

Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Bridgwater

Date: Wednesday, 21 June 2023

Time: 7.00 pm - 8.20 pm

Location: Bridgwater Town Hall - Bridgwater

Chaired by:

LCN core membership attendance:

Name:	Representing
Hilary Bruce, Somerset Council	Somerset Council
Andy Dingwall, Somerset Council	Somerset Council
Lance Duddridge, Somerset Council	Somerset Council
Kathy Pearce, Somerset Council	Somerset Council
Leigh Redman, Somerset Council	Somerset Council
Diogo Rodrigues, Somerset Council	Somerset Council
Gill Slocombe, Somerset Council	Somerset Council
Brian Smedley, Somerset Council	Somerset Council
Bridgwater, Bridgwater Town Council	Bridgwater Town Council
Bridgwater Without, Bridgwater Parish Council	Bridgwater Without Parish Council
Robbie Davies	Bridgwater & Taunton College
Tash Astill	Bridgwater Hub
John Hardy	

Steve Leahy

Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce

S Russell

Bridgwater Rotary Club

Lewis Hayes

Sydenham Improvement Group

Officer attendance:

Name:

Representing

Leila Nicholson

All from Somerset Council

Frances Gully

Julie Cooper

Jeff Brown

Sara Skirton

Emma Plummer

Emily Window

Sam Crossman

Tom Parkinson

Other attendees:

Name:

Representing

David Mears

Bridgwater Town Council

Kate Lang

Bridgwater Without Parish Council

Gary Perrett

Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign

Virtual attendees:

Name:

Representing

Kate Hellard	Somerset Council
Ally Laing	Somerset Council
Emmaline Kay	Somerset Council
Jane Knowles	SASP
Helen Phillips	Somerset Council

Apologies:

Name:	Representing
	Avon & Somerset Police

Summary of discussion:

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

Item 1: To appoint the Chair of the Local Community Network

Cllr Diogo Rodrigues Proposed by: Cllr Gill Slocombe,
Seconded: Lewis Hayes

Cllr Tim Mander Proposed by: Cllr Brian Smedley, Seconded:
Cllr Kathy Pearce

At this point, Cllr Redman raised an issue with the Terms of Reference attached to the agenda and organisations that would be classed as Core Organisations and for the Executive Lead to have been present at each LCN. After discussion, it was agreed that Sara Skirton to confirm the correct course of action.

Vote on chair:

Cllr Rodrigues – For 9, Cllr Mander For 6

RESOLVED:

For Cllr Diogo Rodrigues to be elected chair of the LCN Bridgwater.

Item 2: **To appoint the Vice-Chair of the Local Community Network**

Cllr Tim Mander: Proposed by Cllr Brian Smedley, Seconded Cllr Kathy Pearce

Cllr Mander was duly elected Vice-Chair.

Item 3: **Apologies for Absence**

Avon & Somerset Police

Item 4: **Declarations of Interest**

None

Item 5: **Public Question Time**

None

Item 6: **To determine the priorities and areas of focus for the Local Community Network for the next 12 months**

After a short presentation from Frances Gully on the Local Community Networks, those in attendance at the meeting broke into small groups including those that had joined the meeting via Teams. They then agreed a number of local issues and concerns as detailed below,

Top issues:

Housing Developments & size of Estates

Lack of Infrastructure including schools/shops

Active Travel – cessation of car travel/volume of traffic, opportunities to use other forms of transport

Reduction of red tape for businesses and the tender process/public sector contracts, encouragement of small independent businesses

Bringing people back into the offices/work

Anti-social behaviour and cultural differences of the residents moving into the area.

On-going Maintenance of the new developments
Youth Services, especially for teenagers and SEN
Car parking especially in the town centres
Additional support for volunteer groups i.e. food poverty
One Stop Shops – ASB & networking
Lack of Affordable Housing
Access to health care, especially dentistry
Opportunities for Youth
Free and accessible inclusive exercise and link to services/
opportunities/activities – lead by local residents and also play
rangers for children.
Other issues raised:
Louder local voice
Parking around schools
Disabled access to town
Clear cycle ways
Better rail links
Public safety orders/knife crime/ drug mis-use
Identify hotspots with specific areas of need,
Need communication on agencies available for problem solving,
one-stop shops and list of resources available, visibility of the
organisations highlighted
Need police drop-ins at hub
Cost of living, fuel poverty, high interest rates
Quality social care
Access to open spaces/leisure spaces, Arts
Climate Emergency – reducing waste/tree planting, saving
energy, street cleaning/litter
Additional information/comments:
Need to use data/stats available especially on a Divisional basis,
Housing waiting lists, Indices of deprivation
Wider consultation on budgetary allocation by SC with LCNs
Review of Local Plan & CIL money received in locality i.e.
roads/infrastructure
Use of social media, press and local residents views

Other people/organisations who should be involved:
Together Teams/Local Pantry/Residents Associations
Arts Centre/ Somerset Film/Library Services
10 Town Council Forums
CAB
NHS mental health services

School Heads/school reps
Housing Association/HIS reps
YMCA

Item 7: **To agree the frequency of meetings**

Councillor Redman proposed that the meetings were held every 2 months as from September and this was seconded by Robbie Davies (For 10)

It was also proposed by Councillor Slocombe that meetings were held quarterly and this was seconded by Councillor Duddridge, however this proposal failed (For 4).

RESOLVED:

That meetings would be held every 2 months as from September 2023.

Item 8: **The schedule of meetings for the next 12 months**

It was agreed that the schedule of meetings for this LCN would be drafted and then circulated after consultation and agreement with the other LCN meetings.

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