

EXMOOR AREA PANEL

THURSDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2022

Present: **Councillor Steven Pugsley in the Chair**

Also in Attendance:

Maggie Abel & Sarah Buchanan (Brompton Regis) Sally Moran and Norma Martin (Clatworthy), Roger Foxwell (Cutcombe), Margaret Rawle & Christine Dubery (Dulverton), Mike Ellicott & Jeremy Hickman (Exford), Dave Powell (Luxborough), Chris Wood (Porlock), Scilla Barney, Max Lawrence, Penny & Roger Webber (Selworthy & Minehead Without), Colin Wilkins (Winsford), Alun Collins & Tony Howard (Withypool & Hawkridge).

Also Present: SWT Cllr Nick Thwaites, SWT Cllr Andy Milne

Officers:

Andrew Turner & Kevin Bridgwater (SCC)
Sam Murrell (SWT)
PC Dan Cox, PCSOs Michelle Haimes & James Calloway (ASP)
Alex Farris (ENPA)

(The Exmoor Panel meeting commenced at 7.05pm by segueing into Item 4 – Highways Update from SCC).

48 Apologies

Apologies were received from John Elliott and Patricia Bainbridge (Brompton Ralph PC), Matthew Headley (Brompton Regis), Vivian White (Cutcombe) Mark Bolland (Luxborough), Peter Pilkington (Timberscombe), Fran A' Brook (Upton), Andrew Bray (Wootton Courtenay), Janette Webber (Exton), SCC Cllr Frances Nicholson, SWT Cllr Dave Mansell, David Peake and Ruth McArthur.

49 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 June and Matters Arising

(Minutes of the meeting of the Exmoor Area Panel meeting held on 9 June 2022 were circulated with the agenda).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Exmoor Area Panel meeting held on 9 June 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters arising: -

Update on B3224 Landslip Update – Kevin Bridgwater (SCC Structures)

WSP who are the surveyors commissioned to undertake an assessment of the work. The ravine below the level of the road is at least 100ft and several methods are being considered to protect the integrity of the highway.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Reroute the road | Est. cost | 1.2million |
| 2. Bridging over/across the gap | Est. cost | 1 million |
| 3. Rebuilding the Embankment | Est. cost | 750K |

4. Steel Sheet Piling Est cost. 500k-750k

Geotech drilling and coring is taking place. This section of the road has been added to the SCC Highways Emergency Plan, and contingency plans are being drawn up.

It was asked if the WSP report could be made available to Cutcombe and Exford Parish Councils. **Action Point** – Andrew Turner/ Kevin Bridgwater agreed to email the report to the clerks.

50 Exmoor Local Community Network Pilot

Report back on the Highways Subgroup – *draft minutes of the Exmoor Area Highways Subgroup meeting were circulated with the Agenda.*

Andrew advised the Panel that SCC has employed Sam Murrell to take on the Brokerage Role. She would be a conduit between the parishes and SCC and would ensure that good relations were maintained, and support is provided to enable the parishes to access services. Sam was currently setting up the Parish Online roll-out, promoting devolved funding applications and communicating with the parishes about the LCN consultation.

- The devolved budget is 20K set aside for Revenue Works and 10K for Capital Projects. So far only one scheme has been submitted from Brompton Regis parish council for a nominal sum of money. Parishes were asked to submit their schemes as soon as possible.
- It was agreed that it was not clear how to submit a request and to whom. **ACTION POINT** – Sam Murrell to reissue the guidance about devolved funding to parishes, together with the application form. In the first instance requests to be returned to Sam and then onto the Highways Subgroup Committee for determination. (*Application form attached*)
- Some of the parishes have been visited by Kate Brown in recent weeks and are awaiting a response on when recognised defects are going to be delivered? On receipt of this information, they will be better placed to submit a devolved funding request.
- The Service Request will be evaluated and costed by the Sub-group panel. This will formulate whether the scheme is put forward for consideration or not. This will ensure that all highway works meet the required quality standard and are delivered consistently.
- It was also pointed out that some of the works could be delivered jointly if parishes wanted to match fund on projects or deliver them using local contractors and thus price very competitively.
- The devolved budget is specifically for discretionary expenditure, and not items that have already been identified as SCC responsibility.
- Salt Bins – follow up as devolved funding request. (As Item 4)

3.2 Highway Steward Update

So far, only eight parishes have employed the services of the Highways Steward; were very pleased with his work and had no issues with communicating with him. He was working well alongside some of their parish wardens and had even attended parish meetings by invitation.

The scope of the Highway Steward work has included: -

- Verge maintenance – grass cutting, hedge cutting, general amenity areas, etc.

Thursday, 1st September, 2022

- General service improvements – Additional grass cutting / strimming, sweeping, litter collection, weed removal, weed control, encroachment of vegetation over footways, removal of fly posting, street name plates cleaning and repair, fence repairs.
- Drainage maintenance - cleaning existing grips and outfalls, localised ditching, hand cleaning gullies/channels, rodding of pipes
- Signs (including reflector posts) - cleaning / painting and minor repairs.

It was stressed that those parishes that had yet to engage should make contact and utilise his services. Routine works should continue to be promoted through the web form shared previously. This way the team can keep tabs on programme, record keeping, and make sure his time is utilised in the most effective way possible.

Please [click here](#) to access the Exmoor LCN – Highway Steward Job Request.

General repairs such as potholes, road damage and other problems outside of your parish boundary should continue to be reported via the SCC online portal. www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/

The team are also proposing to put together a feedback form so that the effectiveness of the service can be monitored. It should help keep the parishes and members informed of progress, so please keep a look out for that!

3.3 Asset Information – Parish Online

As part of the LCN Pilot, SCC has arranged for the participating Exmoor parishes to subscribe for a trial period to Parish Online. To get signed up to the system please do the following: -

1. Go to www.parity-online.co.uk/signup
2. Type your parish name into the box, select your parish as the search box find it.
3. Click Next
4. Click the Subscribe Now option
5. Enter the discount code “**sccgroup**” and click Apply
6. Follow the rest of the steps in the sign-up form.

This will then send you details for how to log in.

There is online help available if parishes are having difficulties with the system, and a weekly zoom meeting to assist users. Please let Sam Murrell know if you want more information on this.

LCN Public Consultation

A public consultation on the development of Local Community Networks (LCNs) has been launched.

People are encouraged to have their say on plans to develop LCNs across the county, to support decision-making at its most local level. Opinions are being sought on a range of aspects, from LCN roles and responsibilities, boundary options, to choosing a suitable name.

Check out the interactive map, to see where your parish fits in relation to the three boundary proposals [HERE](#).

The consultation on LCN boundaries went live on the 5 of September and will run for 6 weeks (**17 October**). In-person and online engagement events are taking place across the county.

- **Friday 16 September – 10am-3pm, Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton.**
- **Monday 10 October – 10am-4pm, West Somerset House, Killick Way, Williton, Somerset, TA4 4QA**

City, Town and Parish Conference – Tuesday 4 October 2022

The Local Community Network (LCN) Project Team are inviting Parish Clerks and Chairs to join them at the City, Town and Parish Conference on **Tuesday 4 October at Westlands in Yeovil.**

Information on how to register to attend has been emailed to parish and town clerks.

51 SCC Highways - Update from Kevin Bridgwater

Winter Maintenance Programme

Andrew Turner opened the meeting by stating that David Peake sent his apologies as for the first time in 22 years he would not be present to deliver the winter programme. He sent his best wishes and asked to be remembered fondly to the panel.

This year an additional 900miles of road has been added to the existing infrastructure, which is the responsibility of SCC to maintain. On Exmoor there will be no change to the routes, and pre-salting as well as reactive maintenance will be replicated as in previous years.

Winter Equipment - 2 new snowploughs have been purchased, and some farmers will be given front ploughs for their own tractors as replacement for end-of-life equipment. If diversion routes need to be gritted can these be reported via the portal as a matter of urgency.

Salt bins – Salt levels are being checked and the parish clerks have been notified about monitoring and returning their winter requirements to the team. During the discussion, it was commented that in some places, salt containers would be more suitable than bags to prevent livestock from disrupting the supply. Can salt containers also be placed away from signage on the highway because the signs get bent when the animals lean on them! **ACTION POINT** - identified as a devolved funding request for 3 new salt bins. *An alternative to bags so that livestock can't get into the contents. 3 locations identified in the meeting – follow up required. (Mike Ellicott is aware of requirements, but wider than just Exford parish).*

Hedge-Cutting and Maintenance – Selworthy Parish Council reported that 1 cut a year on hedges in their parish was not sufficient to keep the highway safe for pedestrians. The hedges were at height as the fields were above highway level, and the overhang from overgrowth above 4ft meant that pedestrians were forced into the middle of the road. Dulverton and Porlock also had this problem.

Thursday, 1st September, 2022

- Currently cut to 4ft in height (and not 6ft as required) as the machinery employed did not have capability to go higher.
- The observation was made that hedge-banks in these parishes have possibly been overlooked in the maintenance programme. **ACTION POINT** – Can the affected parishes please report the defect via the online portal. If possible, with a map clearly identifying the respective hedgerows. It was suggested that Parish Online may be able to assist with this? It would only need to be done once because once the data is gathered it would be added to the cyclical maintenance programme.
- SCC has a safety responsibility but is not in the business of maintaining privately owned verges and hedges.

Following on from the Highways warden meeting the points below were also raised with the Highways Team.

- Cutcombe Drains – (Jeremy Hickman) Outside Shearwells entrance. Advised that following works undertaken by sub-contractors the drains are now blocked with tarmac. **ACTION POINT** - Kevin Bridgwater will send a Highways team out to investigate.
- Exford Bridge – Flooding was being caused due to the main arch silting up. Need to be cleared. **ACTION POINT** – Report to SCC Bridges and Structures. *(Andrew Turner reported. – Completed. Report from Paul Tucker, SCC Structures - This is a very tricky site and any works are ultimately governed by the Environment Agency. When this issue was last broached back in 2019, the EA would only allow very limited works, in so far as removing the weeds/vegetation growth from the silt banks/island with no lower of the silt bank/island itself. A further update will be provided once the outcome of the inspection is known.*
- If road diversion signs are in place then the contractors should be working and the road should be closed. If contractors are not working then the road should be accessible.
- Venniford Cross A39 – Plans to reduce the speed limit are currently with the Road Safety Unit and are being worked through.
- White lining on junctions are carried out to the schedule of the A and B road classification. If there are concerns about road safety, then they should be reported via the portal.

8.30pm Andrew Turner / Kevin Bridgwater left the meeting.

52 Avon & Somerset Police Road Safety Presentation - Dan Cox

PC Dan Cox presented a set of slides on road safety statistics (*attached*) and demonstrated the latest speed camera technology in the hall. He also talked about the work of the road safety team in Avon and Somerset. As well as patrolling, monitoring and enforcing speed awareness, the Road Safety Team regularly promote road safety initiatives at public events.

They work closely with other public services such as SCC Highways, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Highways England and event organisations.

Some current initiatives that are being promoted to improve the safety of road users are:

- Encouraging the use of dash-cams for drivers, cyclists, and horse-riders.
- Promoting Driving Assessment centres to elderly drivers. This enables older drivers to drive longer. Older drivers are more likely to cause an accident due to age, infirmity and or medication. An assessment can highlight the risks and ensure that they are informed about how to drive safely.
- Trailer maintenance and safety. Towing and ensuring that towed vehicles are fit to be on the road.

It was highlighted that it would be good to have more Community Speed Watch initiatives on Exmoor. These were easy to establish and would be a good way of encouraging drivers to slow down. More information about Community Speed Watch can be found [here](#).

The Road Safety Fund is funded by Avon and Somerset Police to help community programmes prevent injuries caused by road traffic incidents.

The Fund aims to:

- improve road safety in local communities to reduce accidents and casualty figures.
- provide better education and training for children, young people, learners and inexperienced drivers.
- reduce the economic and the personal costs of fatalities and serious injuries.

The fund is open to local community and voluntary organisations in the Avon and Somerset police force area. Please [click here](#) to find out more on the website about the Road Safety Fund.

Dan was thanked for attending and remained to circulate with the Panel after the meeting. He also advised that he was happy to promote road safety at local events and left his contact details.

53 Avon and Somerset Police Update

It was reported that PCSO Bryan Stevens has now retired, and Michelle Haines is the replacement PCSO on Exmoor. Neighbourhood beat surgeries would continue and the Exmoor Neighbourhood Beat Team newsletter had been shared in advance of the meeting.

The crime statistics for the last quarter were read out at the meeting.

54 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

No representative in attendance.

55 Exmoor National Park Authority

Alex Farris, Conservation Manager was in attendance for the ENPA as Ruth McArthur was on annual leave. He had no items to bring forward to the panel but was available for questions if needed. afarris@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk.

56 **Items to be brought forward by parishes**

Parish Lengthsman Scheme

All money has been collected and scheme is up to date.

No other items brought forward.

57 **Dates for meetings going forward :-**

Exmoor Panel Date	Proposed Highways Sub-Group Date
24 November 2022	14 October 2022
12 January 2023	9 December 2022
16 March 2023	10 February 2023

Duration of the meeting: 6.31 - 9.30 pm

Chairman at the meeting on
Thursday, 1 September 2022



Road Safety Unit

Introduction to Road Safety and Roads Policing
May 2012

Minim 52





LEARN 2 LIVE | MY STORY

Harry
Police Officer

[Harry - Police Officer \(Learn2Live\) - YouTube](#)

“Imagine four 747s crashing every year in which everybody dies. We surely would have a public inquiry. Well that’s UK equivalent of fatal collisions. We should not accept this and must be innovative”

“More people die on our roads than murder and terrorism combined”

Detective Chief Supt. Andy Cox
Head of crime and intelligence, Lincolnshire Police
National lead for fatal collision investigation

More than 50 lives are lost on the roads of Avon and Somerset every year and this figure has plateaued over the last 8 years.

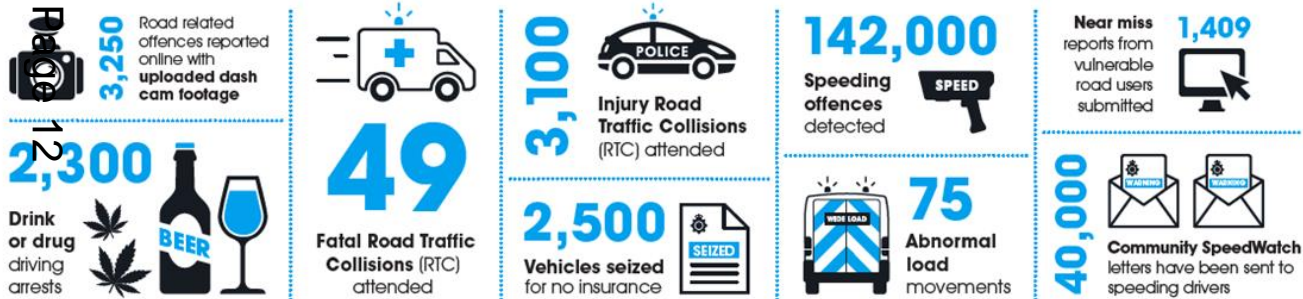
Data and Insight



DISTRACTION LEADS TO DEVASTATION. STAY FOCUSED WHEN DRIVING.

12 MONTHS POLICING AVON AND SOMERSET ROADS

Based on 2020-2021 police data



Using evidence to respond to risk, concern and demand



Scan the code to find out more about the work of our specialist roads policing teams.



Avon and Somerset Police
ROADS POLICING

Drink and Drug Driving



Drink/drug driving contributes to almost one in three fatal collisions

Posted at 12:42 on 7th December 2021 in Roads



245 arrests made during the largest operation in recent years

This equates to 12 collisions where people were killed through drink or drug driving. An increase from 2020 10 (1/4 of Fatal RTC's)

Page 13

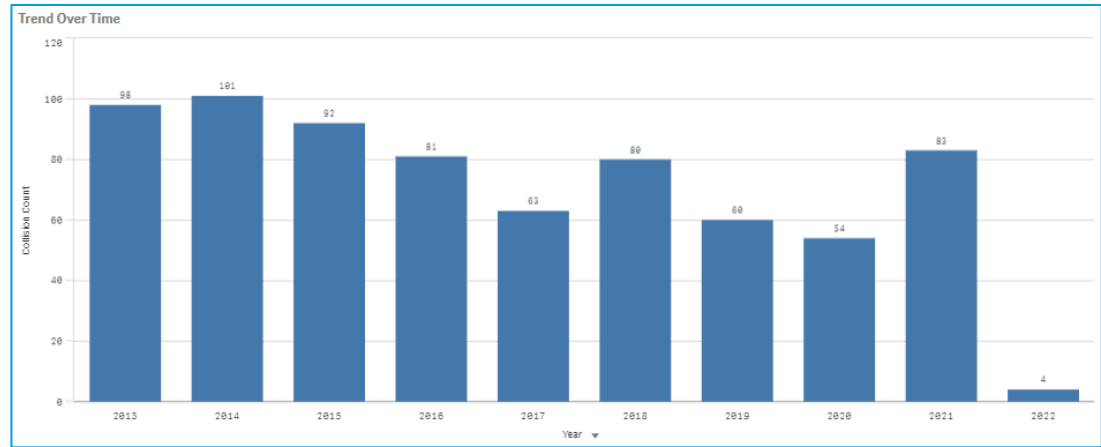
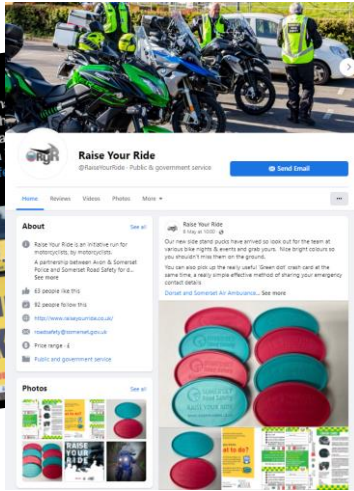
- 221 drink & 39 drug drive arrests made
- A further 12 people were arrested for drink/drug driving on New Year's Day
- 25-34 - age group accounted for almost a third (82) of arrests
- 25-44 - 62 arrests
- Under 25's accounted for 47 arrests

- Officers stopped and educated more than 2,000 drivers about drink/drug driving in 55 roadside stop checks across the month.

8 Fatal RTCs in 2021

Recent analysis indicated 50/50 between rider and driver error

Page



83 Serious Injury Collisions in 2021

Road Safety Assets

Resources to engage and educate



Page 10

Parking Buddies



School patrols: engagement with pupils and parents

Page 16



Dashcam – 3rd party reporting of road related offences



ASPolice Roads Policing (RPU)
@ASPRoadSafety

In 2020 we processed 1907 reports in @ASPolice of road related incidents supported by on-board camera footage. They resulted in:

- 933 - NIP's issued
- 767 - Warning letters sent
- 207 - NFA

Positive outcome for 2020 = 89%

In addition to these we received 1107 near-miss reports!

PLEASE REPORT ROAD INCIDENTS AND OFFENCES

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/roads

Report and we will act on it – your valuable information will help make the roads safer for all.

1907 reports

- 767 WL
- 933 NIP
- 207 NFA

2020

3453 reports

- 2052 WL
- 1509 NIP
- 481 NFA

2021



1484 reports that resulted in:

920 warning letters (WL)

747 prosecution letters (NIP)

115 reports

65 WL
74 NIP
14 NFA

JAN

137 reports

85 WL
65 NIP
28 NFA

FEB

290 reports

217 WL
145 NIP
27 NFA

MAR

327 reports

196 WL
126 NIP
38 NFA

APR

297 reports

143 WL
187 NIP
36 NFA

MAY

320 reports

214 WL
150 NIP
36 NFA

JUN

Camera Upload Figures: First 6 months of 2021



Who submitted the
1484 reports?

1008
reports

Cyclist

392
reports

Driver

6
reports

Horse Rider

67
reports

Pedestrian

11
reports

Motorcyclist

Camera Upload Figures: First 6 months of 2021

Operations and Initiatives



- Raise Your Ride
- Tramline
- Top Deck
- Close Pass
- Trader

Page 20

ASPolice Roads Policing (RPU) @ASPRoadSafety · 21 Apr
We recently took part in Op Top Deck - an operation during which we patrolled Bridgwater in a bus to give us an elevated view of drivers. This individual was one of nine drivers we stopped for using a phone while driving. Visit bit.ly/3x7lBdD for more info about the op.



ASPolice Roads Policing (RPU) @ASPRoadSafety · 26 Jul 2019
Recently conducted #OpTrader - a multi-agency operation focusing on the safety of works vehicles over 7.5 tonnes. 38 vehicles stopped with 26 having issues.

Present: @DVSAGovuk @HMRCgovuk Trading Standards @BristolCouncil, Bristol Waste Management, @DVLAgovuk @DFBprogramme

26 vehicles stopped with 26 having issues

- 16 Illegal Modifications with issue or unsafe working driving
- 10 Illegal Modifications
- 10 Illegal Modifications
- 10 Illegal Modifications
- 10 Illegal Modifications
- 10 Illegal Modifications

sky news

Avon and Somerset Police
Somerset, UK



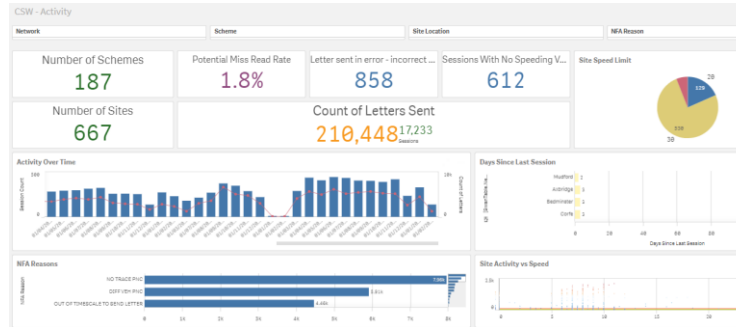
113.3K views



Community SpeedWatch



- 1600 Volunteers
- 50k Letters in the last 12 month
- New SLA 2022



Community SpeedWatch Handbook

Guidance and Procedure

Avon and Somerset Police

Created: 01/01/2019
Last updated: 23/04/2021
Next Review Date: 31/12/2021
Disseminated: Neighbourhood and Partnerships
Owner: Dupt. Simon Brickwood
Author: Damien Devarity
Current version: 3.0

Questions?



Page 22

