

Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Wellington and Wiveliscombe

Date: Monday, 22 April 2024

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Wiveliscombe Rugby Club, The Recreation Ground, West Road, Wiveliscombe TA4 2TA

Chaired by: Cllr Ross Henley

LCN core membership attendance:

Dave Mitton	Wellington Community Association
Pauline Homeshaw	Wiveliscombe Area Partnership
Gwil Wren (Vice Chair)	Somerset Council
Roger Wilson	Wiveliscombe Town Council
Peter Berman	Wiveliscombe Town Council
Roger Foxwell	Wiveliscombe Town Council
Dave Mansell	Somerset Council
John Townerd	Milverton Parish Council
Chris Summers	Fitzhead Parish Council
Ross Henley (Chair)	Somerset Council
Simon Bellamy	West Buckland Parish Council
Roger Foxwell	Cutcombe Parish Council

Officer attendance:

Jeff Brown	Service Manager, Stronger Communities
Emily Window	LCN Projects Officer
Jackson Johnston	Project Manager, Economy Employment and Planning
Tom Parkinson	ICT Reactive Support Team Leader

Virtual attendees:

Maggie Dinning	Milverton Parish Council
Janet Carol Lloyd	Sampford Arundel Parish Council
Helen Philips	Case Management Lead (Engagement Champs)
Emma Plummer	Senior Community and Parish Development Officer
Stephanie Gold	Democratic Services Officer

Summary of discussion:

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

Item 37: Apologies for Absence

Gillian Keniston-Goble, Health Watch
Pete Joint, Wellington Town Council
Catherine Govier, Wellington Town Council
Malcolm Vest, Nynehead Parish Council
Jermey Toy, Nynehead Parish Council
Richard McRory, Wellington Bus Users
Rob Burton, Milverton Parish Council

Item 38: Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

Item 39: Approve the notes of the previous meeting held on 6th February 2024.

Resolved that the notes of the previous meeting held on 6th
February 2024 are approved as a correct record.

Item 40: Actions from the last meeting

The Chair advised that both the Highways and Transport working
groups had now had their first meetings, and this would be
covered later in the agenda.

An LCN member asked about road closure signage which had
been raised at the previous meeting. Jeff Brown, Stronger

Communities advised that this is a known issue and would be picked up by the Highways working group.

Item 41: **Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

Item 42: **Feedback and discussion from Highways working group**

The Chair advised that the Highways working group met on Thursday 23rd March. The Chair of the working group was unable to attend to give an update, but the notes of the meeting would be shared by email with the rest of the LCN members after the meeting. Another member who had attended offered to provide some of their own feedback which was welcomed.

General

- 5 Somerset Council highways reps attended, covering service management, maintenance, and programmes, and 7 town and parish reps from the LCN.
- Felt it was an interesting and worthwhile meeting overall.
- Residents' councillors and clerks are encouraged to use Highways online reporting system to report issues.
- Meetings will be quarterly, and the working group is looking for free of charge meeting venues.

Highways maintenance repairs

- Common issues as expected – blocked drains and ditches, poor signage of roadworks, unclear scope of statutory elements.
- For non-statutory matters town and parishes will have the option to buy additional service from Somerset Council.
- 35,000 potholes reported this winter, those deemed dangerous are fixed as soon as possible (7-day target)

Information to be shared with the working group

- Work programme for highways improvements
- Standard manual for highways online
- Online Access to gully emptying and grass cutting schedules price lists
- Chapter 8 training

Other issues

- Wellington Town Council felt that the Highways Steward scheme more suitable to rural areas, rather than their more urban setting

- Felt there was little mention of drainage improvements, for example recurring flood outside Kingsmead school.

The next meeting of the working group will be in June.

Item 43: **Feedback and discussion from Transport working group**

The Chair invited Cllr Dave Mansell of Somerset Council to give an update on the first meeting of the Transport Working group which had taken place that same afternoon.

Cllr Mansell advised of the following -

- The group had discussed what they hope to achieve, a term of reference and a work programme.
- Aiming to investigate public and community transport serving the LCN area.
- Aware that there may be shared interests with parishes to the north of Wiveliscombe so will look to contact Exmoor LCN in the future.
- Look at potential services improvements and funding for public and community buses. Particularly the 25 service.
- The working group is planning to meet monthly.
- Want to look at connection between Wellington and Wiveliscombe
- Better provision in villages around Wellington and Wiveliscombe
- Review the slinky service and find out more information about Wivilink.
- Review recent surveys and may conduct own survey to better understand issues in the LCN area.
- The aim is to bring a final report back to the LCN in October.

Item 44: **Presentation and discussion on local project of interest**

The Chair invited Jack Johnstone, Project Manager in the Economy, Employment and Planning team at Somerset Council, to give a [presentation](#) (slides 6 -18) on the Tonedale Mill and Toneworks Development project, a project funded by a provisional £19.8m grant from the Levelling Up fund.

The Project Manager talked through the slides and invited comments and questions from the LCN. The following points were discussed -

- Regarding Toneworks, some people don't even recognise that the Toneworks is Langford Budville - how has Somerset Council engaged with Langford Budville Parish Council? The Project Manager confirmed that the team had engaged with Langford Budville Parish Council, and there have been some discussions about a cycle link linking the site with the Langford Budville community.
- There was a question about car parking and the Project Manager advised that there are no plans to have car parking on site. An LCN member advised that the 22a Bus Service stops at Toneworks.
- The rich ecology of the site, bats, dormice, foxes, otters, frogs and possibly perch in the ponds, which is being protected, gives us an opportunity to unlock some funds for the project by generating biodiversity net gain credits.

Item 45: **Next steps and future agenda items**

Jeff Brown, Service Manager Stronger Communities gave the following updates -

- The next meeting will be the Annual General meeting on the 11th July 2024.
- There will be an LCN annual report for the next meeting.
- The LCN team is still interim, but we should have some more permanent positions in place by July 2024.
- The LCN team welcome suggestions on topics/priority issues and local projects of interest for future meetings.

There was a suggestion that the LCN could look at the Grand Western Greenway project, (a rural active travel path from Wellington to Taunton) and a representative from the Exmoor LCN suggested that this LCN may wish to organise a visit to see Exmoor Highways Pilot scheme.

Item 46: **Dates of future meetings**

The LCN team have worked hard to avoid diary clashes but please contact them on LCN@somerset.gov.uk if there are any issues. The team would also like information on alternative suitable venues within the Wellington and Wiveliscombe area.

For any other queries regarding the LCN Wellington and Wiveliscombe, please email

wellingtonandwiveliscombeLCN@somerset.gov.uk.

Contact officer for meeting: LCN Team lcn@somerset.gov.uk