td data-bbox="992 1559 1517 1783">Link Officer and Chairs- completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1783 992 1973"><b>Hinkley Point Consultation:</b> Add the Hinkley Point consultation to the agenda for the next meeting- Linda Hyde</td> <td data-bbox="992 1783 1517 1973">Link Officer and Linda Hyde</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Minutes Adjustment:</b> Add Ian Forest to the minutes of the last meeting.	Link Officer- completed	<b>Youth Survey Outreach:</b> Provide ideas for reaching out to young people who have not yet responded to the survey to broaden the survey pool.	All members	<b>Cross LCN Active Travel Group:</b> Attend the cross LCN active travel group meeting and provide feedback.	Vice Chair Cllr Norman Cavill	<b>Mini Workshop Scheduling:</b> Arrange a mini workshop before the 24th of February to discuss the Somerset local plan and the electoral review.	Link Officer and Chairs- completed	<b>Hinkley Point Consultation:</b> Add the Hinkley Point consultation to the agenda for the next meeting- Linda Hyde	Link Officer and Linda Hyde
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