

Meeting Summary: Wells and Rural LCN – AGM - 17 June 2025

Leadership Appointments

- Chair Elected: Denise (Wells City Council)
- Vice Chair Elected: Cllr Ros Wyke (Mendip West)

Actions:

- Confirm Ros Wyke's acceptance as Vice Chair.
- Update LCN records with new leadership details.

Reflections on the Past Year

- Lack of clarity on LCN's purpose and outcomes.
- Mixed views on effectiveness: some see it as a "talking shop," others cite successful collaboration (e.g., youth scoping project, flooding discussions).
- Need for better communication and engagement with smaller parishes.

Actions:

- Define and communicate the LCN's purpose and scope.
- Share examples of successful outcomes to build confidence.
- Encourage more consistent attendance and participation.

Working Groups Review

- Highways – ongoing, but attendance and officer availability are issues.
- Active Travel – active and well-attended.
- Flooding – currently inactive; needs revival.

Actions:

- Reinstate the Flooding Working Group (volunteer leader needed).
- Continue pre-submitting questions for Highways meetings to improve responses.
- Encourage rotating or community-led chairs for working groups.

LCN Priorities for 2025–26

- Youth provision and outreach (e.g., mobile youth services, youth-led initiatives).
- Speeding and traffic enforcement.
- Flood prevention and inter-parish collaboration.
- Improved communication and networking between parishes.
- Access to funding and budget transparency.
- Better stakeholder engagement (e.g., police, health, SRA).

Actions:

- Form a Youth Provision Working Group.
- Write a letter from the LCN to relevant agencies about inter-agency inaction on flooding.

- Develop a shared contact sheet for officers and stakeholders.
- Explore hybrid meeting options to improve accessibility.

Funding Opportunities

- Public Health Grants: Up to £10,000 available; simplified process for small parishes.
- Youth Scoping Project: Completed by Wells City Council on behalf of surrounding parishes.
- Future Grants: Match funding may be required; early engagement with Foda (Public Health) recommended.

Actions:

- Share grant opportunities and deadlines with all parishes.
- Encourage early conversations with Fodo for grant planning.
- Consider collaborative bids for cross-parish projects.

Engagement & Communication

- Inconsistent attendance from smaller parishes.
- Lack of awareness of available support and contacts.
- Need for better networking and sharing of parish updates.

Actions:

- Introduce a “Parish Roundtable” at each meeting for updates.
- Send out a list of all parishes in the LCN and their contacts.
- Use newsletters and the LCN website to share updates and resources.

Future Meetings & Themes

- Suggestion to theme meetings (e.g., youth, flooding, transport).
- Invite relevant stakeholders (e.g., Police Commissioner, SRA, Highways).
- Consider rotating venues and hybrid formats.

Actions:

- Confirm next meeting date and venue (consider Shepton or Wells).
- Plan themed agendas and invite speakers in advance.
- Collect parish input on topics and questions ahead of meetings.