

**EXMOOR PANEL  
MINUTES  
Tuesday 4 September 2018  
Winsford Village Hall, Winsford**

**Those present:**

S Pugsley (Chair)	C Knight, Brushford PC
J Anson, Cutcombe PC	V White, Cutcombe PC
M Rawle, Dulverton TC	J Hickman, Exford PC
A Vigars, Exmoor PC	V Carweth, Exton PC
A Sparling, Luxborough PC	J Bray, Winsford PC
C Wilkins, Winsford PC	J Davies, Withypool & Hawkridge PC
T Howard, Withypool & Hawkridge	S Donati, Avon & Somerset Constabulary
S Williams, Avon & Somerset Constabulary	R McArthur, ENPA
F Nicholson, SCC	N Thwaites, WSC
B Heywood, WSC	P Pilkington, WSC
B Lang, WSC/TDBC	R Foxwell

**1 Apologies for Absence**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from K Coulman (Dulverton TC), T Anson (Cutcombe PC), M Ellicott (Exford PC), D Powell (Luxborough PC), R Hall and M McCoy (Porlock PC), P Webber (Selworthy and Minehead Without PC), K Mills (WSC), L Brooks (Avon and Somerset Constabulary), D Peake (SCC Highways) and T Saunders (ENPA)

**2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 July 2018 and Matters Arising**

2.1 Agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**3 Recycling Centres**

3.1 Mickey Green, Managing Director of Somerset Waste Partnership attended the meeting.

3.2 Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) looked after the collection services on behalf of the District Council and the disposal of waste on behalf of the County Council via two contracts with Kier and Viridor respectively.

3.3 By 2020 none of Somerset's waste would be land filled and any waste not recycled would go to an energy from waste plant in Avonmouth. This would be better for the environment and financially cheaper.

3.4 Improvements to the collection service would shortly be implemented and details on the roll out of the Recycle More kerbside collection were provided. Over 90% of recyclable material collected was recycled in the UK. Due to the increased recycling collection, the frequency of the refuse collection would reduce to once every three weeks.

3.5 SWP were focussing on supporting people to change behaviours by funding a 'school's against waste' programme and the Partnership had funded three half-day activity sessions in 100 primary schools to engage young people in recycling. This initiative had been taken up by Exford and St Dubricius first schools and Mr Green urged any

Panel members who had links with other schools in the district to encourage them to take part in this programme.

- 3.6 The Attenborough effect had significantly raised the awareness of plastics and it was hoped this would encourage people to recycle more. SWP had produced a handy guide on tips for ways to cut down on plastic usage. All of the Recycling Centres would now accept plastic tubs, pots and trays and Panel members were urged to relay this information to residents. The take up of this new service had exceeded SWP's expectations.
- 3.7 SWP were actively promoting food waste recycling as currently it was estimated that a quarter of what was being put in the rubbish bin was food waste. The Partnership were working with local libraries to distribute free rolls of food waste liners to local residents and it was hoped that there would be opportunities for Panel members to promote and encourage people to start/carry on recycling food waste within parishes.
- 3.8 76% of material had been recycled in the Dulverton Recycling Centre and there had been a 6% drop in visitor numbers (nearly 8,000) which worked out at 4 visitors an hour, and a 50 tonne drop in the amount of waste taken. 85% of material had been recycled in the Minehead Recycling Centre and was UK leading in terms of performance, and the Centre had received 63,000 visitors (36 visitors per hour).
- 3.9 The offices in Dulverton had been refurbished as part of improvements to the recycling centres. The permit scheme had been introduced in October 2016 and was bedding in well, cutting down trade abuse and cross border abuse.
- 3.10 A contract review with Viridor was currently being undertaken and negotiations were based on keeping all the recycling sites open; opening hours would be looked at on a site by site basis. The £2 charge at Dulverton would have to disappear by March 2020.
- 3.11 Various other detailed points and issues were raised by members of the Panel and addressed by the Managing Director, which included :
- concerns around the restrictions for trailer use at the Dulverton Recycling Centre - it was confirmed the permit scheme would be reviewed next year;
  - changes to the frequency of collecting household waste and what type of containers would be supplied for the enhanced recycling collection;
  - businesses should request a separate commercial waste collection service;
  - it was confirmed that the new vehicles being introduced in 2020 would be less prone to releasing rubbish whilst being driven, and a request was made for Panel members to report any incidences that they currently observed so this could be followed up with the crew;
  - a request was made to circulate further information in the Exmoor parish magazine in order to help encourage more people to recycle and to use the Dulverton Recycling Centre;
  - it was noted that recycling centre opening hours were available on SWP's website.
- 3.12 The Chairman thanked Mr Green for his presentation and the answering of questions.

#### **4 Police Issues**

- 4.1 Sgt Stuart Williams and PC Sam Donati attended the meeting and circulated a report, which is attached as Appendix A to the notes of this meeting.

- 4.2 Contact details for the Exmoor police team were available on the Avon and Somerset Police website under 'Your Area'.
- 4.3 It was confirmed that the issue of deer poaching was being actively investigated. It was stressed that if anybody suspected that poaching was happening they should call 999.
- 4.4 Concerns were raised in regard to the proposal to replace police vehicles with public transport and bicycles and how impractical this would be in the remote, rural areas such as Exmoor. It was confirmed that this would be implemented in the urban areas where PCSO's would not have access to vehicles. Sgt Williams reassured the Panel that through guaranteed neighbourhood policing the Exmoor beat team would remain to engage and communicate with the community; they would have access to a vehicle in order to help them carry out their duties.
- 4.5 Further to a question raised regarding speed cameras on the A396, it was advised that there was currently an issue concerning speed gun training, however, the police were aware of the concerns regarding speed enforcement in this area and the matter was being looked into. Community speed watch was also suggested as a suitable way to monitor and help reduce speeding traffic.

## **5 SCC Highways**

- 5.1 The planned works in the Exmoor Panel area are attached as Appendix B to the notes of this meeting.
- 5.2 It was reported that during the Highways Warden Meeting the reduction in the pre-salting network and the fact that SCC would no longer be providing free of charge salt bags was discussed. The Chairman advised that a letter would be sent to Cllr Nicholson on behalf of the Panel requesting that at least one route be provided to Dulverton and the other principal villages that were not otherwise covered on the main road network, and also to request that SCC supply salt at a low charge in order for parishes to consider purchasing.
- 5.3 The need to cut vegetation more frequently to improve sight lines at junctions and speed signs was raised. Cllr Nicholson agreed to circulate an email, via Bruce Lang, detailing the definitive ruling on such matters pertaining to each parish.

## **6 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Issues**

- 6.1 There was no report submitted in this regard.

## **7 Exmoor National Park Authority Issues**

- 7.1 Ruth McArthur attended the meeting. She advised that currently there was a limited ranger service although a new ranger would be starting in a few weeks' time. She reported on the successful work undertaken with the Police regarding illegal vehicles on ENPA land, poaching and rural crime, and it was hoped that this collaborative working would continue.
- 7.2 Members were advised on the appointment of the New Head of Planning, Dean Kinsella and it was hoped he would be able to attend a future Panel meeting in order to introduce himself.

- 7.3 There was a continuing programme of woodland management which was publicised on the ENPA website and if Panel members required further information or had queries they were advised to contact Graeme McVittie, the Forestry Officer, direct. The Chairman reported on the ash dieback disease and the subsequent repercussions of this process on the landscape.
- 7.4 An update was provided on various projects particularly linked to boosting the local economy, for example the Eat Exmoor project and the Dark Skies Festival.
- 7.5 Information was also provided on the Discover England Programme which was an initiative undertaken with other National Parks to attract and increase international visitors.
- 7.6 Panel members were advised that the Exmoor's Ambition document had been well received and had gotten widespread publicity in the local and national press.

## **8 Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update**

- 8.1 The scheme had been successful this year and there were plans to continue next year on a similar basis. Feedback to the Clerk would be welcomed as to which parishes would like to continue with the same hours.

## **9 Progress Report on the Formation of the New Authority and an Update on the Boundary Commission Warding Review**

- 9.1 Bruce Lang provided details on the proposals for the new warding scheme. In relation to the Exmoor Panel area, three district wards were being proposed, namely Porlock and District, Exmoor and Dulverton District, each with one councillor. Treborough would be incorporated in the new Exmoor ward instead of the Old Cleeve ward, this was a modification to what was originally submitted. More information on the boundary changes were available on the website.
- 9.2 The proposals had been welcomed by both West Somerset and Taunton Deane councils.
- 9.3 The Local Government Boundary Commission would now look at all the responses submitted as part of the consultation and final recommendations would be issued to Parliament during mid-October.
- 9.4 An implementation plan was underway to get ready to form a new Council. The Shadow Council, which comprised all 84 WSC/TDBC Councillors, would make the key decisions regarding preparing for the new Authority, and this fundamental change had an impact on both councillors and staff.
- 9.5 A complete staffing restructure was also being implemented and more effective ways of how customers contacted the council would be introduced. This meant that there would be a challenging transition period between now and April 2019. Regular updates would be provided as more details became available.

## **10. Items to be brought forward by Parishes**

- 10.1 No items were raised.

## **11 Dates and Venues of Future Meetings**

- 6 November 2018 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall
- 22 January 2019 at 7.00 pm – Winsford Village Hall
- 7 March 2019 at 7.00 pm – Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

## **Exmoor Police report for the Exmoor Panel meeting**

Over the past three months these are the figures of reported crimes broken down over the 3 months. They are "tagged" under these headings but please don't be alarmed as often they are not what they seem or turn out to be something less worrying and this is often as it gets recorded.

### **June-**

4x Burglary  
 4x Thefts  
 3x Vehicle offences  
 2x Arson and Criminal damage  
 2x Public order  
 8x Violence against a person

### **July-**

10x Violence against a person  
 5x Burglary  
 5x Theft  
 5x Vehicle offences  
 2x Sexual offences  
 2x Public order  
 1x Arson and Criminal damage  
 1x Robbery

### **August-**

4x Violence against a person  
 3x Vehicle offences  
 2x Burglary  
 2x Theft  
 1x Arson and Criminal damage  
 1x Sexual offences

Over Exmoor we have been out and about recruiting people for the Farm and Horse Watch for those that are unsure what this is, It is a free scheme we offer to farmers or small holdings where you join our database and we update you with any crimes that have occurred relevant to farms in the Exmoor area, helping you to be extra cautious you are provided with a sign to put up to alert any passer's by that you are under the farm watch scheme helping any potential thieves to think twice !. If you think you would like to join or know a bit more about it please contact me on [Linda.brooks@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:Linda.brooks@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

Over the summer the Pcsos were out over the beauty spots areas giving motorists advice about keeping their belongings safe and not leaving them on show whilst they go off for walks.

Now the evenings are drawing in we advise you to be vigilant with any out buildings you may have keeping them locked and secure and consider motion lighting and CCTV as an option.

**During 8<sup>th</sup> October to the 14<sup>th</sup> we have a rogue trader focus where we have actions planned for the week to offer crime prevention and advice to farmers, sheltered housing and farmer markets traders etc.**

**We also have a Exmoor facebook page run by PcsO Linda Brooks please feel free to add me where I advertise beat surgery's coffee with cops general patrols and other useful information.**

**We also advertise events and dates on our website.**

**Any Exmoor concerns please feel free to contact one of the beat team**

**Bryan Stevens Jo Dawson or Linda Brooks**

## Planned Works in the Exmoor Panel Area

Winsford Village Hall 4 September 2018

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Completed						
SCC	Dulverton	Windball Hill	Drainage improvement works.		Completed	
SCC	Porlock	A39 Doverhay, High Street & Redway	Carriageway patching.		Completed	
SCC	Brompton Regis	"C200" White Post to Lyddons Hill Cross	Carriageway repairs.		Completed	
SCC	Dulverton	Cottage Lane	Carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
SCC	Upton	Hanestown Road	Repairs to parapet of Cuckold's Combe Bridge.		Completed	
SCC	Brushford	Poole Hill	Repairs to parapet of Harriford Bridge.		Completed	
SCC	West Somerset	Various	2018 surface dressing programme		Completed	
Ongoing						
SCC	Exford	B3223 Room Hill Road	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closures	28 Aug 3 Sept	31 Aug 7 Sept	4 days 5 days
SCC	West Somerset	All	2018 rural highway verge cutting programme. "A" & "B" Class roads.	20 Aug	7 Sept	3 weeks
Future						
SCC	Brompton Regis	Blagdon Lane	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures	5 Sept 7 Sept	10 Sept 12 Sept	3 days 3 days
SCC	Dulverton	Catsford Lane	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures	11 Sept	12 Sept	2 days
SCC	Exford	Chibbet Post to Monks	Drainage Improvement works. Temporary road closures	17 Sept	12 Oct	4 weeks
SCC	Luccombe	Pool Cross & Wilmersham Lane	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures	13 Sept 17 Sept 24 Sept	14 Sept 21 Sept 25 Sept	2 days 5 days 2 days
Other						