



Local Community Network

Avalon and Poldens LCN meeting notes – Tuesday 21st January, held Online via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Cllr Chris Bennetts (LCN Co-vice chair)
Cllr Georgia Terry – Cossington PC
Cllr Jennifer Lawrence – Ashcott PC and SALC
Cllr Graham Croucher – Shapwick PC
Cllr Geraldine Baker – Chilton Polden PC
Cllr Hugh Gange-Harris – Stawell PC
Cllr David Heale – Edington PC
Cllr Julie Welch – Edington PC
Cllr Mike Smyth – Glastonbury TC
Cllr Lindsay MacDougall – Glastonbury TC
Cllr Stephen Page (LCN Co-vice chair) – Somerset Council
Cllr Andy Dingwell – Somerset Council
Cllr Nick Cottle – Somerset Council
Fodo Higginson – Community Health and Wellbeing officer - SALC
Emmaline Kay – Somerset Council LCN Link Officer
Beth Poole – Somerset Council LCN Link Officer
Fern Pearce – Somerset Council LCN Link Officer
Emma Plummer – Somerset Council Senior Community & Parish Dev Officer

1. Welcome and Apologies

Co-Chair's of the LCN, welcomed everyone to the online meeting. After advising the agenda for the evening apologies were given from those who could not attend.

Apologies were made for: -

Cllr John Corsan
Cllr Gus Wan
Cllr Tim Kerley
Cllr Bryan Knickerbocker
Cllr Heather Shearer
Cllr Liz Leyshon
Cllr Laura Wolfers
Cllr Simon Carswell

Notes from previous meeting and actions:

Table of Actions

Date	Action	Action for
16/10/2024	Parish Engagement: Send an email to all parishes to gauge interest in setting up a flooding or emergency planning working group.	Chair/Link Officer
16/10/2024	Community Flood Action Fund: Circulate information about the Community Flood Action Fund to all parishes and encourage applications.	SRA/Link Officer
16/10/2024	Health and Well-being Grants: Share the link to the SALC website and details about the health and well-being grant program with all parishes.	SALC/ Link Officer
16/10/2024	Watercourse Maintenance: Share the new guidance on farming rules for water and responsibilities with Emmaline for distribution to parishes.	EA/ Link Officer
16/10/2024	Flood Risk and Planning Workshop: Promote the Community resilience day in Bridgwater on November 6th, including the workshop on flood risk and planning.	SRA
16/10/2024	Parish Conference: Promote the Somerset Parish's conference on November 13th to all parishes.	Fodo

Parish Engagement: Emmaline discussed the importance of parish engagement and the need for the chair and vice chairs to contact parishes to set up dates for visits. They also mentioned the interest in setting up a flooding and emergency workshop

Flooding and Emergency Workshop: Emmaline shared information from the previous LCN meeting focused on flooding and mitigations, including details from Somerset Rivers Authority and grant pots available to parish councils. They also mentioned the Environment Agency's input on watercourse maintenance and flood risk planning workshops.

Grant Information: Emmaline shared details about grant pots available to parish councils, including community flood action funds from Somerset Rivers Authority and seed grants from Salk. These grants aim to support local flood mitigation efforts.

Watercourse Maintenance: The Environment Agency discussed watercourse maintenance and flood risk planning workshops. These workshops aim to educate and equip parish councils with the knowledge and tools needed to manage flood risks effectively.

2. Presentation from Avon and Somerset Neighbourhood Police Team

Avon and Somerset Police Update: PS Daniel Jeffries, the neighbourhood Sergeant for Frome and Shepton Mallet, provided an overview of the policing structure in the area, current priorities, and issues such as antisocial behaviour and thefts.

- **Policing Structure:** Avalon and Poldens LCN area is covered by four different police neighbourhood teams, each responsible for specific regions. Wincanton, Street and Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet and Bridgwater
- **Antisocial Behaviour:** There has been a spat of door knocking and other disruptive activities. The police are working with schools and using out-of-court disposals to address these incidents.
- **Thefts:** Theft of small plant machinery and tools from outbuildings and sheds has been reported in more recently. The police are reminding residents to secure their properties and consider crime prevention measures such as CCTV and lighting.
- **Policing Priorities per region:**
 - **Shepton Priorities:** Addressing antisocial behaviour and thefts of small plant machinery and tools. These issues are being actively monitored and addressed by the neighbourhood team.
 - **Street Priorities:** Focusing on parking and speeding issues, particularly around school drop-off and pick-up times. They are engaging with parents and providing advice to address these concerns.

Antisocial Behaviour: The street neighbourhood team is also addressing antisocial behaviour in specific areas, such as Strode Rd. They are conducting reassurance patrols and seeking individuals responsible for the incidents.
 - **Glastonbury Neighbourhood Team:** addressing a male causing a nuisance around Glastonbury Tor and antisocial behaviour in St. John's churchyard.
- **Beat Pages and Social Media:** Locals residents are encouraged the use of beat pages and social media to stay updated on neighbourhood team priorities and engagement events.

[Glastonbury Town | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Shepton Mallet Rural | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Street | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Sedgemoor South East | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Wincanton Rural West | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/avonandsomersetpolice>

[Avon and Somerset Police \(@ASPolice\) / X](#)

[Avon and Somerset Police \(@aspolice\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

- **Rural Crime Team Update:** There has been a spare of thefts of trailers and quad bikes and the use of poacher blocks to address poaching and hare coursing.
- **County Lines and Drug Networks:** PS Daniel Jeffries provided a generic update on county lines and drug networks, explaining the exploitation of vulnerable individuals and the efforts to target and address these issues.

3. **Health and Well-being Working Group Update:**

Emmaline provided an update on the health and well-being working group's focus on community transport (Step, Ride, Thrive Proposal), access to services and Primary Care Network services across the LCN area. They invited interested parties to join the working group. Then a presentation was give by Natalie Watson (Natural England) on the Step, Ride and Thrive Proposal (Please see slides).

- **The proposal** to add the Avalon Marshes Centre to the Libra Service 668 bus route, thus providing access to holistic wellbeing resources, promoting active travel and community health through a pilot project funded by the SALC Community health and well-being large grant.
- **Partnerships:** On Your Bike charity to offer free bike maintenance sessions and school workshops as part of the active travel project.
- **Match Funding:** The large grant hosted Natalie Watson requested financial support and letters of support from parishes for the Step, Ride and Thrive Proposal, highlighting the benefits for the LCN area.

4. **Highways working Group Update**

Graham Croucher provided an update on the highways working group's progress, including the appointment of joint chairs, Cllr Graham Croucher and Cllr Geoff Barnetts. The working group met with Somerset Council Colleagues In November and hosted a Kier presentation on the Enhanced Highways Maintenance for all parishes to attend. The involvement of more parish councils, is the main focus to be able to share highways updates, and jointly action issues effect more than one parish.

5. **Somerset Council Local Plan:** Somerset Council are embarking on the new local plan as a unitary council. There are various stages to get through before the plan is adopted.

A video was played at the LCN meeting detailing the process. And an offer of a Local Plan "Mini-workshop" was agreed and will take place in February

6. **Date and Venues of future meetings**

Main LCN meetings:

Wednesday 24th April 2025 – Cossington Village Hall
Wednesday 9th July 2025 – Keinton Mandeville Village Hall

Local Plan “Mini-workshop” (Stage 1)

Monday 10th February 2025, 10:00 – 11:30am, Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9TT

Step, Ride and Strive Proposal presentation

Thursday 6th February 2025, 19:00 – 20:0, Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9TT

Health and Wellbeing working group

Thursday 13th February 2025, 13:00 – 14:30, Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9TT

Highways working group

Tuesday 25th February 2025, 10:00 – 13:00, Glastonbury Town Hall Magdalene Street, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9EL

7. Table of Actions

Date	Action	Action for
16/10/24	Workshops: Send an email to all parishes to gauge interest in setting up a flooding or emergency planning working group.	Chair/Link Officer
16/10/25	Parish engagement: Chair and Vice-Chair’s to attend parish council meetings	Ongoing
21/01/25	Send Parish representative to Local Plan Mini-workshop 10 th Feb 25	All parishes
21/01/25	Attend 2 nd Step, Ride, Thrive proposal presentation	Invite to all LCN
21/01/25	Attend Health and Wellbeing working group	Invite to all LCN