

Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network – Minehead & Watchet

Date: Thursday 17 October 2024

Time: 6:32pm – 8:34pm

Location: EMN Hall, Croscombe Hill, Monksilver TA4 4JE

Chaired by: Cllr Mandy Chilcott (Somerset Council)

LCN Core Membership Attendance:

Name:

Cllr Marcus Kravis
Cllr Christine Lawrence
Cllr Rosemary Woods
Cllr Brenda Maitland Walker (Vice Chair)
Cllr John Passingham
Cllr Tony Brooks
Cllr Robin Wichard
Cllr Geoff Williams
Cllr Jan Swan
Cllr Mark Philipson
Cllr Peter Payne
Paul Matcham

Representing

Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Carhampton PC
Combe Florey PC
Crowcombe PC
Nettlecombe PC
Old Cleeve PC
Sampford Brett PC
West Quantoxhead PC
Williton Parish Council
Minehead Eye / Connect Somerset

Virtual Attendees:

Name:

Cllr John Irvén
Fiona Toms
Jane Armstrong
Maureen Smith
Ray Tew
Tony Melnyk
Ben Parker (Clerk)

Representing:

Watchet Town Council
Minehead People & Place Partnership

West Somerset Community Land Trust
Minehead Coastal Development Trust
Dunster Parish Council
Minehead Town Council

Other attendees

Name:

PCSO Supervisor Katherine Williams
Fodo Higginson – Health and Wellbeing
Cllr Sue Smith
Cllr Wendy Philipson
Cllr Ian Aldridge
Tracey Swan
Kerry Westcott
Sheila Stevens
Emma Child
Martin Stevens
Sheila Stevens
Kate Williams

Representing:

Avon & Somerset Police
Somerset Association Local Councils
Carhampton PC
West Quantoxhead PC
Williton PC
Member of the Public
NHS / Primary Care Network
Member of the Public
Minehead Swimming & Leisure Ltd
Watchet Coastal Community Team
Watchet Coastal Community Team
Watchet Coastal Community Team

Officer Attendance:

Sam Murrell (LCN Link Officer), Emily Window (LCN Project Officer), Anne Shilton – Virtual (LCN Link Officer)

Summary of discussion:

Agenda Summary of key points of discussion and outcome: Item:

1. Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Mandy Chilcott introduced the meeting, acknowledged the road closure, and listed apologies from various councillors and representatives. She thanked PCSO Katherine Williams for attending from 6pm to facilitate conversations with parish representatives.

Apologies received from Somerset Cllrs Andy Hadley, Christine Lawrence, Mike Rigby, Andy Sully & Hugh Davies. Also Christine Boland & Annie Cole (Magna), John Richards (WACET), Loretta Whetlor (SALC), Marilyn Crothers (Nettlecombe PC), Michelle Francis (clerk – Williton PC), Izzy Silvester (Village agent), Maggie Forkes (West Bagborough PC)

Cllr John Irvén (Watchet TC) tendered apologies but joined online.

She also welcomed Kerry Westcott from the Primary Care Network to the meeting. She asked Kerry to provide a brief overview of her role within the NHS. Kerry Westcott explained the role of the Primary Care Network in West Somerset, detailing the services provided across four GP surgeries, including proactive care for complex patients, health coaching, and integration with community services.

- **PCN Role:** Kerry Westcott explained that the Primary Care Network (PCN) has been in place for about five years, covering four GP surgeries in West Somerset to ensure equitable services across all locations.
- **Complex Care:** The PCN runs a team of complex care nurses who provide proactive care for patients with multiple long-term conditions or those nearing the end of their life, focusing on older demographics.
- **Health Coaches:** The PCN employs health coaches to support patients with long-term conditions, offering services like weight loss clinics and low-level mental health support while patients wait for secondary care referrals.
- **Community Integration:** The PCN has been co-located with district nurses at Williton Hospital for three months, aiming to integrate more closely with existing community services and has launched the NHS Health Check service in West Somerset.
- **Future Plans:** The PCN is looking to expand its successful model for older people to children and young people, aiming to replicate the benefits seen in reduced admissions and improved health and well-being.

2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting

The notes from the previous meeting were approved by those present.

3. Matters arising (not part of later agenda items)

There were no matters arising.

4. Update from Avon and Somerset Police

Katherine Williams provided an update on the West Somerset neighborhood policing team, including changes in personnel, the opening of a new police station in Minehead, and various initiatives such as plainclothes operations to tackle shoplifting and engagement events.

- **Personnel Changes:** Katherine announced changes in the West Somerset neighbourhood policing team, including the departure of temporary Sergeant Hayden Smith and the arrival of substantive Sergeant John Emer, along with the addition of beat manager Stewart Creech.
- **New Police Station:** The Minehead neighborhood team will move to a new police station at the old Seahorse Centre in early November, which will also serve as a touchdown base for response officers.
- **Closure Order:** The police successfully obtained a closure order on a problematic property in Minehead, resulting in the eviction of occupants and the property being boarded up for three months, with potential for a further extension if issues are not resolved.

- **Shoplifting Operations:** Plainclothes operations have been conducted to tackle shoplifting, leading to the issuance of a Community Protection Warning and an application for a Community Protection Notice against a prolific offender.
- **Community Engagement:** Regular beat surgeries are held in Watchet Library, and the Watchet police post is reopening with new signage. PCSOs also attend talking cafes and run mini police sessions in local schools.
- **Bleed Kits:** Parish councils, businesses and schools are being invited to purchase bleed kits to be placed in prominent locations within their communities. Bleed kits are not just for knife crime – we need to dispel that myth.

They can be used for ANY KIND of catastrophic bleed such as traffic collisions, animal bites, falls from height, crime related, agricultural incidents etc. In the depths of Somerset where Ambulance response times could be significant, the importance of having such a lifesaving piece of equipment in a visible and accessible location cannot be undervalued. A kit recently used in Compton Martin was on a person who suffered an accident in the home but knew where their local kit was.

5. Highways Working Group Update

Brenda Maitland Walker provided an update on the Highways Working Group, discussing winter maintenance, grass and verge cutting, road sweeping, and the ongoing situation at Cleeve Hill on the B3191.

- **Winter Maintenance:** The group discussed winter maintenance and the filling of grit bins, with a map available on the Council's website showing reference numbers for bins and bags.
- **Grass Cutting:** Concerns were raised about highways only cutting one swathe along hedges, causing visibility issues. The group requested highways to consider using a wider cutter.
- **Road Sweeping:** The issue of road sweeping is pending, but the group has asked for improved communication on maintenance schedules.
- **B3191 Cleeve Hill:** The group discussed the ongoing situation at Cleeve Hill on the B3191, emphasizing the need to keep neighboring parishes informed and considering the formation of a small working group to explore alternative solutions and address wider flooding and coastal protection issues.

To consider the recommendations:

- **A small working group is set up to look specifically at the B3191 Cleeve Hill road closure to vehicles and explore alternative solutions. Also to consider wider flood and coastal protection issues.**

This prompted the following discussion:-

John Irven (Watchet Town Council) expressed concerns about the suggestion of a small working group for the B3191 and emphasized the need to re-energize the **Coastal Protection Group** to address broader issues of coastal erosion and flooding.

- **Background:** John provided background on the issue, mentioning that Watchet Town Council first observed serious subsidence in 2022, leading to the closure of the B3191 and the need for a comprehensive approach to coastal protection.
- **Coastal Protection Group:** John emphasized that the Coastal Protection Group, which was supposed to include various stakeholders like the Environment Agency, has not yet held a meeting and needs to be prioritized by the unitary council. It would be helpful if the LCN could take a more strategic approach on this and look at the wider area not just confined to the B3191.
- **B3191:** Ian Aldridge suggested exploring alternative routes for the B3191, including potential contributions from developers, to ensure a viable solution is ready for government funding opportunities.

Action Point 37

The LCN to write a letter to Somerset Council's director and portfolio holder to inquire about the continuation and re-energizing of the Coastal Protection Group.

- **A working group to be established to look at the Active Travel Routes with particular emphasis on the proposed Dunster to Carhampton Cycle way.**

Cllr Brenda Maitland Walker advised that she had been contacted about attending a meeting to discuss the cycle path and would report back once the outcome of the meeting was known.

(A county wide group concentrating on Active Travel is being set up and facilitated by Michelle Brooks LCN Link Officer). This will be to coordinate limited resources and invitations are invited from members of the LCN). Initial meeting to be held online on Monday 25 November at 6pm.

6. Presentation from – Fodo Higginson from SALC (Health and Wellbeing Coordinator).

Fodo presented the Community Health and Well-being Programme, outlining various grant opportunities for town and parish councils to support health and well-being projects, such as allotment projects, cookery skills classes, and bike maintenance workshops.

- **Programme Overview:** Fodo introduced the Community Health and Well-being Programme, aimed at encouraging town and parish councils to get involved in health and well-being projects through various grant opportunities.
- **Grant Types:** Fodo explained the different types of grants available, including seed grants for scoping out ideas, small grants for specific projects, and large grants for collaborative efforts among multiple councils or organizations.
- **Project Examples:** Examples of funded projects include allotment projects with raised beds, cookery skills classes for low-income families, and bike maintenance workshops for disaffected young people.
- **Application Guidance:** Fodo provided guidance on applying for grants, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, community involvement, and evidence of need. She also mentioned upcoming training sessions on evaluating the impact of health and well-being projects.

Children and Young Persons Health Coach: Kerry Westcott and Paul Matcham discussed the pilot program for a Children and Young Persons Health Coach to support low school attendance and mental health issues, emphasizing the need for additional resources in West Somerset.

Minehead Swimming and Leisure Project: Emma Child introduced the Minehead Swimming and Leisure Project, aiming to bring a full-size community-owned swimming pool to Minehead, and sought support and engagement from the community.

The slides from the meeting are attached to the notes.

7. Dates of future LCN meetings:

The group agreed to hold the next LCN meeting online in January due to the time of year and venue availability, and discussed potential agenda items, including an update from Magna and issues related to adult social care and micro providers.

- Thursday 9 January 2025 – To be online via MSTeams
- Thursday 10 April 2025
- Wednesday 16 July 2025 (AGM)

8. Future meeting dates for the Highways Subgroup:

- Tuesday 3 December 2024
- Thursday 13 March 2025
- Tuesday 24 June 2025

To commence at 10am and be held in a suitable space at West Somerset House.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Action Point 37 - Coastal Protection Group:** Write a letter to Somerset Council's director and portfolio holder to inquire about the continuation and re-energizing of the Coastal Protection Group. (Sam & Chair/Vice Chair)
- **Action Point 38 - Health and Well-being Funding:** Send an email to all towns and parishes to gauge interest in a meeting to discuss potential health and well-being projects and funding opportunities. (Sam in consultation with the Chair)
- **Action Point 39 - Magna Housing Presentation:** Invite Christine Boland from Magna to present at the next LCN meeting to discuss their current operations and community engagement. (Sam)
- **Action Point 40 - Adult Social Care Update:** Invite a representative from adult social care to discuss the availability of care packages, micro providers, and the new facilities at the Seahorse Centre. (Sam)
- **Action Point 41 - Highways Subgroup Meeting:** Send a reminder about the Highways Subgroup meeting scheduled for the 3rd of December at West Somerset House. (Sam)
- **Action Point 42 – B3191:** Conversations around the B3191 re-routing continue to be explored within the Highways sub-group.