

Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Wellington and Wiveliscombe

Date: Thursday, 6 July 2023

Time: 7.00 pm - 8.25 pm

Location: Wiveliscombe Community Centre - Wiveliscombe

LCN core membership attendance:

Name:	Representing
Marcus Barr	Somerset Council
Andrew Govier	Somerset Council
Ross Henley	Somerset Council
Sarah Wakefield	Somerset Council
Gwil Wren	Somerset Council
Councillor David Smith	Bradford-on-Tone Parish Council
Councillor Chris Summers	Fitzhead Parish Council
Councillor Ian Walker	Halse Parish Council
Councillor Derek Sowden	Langford Budville Parish Council
Councillor Rod Burton	Milverton Parish Council
Councillor Malcolm Vest	Nynehead Parish Council
Councillor Sue Davies	Oake Parish Council
Councillor Barry Brown	Sampford Arundel Parish Council
Councillor Paul Musgrove	Stawley Parish Council
Councillor Catherine Glover	Wellington Parish Council

Councillor Simon Bellamy

Councillor Peter Berman

West Buckland Parish Council

Wiveliscombe Parish Council

Officer attendance:

Name:

Frances Gully

Emily Window

Jeff Brown

Pete Joint

Ollie Lindsell

Jamie Jackson

Representing

Somerset Council

Somerset Council

Somerset Council

Somerset Council

Somerset Council

Somerset Council

Other attendees:

Name:

Dennis Venn

Jeremy Toyne

Andy Michie

Michael Lodge

Dave Farrow

Caron Spence

Cllr Val Keitch

Representing

Bradford-on-Tone Parish Council

Nynehead Parish Council Council

Wiveliscombe Area Partnership

Wiveliscombe Civic Society

Clerk at Wellington Town Council

Member of the public

Somerset Council

Virtual attendees:

Name:

Ally Laing

Kate Hellard,

Representing

Somerset Council

Somerset Council

Jenny	Member or public
Virginia May	Member of public
Tony Brooks (Clerk)	Sampford Arundel PC

Apologies:

Name:	Representing
Dave Mansell	Somerset Council

Summary of discussion:

Agenda item:	Summary of key points of discussion and outcome:	Action by:
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Item 1: **To elect the Chair of the Local Community Network**

Somerset Councillor, Ross Henley, was nominated by Somerset Councillor Gwil Wren and seconded by Somerset Councillor Sarah Wakefield.

No other nominations were received, Councillor Ross Henley was duly elected as Chair for the Wellington and Wiveliscombe Local Community Network.

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

Somerset Councillor, Gwil Wren, was nominated by Nynehead Parish Councillor Malcolm Vest and seconded by Nynehead Parish Councillor Jeremy Toye.

No other nominations were received, Councillor Gwil Wren was duly elected as Vice Chair for the Wellington and Wiveliscombe Local Community Network.

Item 3: **To receive any apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Somerset Councillor Dave Mansell and Sampford Arundel Parish Councillor Janet Lloyd.

Item 4: **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 5: **Public Question Time (items not covered on the agenda)**

No public questions or statements were made.

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

Frances Gully (LCN Development Lead) shared a presentation on the purpose of the LCN and how it would feed back into the work of Somerset Council.

The meeting noted there was a dedicated page on the Somerset Council website at <https://somerset.gov.uk/local-community-networks/>.

Attendees were asked to share what themes, issues and opportunities they wanted the LCN to explore over the next 12 months.

What topics are important to our residents?

How do we know?

What data/evidence/information would help?

What could be done to solve/improve topics?

Are there local examples already working?

Who do we need to involve?

Top priorities were reported to be:

Travel

Active travel, co-ordination between buses and other modes of transport.

Traffic calming and safer roads at junctions.

More buses and public transport, they need to run to more places, currently no route between Wellington and Wiveliscombe.

Limited evening connections with Taunton.

More 20 mile an hour zones and implemented quicker.

Safer cycling routes.

Safer tractor driving.

Road closures and diversions – poor planning and at times very limited notice.

Lengthsmen Scheme

Community Transport

Footpath maintenance

Hedges and Verges

Highways

The number of potholes and amount of time it takes to address them is unacceptable. Also lack of messaging from the Council when they have been notified of a needed repair.

Planning and Planning Enforcement

Lack of planning enforcement; members felt lots of building work was happening, but not always that which was given permission or what is wanted by the local communities.

Villages need to be supported to keep their identity in future local plans.

Environment and Climate Change

Renewable energy should be used at every opportunity.

More green corridors.

Open spaces and recreational areas and facilities.

Communications

Reliable and fast broadband needs to be available in rural areas as well as towns.

Improved mobile phone signal.

Housing

Affordable housing for both owner and rental markets.

Other priorities, which were captured on flipchart paper included:

- Medical Support – Access to GP's, Dentists and Pharmacies
- Affordable housing: younger? Lower income? Not so commuter-focused
- Fly tipping/litter
- Development where the infrastructure exists

- Support for the young – Mental Health support access / school readiness
- Inappropriate development
- Winter emergency plans – general emergency planning
- Support in the home – facilities for changing need / social isolation.
- Ensuring all parishes have a within their LCN
- Influence on wider planning issues
- Sustainable Business Opportunities
- LCN's to consider Link Officer JD's before recruitment
- Local Authority employees more sympathetic and attuned to local issues.

Ideas for who to involve in improving/solving the issues included:

Schools
 Primary Care Network
 Early Years
 Housing
 Police
 Wider Health
 Citizen's Advice / CAP
 Churches
 Debt and Benefit Advisors at Council
 Volunteer Networks

Local examples that already work:

Wellington Community Counselling
 Warm spaces
 Community lunches
 Food banks
 Best Before Store
 One Team
 Area Champions
 Village Agents

Item 7: To agree the frequency of meetings

The Network agreed to meet on a bi-monthly basis, with the next

meeting likely to be late September/early October, and from then on hold the meetings every other month (with the intention of avoiding December).

LCN team will contact the LCN membership with possible dates.

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

It was requested that the next meeting was scheduled for September/early October, and then followed bi-monthly after that. Thus, future meetings would fall in November, January, March and May.

The meeting finished at 8.25pm

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