

Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Taunton

Date: Wednesday, 12 July 2023

Time: 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Location: John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton TA1 1HE

Chaired by:

LCN core membership attendance:

Name:	Representing
Simon Coles	Somerset Council
Dixie Darch	Somerset Council
Tom Deakin	Somerset Council
Caroline Ellis	Somerset Council
Habib Farbahi	Somerset Council
John Hunt	Somerset Council
Dawn Johnson	Somerset Council
Hazel Prior-Sankey	Somerset Council
Andy Sully	Somerset Council
Ann Diment	Somerset Association of Local Councils
Bev Fernandes	Taunton Town Council
Richard Holt	Taunton Chamber

Martine Naughton

Trull Parish Council

Tony Taylor

Bishop's Hull Parish Council

Matt Woodford

Cotford St Luke Parish Council

Graham Withnell

Norton Fitzwarren Parish Council

Officer attendance:

Name:

Representing

Michelle Brooks

Jeff Brown

Jonathan Hallows

Terena Isaacs

Alyn Jones

Ally Laing

Tom Parkinson

Emma Plummer

Lee Willment

Other attendees:

Name:

Representing

Phil Durban, Bishops Lydeard Residents
Action Group

Val Keitch, Associate Lead Member for
Localities (LCNs) & Public Health

Nigel Pearce, Taunton Chamber

Marcus Prouse, Taunton Town Council

Ray Tully, Taunton Town Council

Virtual attendees:

Name:

Representing

Tony Brooks

Kirsty Conger

Emily Windows

Janey Gobey, Norton Fitzwarren Parish Clerk

Jane Knowles, SASP

Helen McGladdery, Bishop's Hull Parish Clerk

David Mitchell, Somerset Rivers Authority

Andrew Pritchard, Mind in Somerset

Apologies:

Name:

Representing

Lee Baker

Derek Perry

Mike Rigby

Fran Smith

Federica Smith-Roberts

Summary of discussion:

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

Item 1: **To elect the Chair of the Local Community Network**

Somerset Councillor, Dawn Johnson, was nominated by Somerset Councillor, John Hunt and seconded by Somerset Councillor, Habib Farbahi.

No other nominations were received, Councillor Dawn Johnson was duly elected as Chair for the Taunton Local Community Network.

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

Somerset Councillor, John Hunt, was nominated by Somerset Councillor, Dixie Darch and seconded by Somerset Councillor, Simon Coles.

No other nominations were received, Councillor John Hunt was duly elected as Vice-Chair for the Taunton Local Community Network.

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

Apologies were received from Somerset Councillors: Lee Baker, Derek Perry, Mike Rigby, Federica Smith-Roberts and Fran Roberts.

Item 4: **Declarations of Interest**

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

No public questions were raised.

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

6a. What are Local Community Networks and how will we work together?

During the discussion the Local Community Network members discussed the following:

Q: The consideration of a time frame or deadline for the submission of public questions.

A: The LCN team to liaise with Democratic Services regarding a time frame for the submission of public questions.

Q: PowerPoint presentation and the use of discursive and inclusive spaces.

A: The LCN team to amend to 'They will be discursive and inclusive events.

Funding / training for Parish Councils with limited staff and capacity.

The progression and recruitment of a Link Officer and expected time frame for implementation.

6b. Discussion – What is important to residents and businesses in Taunton Local Community Network area?

Top priorities were reported to be:

Youth and young people support, activities and services (Separate meetings for youth and young people groups / Youth Council forum development / Youth services / Youth clubs / sports community groups).

Community engagement and resilience.

Business Enterprise for greater networking and connecting people.

Bridging communities across divisions and connecting different demographics.

Traffic calming and speed limits.

Improving the mobile network, especially rural areas.

The Lack of vibrancy / entertainment – especially in new

developments.

Active travel / safe travel and the improvement of provision of travel network i.e. bicycle routes.

Safety in local areas: anti social behaviour / noise.

Other priorities, which were captured on flipchart paper included:

The importance of stakeholder attendance and strategies sharing of core membership groups, including police and NHS.

The importance of engaging partnership and voluntary organisations.

How to address community needs around changing behaviour & patterns that would have positive wellbeing impacts.

Flooding.

The need for decentralised business centres to connect communities.

Climate issues, including trees.

Health and Wellbeing - improvement and maintenance of public open spaces, including litter and park equipment.

Cost of living issues.

Third party funding opportunities / Shared theme funding.

Improving community services / how can people get information and support.

Community Information / notices across multiple media platforms i.e. social media platforms, newsletters, noticeboards.

Community Services for developments i.e Doctors.

Resident parking issues.

Infrastructure – Responses of highways services.

Improvement of Taunton High Street and parking in Taunton.

Goodlands garden bridge.

Encouraging Diversity.

LCNs – a voice for all to deliver and implement priorities for all.

Parish / Town Councils – share success stories.

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

The Taunton LCN agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled for September 2023 and would focus on Youth and Young people support and services.

The meetings to be held on rotating days of the week and look to hold meetings in the Parishes within the Taunton LCN.

Agreed alternate representation from Parish and Town Councils, so that the preferred representative can attend, based on knowledge and expertise, to advise and provide input on upcoming themed LCN agendas.

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

The LCN Team would work with the Chair of the LCN to schedule the meeting dates for the remainder of the year.

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