

Exmoor Area Panel Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday 7th March 2019
Moorland Hall Wheddon Cross

Those present

S Pugsley (Chair)	B Lang WSC/TDBC
T Howard Withypool and Hawkridge PC	B Brown WSC/TDBC
Jeremy Davis Withypool and Hawkridge PC	C Knight Brushford PC
P Griffin Wootton Courtenay PC	D Garth Brushford PC
Sergeant Dan Bishop Avon and Somerset Constabulary	J Anson Cutcombe PC
Sharon Baker Bishop Avon and Somerset Constabulary	V White Cutcombe PC
Tony Murray Magna Housing	M Rawle Dulverton TC
K Mills WSC	K. Coulman Dulverton TC
N Thwaites WSC	M McCoy Porlock PC
B Heywood WSC	A Milne Porlock PC
P Pilkington WSC	R Hall Porlock PC
J Hickman Exford PC	M Ellicott Exford PC

1. Apologies for Absences

- 1.1 Apologies for absences were received from Ruth McCarthy and Tess Sanders (ENP).
Frances Nicholson (SCC). D Powell and A Sparling (Luxborough PC).

2 Minutes of meeting held on 22nd January 2019 and Matters Arising

- 2.1 Agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting
- 2.2 M Ellicott thanked the panel members for electing him as Vice Chair of the Exmoor Panel for the next 12 months.

3 Magna Housing report

- 3.1 T Murray presented the Annual Magna Housing report to the Panel (which attached as Appendix A to the notes of this meeting)
- 3.2 **Highlighted items from the report:**
Magna own 362 homes in the Exmoor Panel area.
All lettings take place using the Somerset-wide Homefinder Choice Based Letting Scheme.
In the period between April 2018-31 December 2018, 25 properties were let, 7 more than the previous year.
Where section 106 agreement is in place, preference is always given to applicants with a local connection.
Magna intends to build 300 new homes for social rent and 300 for shared ownership.
Manga's preferred approach is to commission the building of new homes rather than procurement via the s106 route.

Magna will seek to participate in the Homes England grant programme for both rented and shared ownership housing.

New builds will meet Magna Standard as a minimum and complies with the latest Building Regulations and come with Energy performance Certificate rating of B. This policy will result in lower utility bills adding to the affordability of shared ownership or rented home.

Achievements included:

Average re-let period was 2 weeks (top quartile of housing association performers).

Overall rent arrears stand at 1.95%

Satisfaction survey - 87% tenants are satisfied overall

Magna plan to spend £11m on major repairs and planned maintenance in the next 12 months.

3.3 The Magna Strategy

Continued commitment towards high quality housing

Reviewing service of sheltered accommodation

Reviewing what can be done to reduce the extent of under-occupancy. This is a very sensitive issue and it was made clear that no one would be forced to move from their homes if they didn't want to.

Service to reduce isolation by working with part time voluntary community co-ordinator to help bring people into community rooms to promote social interaction.

- 3.4 P.Pilkington asked if electric car charging facilities were going to be made available. T Murray replied that Homes England may start looking at this as a requirement to gain grants. The possibility of Taunton Deane building new homes will not affect Magna but rather such a proposal would complement the work Magna were doing.

- 3.5 R Hall asked whether the maintenance/decorating programmes could provide work experience opportunities for people. T Murray said that this could work via apprenticeships with Magna and external contractors.

- 3.6 At the end of the presentation, a call for sites was made by T Murray, K Mills and V White.

4 Police Issues

- 4.1 Sergeant Dan Bishop attended the meeting and circulated his report (which attached as Appendix B to the notes of this meeting).

- 4.2 Sergeant Bishop introduced Sharon Baker who is the Partnership Officer West Somerset Neighbourhood Policing Team | Avon and Somerset Police and based at Wellington Police Station, Victoria Street, Wellington TA21 8HR. Tel 07889659875
Email sharon.baker@avonandsomerset.police.uk

- 4.3 Sgt Bishop and Sharon Baker explained to the panel about the continued good work that the local teams and the wider neighbourhood team are carrying out across West Somerset / Exmoor.

- 4.4 Sgt Bishop talked about Farmwatch, Horsecwatch, Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch and explained how the teams and the wider Neighbourhood Police Team across the whole

of Somerset West would be looking to sign more people up to the schemes and further improve relationships with communities, particularly rural communities in the forthcoming months. The efforts in Bridgetown by PCSO Bryan Stevens were discussed and the Community Speedwatch scheme that'll soon to be up and running.

- 4.5 Sharon Baker explained her new role of West Somerset Partnership Officer and also spoke about the concerns of Modern Day Slavery in our rural communities. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 covers everyone including British citizens. Modern day slavery includes withholding wages, making employees pay for their tools , imposed places to stay etc. Operation Aidant is currently running – 5 cases so far in West Somerset area. Sharon offered posters about how to report MDS via the new Unseen mobile phone app.
- 4.6 Concern was raised about the safe disposal of knives. Sgt Bishop said knives can be collected and disposed of safely by the police.
- 4.7 Poaching. Venison poaching is now recognised as an organised crime. Progress is being made towards tracking venison by the use of matching DNA from carcasses with swabs from killing sites. Members of the public warned not to approach anyone but report their suspicions to the police i.e 4 x 4 off roading at night.
- 4.8 Car and quad bike thefts increasing and more officer time has been requested for patrol cars. A trap car is being introduced and request that all goods are hidden in the boot of cars.

5 SCC Highways and Winter Gritting and Salt Bin programme.

- 5.1 David Peake presented his report (which attached as Appendix C to the notes of this meeting)
- 5.2 Maps identifying salt bins and salt bags were handed out for each Parish. Additional funding from SCC has been made available and a review of the winter service will be made.
The Chairman is assured that the County Councillor will be pressing hard for the salt routes that were removed to be replaced and that the salt bags will be re-instated.
- 5.3 Concern was raised that information about purchase of salt bins was not getting to all Parish Councils (Luxborough PC not present). S Pugsley ensures the floor that emails are sent out to all PCs and K Mills and F Nicholson would inform Luxborough at the next PC meeting.
- 5.4 Issue of correct amount of salt to be used was raised (little and often and not 1 large lump – 2 grams per square meter). Suggestion that laminated instructions put in all salt bins.
- 5.5 D Peake said he would remind drivers of snow ploughs to travel slowly through villages as fast driving had caused a serious pile up of snow in Wheddon Cross.
- 5.6 Issues with standard of work in Exford D Peake said this will be investigated.

6 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Issues

- 6.1 There was no report submitted in this regard

7 Exmoor National Park

- 7.1 There was no report submitted in this regard

8 Parish Lengthsman Scheme

- 8.1 Plans and rota has been finalised any changes need to negotiated with the Shaun the Lengthsman.

9 Local Authority update

- 9.1 B Lang informed the Panel that Purdah was due to start on the 18th March 2019 for the District Council elections and the date of the election itself (2nd May).

10 AOB

- 10.1 P Pilkington informed the Panel that County and District Council had adopted the Climate Protocol and £20k has been allocated. It is planned that this will be used to install electric car charging points across West Somerset. blog <http://ev2charge.home.blog/>
Link to the EV consultation <https://ev2chargehome.files.wordpress.com/2018/11/12f72f11-d7a0-46e3-9f2d-66260c363693.pdf>
- 10.2 At the end of the meeting S Pugsley announced that Bruce Lang was retiring and this was the last Exmoor Panel meeting that he would attend. S Pugsley said that the Panel meetings owed a huge debt of thanks to Bruce for his humour, common sense and the rational advice he has provided over the years. B Lang replied thanking Chair and the Panel for their kind words. The meeting closed with a round of applause and many words of thanks from the attendees.

11 Date and Venue of Future Meeting

- 11.1 Dates and location of next meeting to be confirmed
- 11.2 Luxborough PC requested whether a change of day for the Panel meetings could be considered due to difficulties in attendance on a Tuesday.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm