Somerset
Council

Notice of Meeting of

LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK - FROME

Thursday, 27 July 2023 at 7.00 pm

Frome Town Council Town Hall - Frome

To: The members of the Local Community Network - Frome

Councillor Adam Boyden	Councillor Barry Clarke	Councillor Shane Collins
Councillor Dawn Denton	Councillor Martin Dimery	Councillor Michael Dunk
Councillor Philip Ham	Councillor Helen Kay	Councillor Claire Sully
Councillor Alex Wiltshire	Beckington	Berkley
Buckland Dinham	Great Elm	Frome Town Council
Hemington, Hardington, Foxcote	Lullington	Mells
Norton St Philip	Nunney	Rode
Selwood	Tellisford	Trudoxhill
Upton Noble	Wanstrow	Whatley
Witham Friary		

For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact LCN Team lcn@somerset.gov.uk.

Information about Local Community Networks, including the Terms of Reference and a handbook can be found at this link: Local Community Networks (LCNs) (somerset.gov.uk)

All members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and ask questions or make a statement **by giving advance notice** in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer at email: democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk by **5pm on Friday, 21 July 2023**.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A: Access to Information.

The meeting will be webcast and an audio recording made.

Issued by (the Proper Officer) on Wednesday, 19 July 2023

AGENDA

Local Community Network - Frome - 7.00 pm Thursday, 27 July 2023

Click here to join the online meeting   5 - 6

1   To elect the Chair of the Local Community Network

2   To elect the Vice Chair of the Local Community Network

3   Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

4   Declarations of Interest (Pages 7 - 8)

To receive and note any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other
registrable interests and non-registrable interests in respect of any matters included
on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.
(The other registrable interests of Councillors of Somerset Council, arising from
membership of City, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will
automatically be recorded in the minutes.)

5   Public Question Time

The Chair to advise of any questions, statements or petitions received that are not
covered by items on the agenda for the meeting on which members of the public
have requested to speak.

6   Agree the minutes from previous meetings (Pages 9 - 14)

The meeting will be asked to consider the minutes of the previous meeting held on
30 May 2023.

7   To consider the summary of work to date

**8   To determine the priorities and areas of focus for the Local Community
Network for the next 12 months (Pages 15 - 16)**

9   To agree the frequency of meetings

10   The schedule of meetings for the next 12 months

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Meeting ID: 333 175 207 438

Passcode: gZNCat

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SOMERSET COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS WHO ARE ALSO CITY, TOWN AND/OR PARISH COUNCILLORS

SOMERSET COUNCILLOR	CITY, TOWN AND/OR PARISH COUNCIL
Steve Ashton	Crewkerne Town Council / Hinton St George Parish Council
Suria Aujla	Bridgwater Town Council
Jason Baker	Chard Town Council
Lee Baker	Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council
Marcus Barr	Wellington Town Council
Mike Best	Crewkerne Town Council
Alan Bradford	North Petherton Town Council
Theo Butt Philip	Wells City Council
Simon Carswell	Street Parish Council
Norman Cavill	West Monkton Parish Council
Peter Clayton	Burnham Highbridge Town Council
Nick Cottle	Glastonbury Town Council / St Edmunds Parish Council
Adam Dance	South Petherton Parish Council
Tom Deakin	Taunton Town Council
Caroline Ellis	Taunton Town Council
Ben Ferguson	Axbridge Town Council
Bob Filmer	Brent Knoll Parish Council
Andrew Govier	Wellington Town Council
Pauline Ham	Axbridge Town Council
Philip Ham	Coleford Parish Council
Ross Henley	Wellington Town Council
Edric Hobbs	Shepton Mallet Town Council
John Hunt	Bishop's Hull Parish Council
Val Keitch	Ilminster Town Council
Andy Kendall	Yeovil Town Council
Jenny Kenton	Chard Town Council
Tim Kerley	Somerton Town Council
Marcus Kravis	Minehead Town Council
Tony Lock	Yeovil Town Council
Martin Lovell	Shepton Mallet Town Council
Mike Murphy	Burnham Highbridge Town Council
Graham Oakes	Yeovil Town Council / Yeovil Without Parish Council
Sue Osborne	Ilminster Town Council
Kathy Pearce	Bridgwater Town Council
Emily Pearlstone	Ilchester Parish Council
Evie Potts-Jones	Yeovil Town Council

Wes Read	Yeovil Town Council
Leigh Redman	Bridgwater Town Council
Mike Rigby	Bishop's Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council
Tony Robbins	Wells City Council
Dean Ruddle	Somerton Town Council
Peter Seib	Brympton Parish Council / Chilthorne Domer Parish Council
Heather Shearer	Street Parish Council
Gill Slocombe	Bridgwater Town Council
Brian Smedley	Bridgwater Town Council
Federica Smith-Roberts	Taunton Town Council
Jeny Snell	Yeovil Town Council / Brympton Parish Council
Andy Soughton	Yeovil Town Council
Richard Wilkins	Curry Rivel Parish Council
Dave Woan	Yeovil Town Council
Ros Wyke	Westbury-sub-Mendip Parish Council

The memberships of City, Parish or Town Councils will be taken as being declared by these Councillors to be other registerable interests in the business of the Somerset Council meeting and need not be declared verbally.

Monitoring Officer of Somerset Council

Frome Area LCN

30 May 2023

Attending at the meeting
In the Chamber:

Jackie Adkins, Co-op Group
Sarah Barnett, Cllr for Buckland Dinham
Nikki Brain, Resilience Manager for Frome Town Council
Philip Campagna, Cllr for Frome Town Council
Carla Collenette, Cllr for Frome Town Council
Anita Collier, Leader of Frome Town Council
Suzy Cristinacce, Frome Birth Talk
Dawn Denton, Cllr for Somerset
Ann Diment, Health and Wellbeing Officer for Somerset Association of Local Councils
Martin Dimery, Cllr for Somerset
Mark Dorrington, Cllr for Frome Town Council
Jim Dowling, Chair for Selwood
Michael Dunk, Cllr for Mendip and Somerset
Laura Flaherty, Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor for Frome Town Council
Michael Gay, Cllr for Mendip and Wanstrow
Kate Hellard, Community Development Manager for Frome Town Council
Anne Hills, Cllr for Frome Town Council
Melody Hunter Evans, Children & Young People's Project Officer for Frome Town Council
Helen Kay, Cllr for Mendip and Somerset
Lisa Merryweather, Cllr for Frome Town Council
Jo Morris, Resilience Officer at Frome Town Council
Emma Plummer, Senior Parish and Community Development Officer for Somerset Council
Karen Punter, Cllr for Mells
John Reckless, Cllr for Buckland Dinham
Richard Selwyn, Children's Services for Somerset Council
Sara Skirton, Service Director – Partnerships and Localities for Somerset Council
Ian Snares, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church
Steve Tanner, Cllr for Frome Town Council
Caroline Walker, Frome Area Dean

On Teams:

Anne Hills, Cllr for Frome Town Council
Mike Salmon, Cllr for Rode
Ben Saville, Acting Inspector for Avon and Somerset Police
Max Wide, Deputy Leader for Frome Town Council and Chair

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Time started: 7pm

Max Wide chaired the meeting.

The meeting began by discussing engagement of the LCN and why some parishes might not be getting involved. John Reckless suggested the name of the LCN could be a stumbling block for some as it didn't make them feel like they belonged. He suggested an alternative of East Mendip and Frome. Max agreed that deciding a name for the LCN was required. Dawn Denton felt some people were not sure how they would fit in. Not all their issues were the same so they weren't always sure what they would be getting out of it. Mike Salmon felt there was a lack of clarity of responsibilities of the group going forward. He suggested if those were established there might be more parish involvement. Mike also noted that some parishes may struggle due to not having enough active people on their councils.

Max introduced the agenda for the meeting. He spoke about how the LCN was in a state of transition from being a pilot to a new fully fledged local community network.
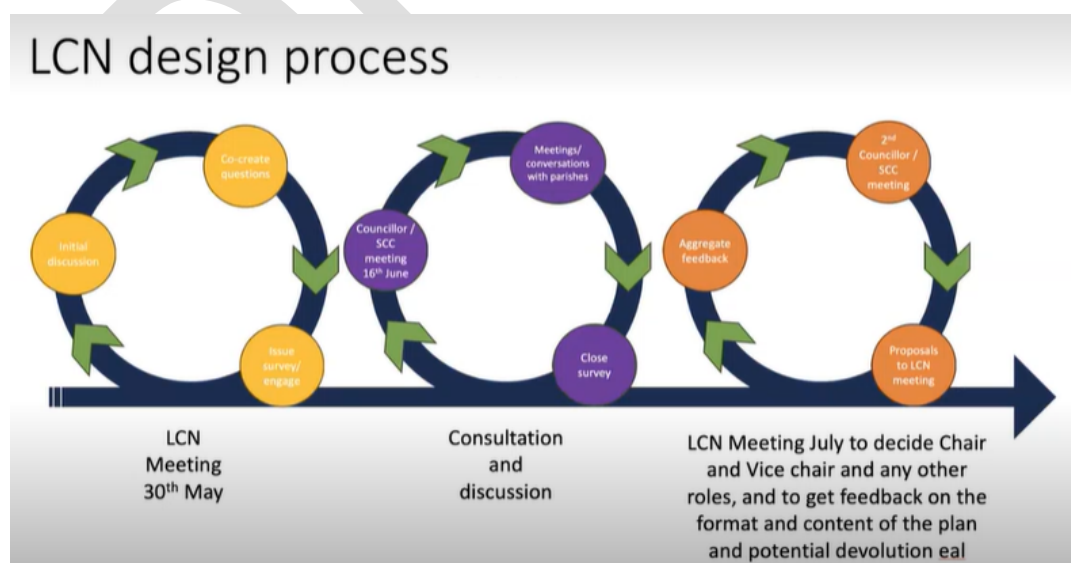
Engaging with parishes
Max noted the proposal was:
Officers from the new Somerset Council and the LCN chair engage with parishes to find out, given the content of the LCN handbook and FAQ's
- How they think the LCN could best be set up to be appealing and successful
- What the issues are that could form part of an area plan
- Whether they wish to be part of making the case of the devolution of assets and budgets

Max presented a diagram of how a design process could look

He noted that at the moment we were in the first circle. He wanted to work with those at the meeting to design a set of questions to do a comprehensive survey of the parishes. Following the meeting there was a need to have consultation and discussion. The feedback

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from the survey would be brought back to the meeting in July with a proposal for moving forward. Max acknowledged that not all parishes were present at the meeting, so it was important to engage outside of the meeting to ensure everyone has the opportunity to have their say and be part of the conversation.

On 16 June a meeting was planned with the Somerset councillors and Somerset Council to discuss reaching a consensus on who might want to be chair or vice chair. Max noted the guidance said a Somerset Cllr should be Chair or Vice Chair. Then other posts were available to those within the network

Mike Salmon raised a concern about the amount of Frome Cllrs who attended the LCN meetings and how it felt Frome dominant and how they might get more votes. Max explained that the terms of reference says Frome will only get one vote. He also explained he wanted to design this process as sometimes perception was not the reality. Lisa Merryweather noted that she saw it as an opportunity for Frome Town Council to work with the surrounding villages and parishes and see how we could all support each other.

Michael Gay requested that the in the future when members of the LCN are being asked to make decisions that the proposals and supporting documents were circulated in advance. There was then an opportunity to speak with their fellow Cllrs and attending the meetings more prepared. Max agreed that that would be the intention going forward when the LCN is properly resourced.

Sara Skirton clarified the terms of reference did need to be observed but not at the detriment to partnerships. The intention was for these meetings to be participative and inclusive. She noted they would not be looking to limit the number of representatives from any particular parish. In terms of support there would be a dedicated LCN Link Officer employed by Somerset Council for each LCN. Each meeting would be supported by a Democratic Services Officer.

Proposed questions
Geography and issues

What we don't know....
- Are key relationships disrupted by the geography?
- How do we reach out to the people who are not here?
- Are there any 'communities of interest' that we want to be part of? (Towns and parishes not linked geographically but working on issues of interest to us?)

Anne Hills noted it would be useful to understand the networks and connections those in the LCN had outside of that. A heat map of who's linked to who.

Andy Jones asked if any other parishes would be willing to host these meetings in their own locals. Kate noted that Somerset had purchased some tech to allow hybrid meetings to continue, the only requirement was good wifi. Buckland Dinham, Rode and Wanstrow said they would be willing.

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Kate Hellard picked up on the mentions of walking and cycling from other parishes and the opportunity for them to link up particular Wanstrow, Beckington and Bruton.

Sponsorship and support
Sara clarified the following:
- There would be a sponsor for each LCN – a corporate role to support the priorities and bring partners to the table.
- There would also be an LCN Manager (overall operational responsibility) and nine full time equivalent link Officers – these would not be admin roles, more about making things happen. They would support LCNs to come up with priorities, testing them and helping to address them (evidence based). Making sure there is a link back to Somerset Council. Engaging with other partners such as police etc. to help inform their policy development, decision making and strategic planning,
- Communities of interest – Link Officers working as a team across Somerset. Think strategically act locally.

What we don't know….
- Who will our sponsor be?
- Can we influence them?
- Can we influence who our support staff will be?
- What do we want their role to be?

Role and purpose
What we don't know…
- Are there decisions that will be devolved to us
- What should our plan contain?
- What status will we have within SC and with partner agencies, how will our issues be on their agenda?
- What support will we get to identify community priorities?

Issues across our area

- **Housing and Planning**
- **Public transport**
- **Climate and ecological emergency**
- Access to **Health Services**
- **Aging population and demographic imbalance**
- Increased pressure on **Mental Health** services
- **Lack of employment opportunities**
- **Lack of higher education opportunities**
- **Rural facilities for families**

- **Local food provision and amenities**
- **Gritting of roads**
- **Internet access**
- **Social cohesion**

Max explained his idea was to take the feedback generated at the last meeting, identifying issues, but also ask if there are any others that people think are particularly pertinent to them in their different parishes.

Shane Collins suggested adding decentralising litter collections. Done by local people as opposed to one person from Idverde.

Max explained the idea was to go around the parishes and ask, do these fit for you? Some may say it is nothing to do with us but that is still relevant. It would help us understand the issues, where they exist and who for.

Anita Collier thought it would be useful to understand what stops people being present. Max felt there may be some questions about what would encourage people to come and are there things that they currently find off putting?

Those in the room online had 10 minute discussions about whether these were the right questions and are there any others to be added.

Suggestions included:
- Missing links for transport
- Highways – use examples from other pilots and whether we can share
- Strength of feeling, top priorities, rank from 1 – 10
- How can we support the parishes to come to meetings
- More engaging name for the LCN
- Linking with other networks
- Internet connectivity
- Sustainable travel throughout the network
- Fire, police and NHS unifies all the parishes

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- Regular report – even not being directly involved people could still keep up to date with what's going on
- What is it you think we can do together that people can't do on their own?
- Groups the LCN itself might be able to feed into - useful for people from the LCN to go and talk about the priorities in local areas and in particular issues in particular areas.

Max explained his next steps were to incorporate the feedback into the design of engagement. The outcome would be discussed at the next meeting in July.

Emma Plummer thanked FTC for hosting the pilot meetings, FTC staff for their support and Max for his work as Chair.
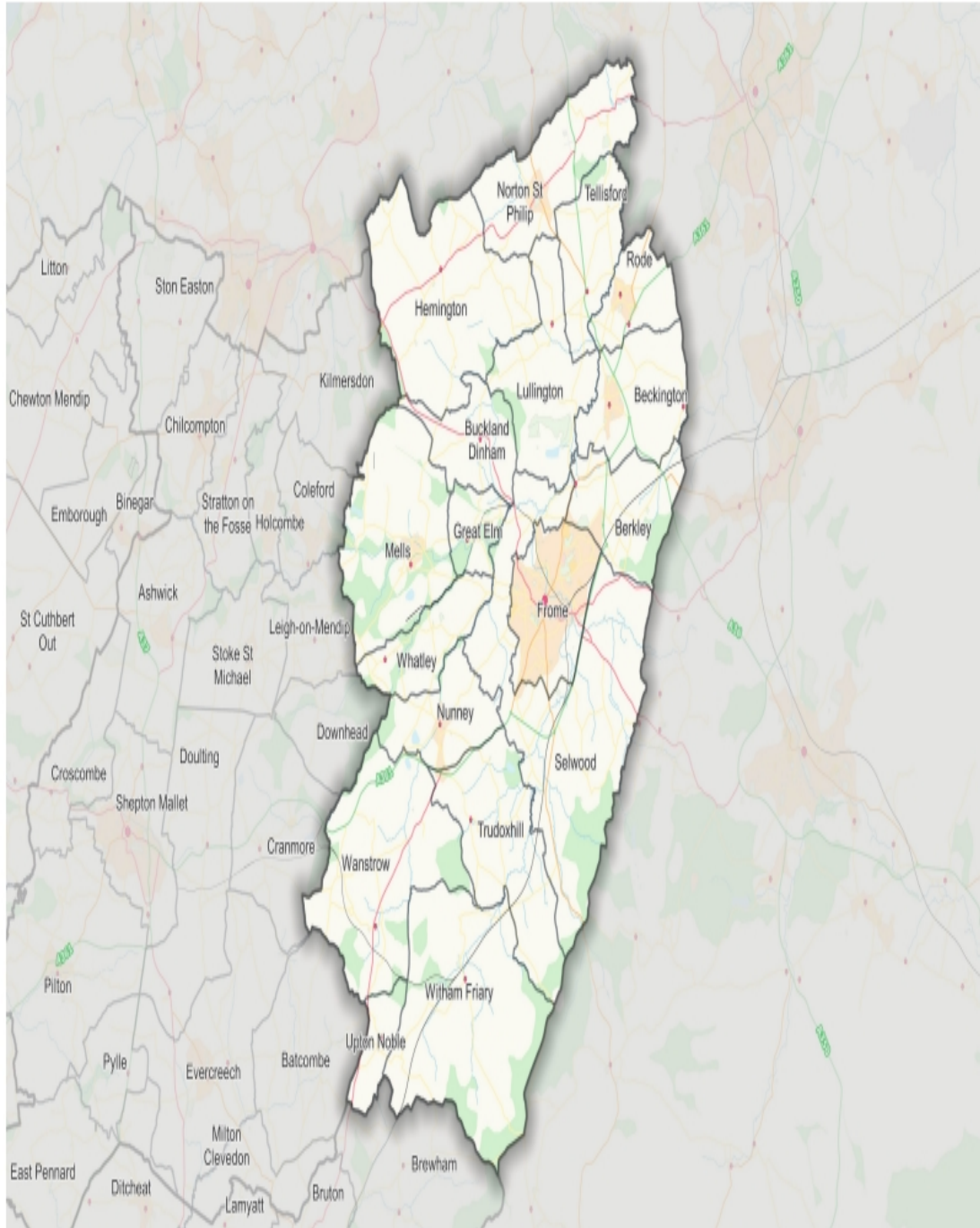
The next meeting: 27th July 2023 at 7pm, Frome Town Hall

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Frome 2 Local community Network Areas

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