

Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Cheddar and Axbridge

Date: Thursday, 3 August 2023

Time: 7.00pm – 8.17pm

Location: Axbridge Town Hall - Axbridge

Chaired by:

LCN core membership attendance:

Name:	Representing
Ben Ferguson	Somerset Council
Bob Filmer	Somerset Council
Pauline Ham	Somerset Council
Matthew Martin	Somerset Council
Harry Munt	Somerset Council
Heather Shearer	Somerset Council
Mike Taylor	Axbridge Town Council
Jackie Hipwell	Badgworth Parish Council
Fiona Torrens-Spence	Chapel Allerton Parish Council
Paul Fineran	Cheddar Parish Council
Delia McCarthy	Compton Bishop Parish Council
Val Bullen	Rodney Stoke Parish Council

Gemma Gaut

Shipham Parish Council

Lynn Myland

Weare Parish Council

Lindsey Baker

Wedmore Parish Council

Officer attendance:

Name:

Representing

Jeff Brown

Somerset Council

Sam Crossman

Somerset Council

Kate Hellard

Somerset Council

Ally Laing

Somerset Council

Emma Plummer

Somerset Council

Steve Taylor

Somerset Council

Other attendees:

Name:

Representing

Val Keitch

Associate Lead Member for Localities (LCNs) & Public Health

Doreen Smith

Connect Somerset

Jeff White

Avon & Somerset Watch

Vicky Brice

Axbridge Town Council

Frankie Mitton

Axbridge Town Council

Margaret Wallach

Chapel Allerton Parish Council

Derek Bradley-Balmer

Cheddar Parish Council

Corran Fineran

Cheddar Parish Council

Claire Settle

Compton Bishop Parish Council

Jim Hardcastle

Mendip Hills AONB

Virtual attendees:

Name:

Representing

Alan Anderson

Cheddar Parish Council

Sarah Catling

Cheddar Parish Council – Clerk

Frances Gully

Somerset Council

Sam Peake

Shipham Parish Council – Clerk

Dawn Rogers

Somerset Council

Apologies:

Name:

Representing

Tony Grimes

Somerset Council

Ros Wyke

Somerset Council

Harry Munt

Somerset Council

Helen Marshall

Clerk to Badgworth PC and Rodney Stoke PC

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

Somerset Councillor Pauline Ham was nominated by Somerset Councillor Ben Ferguson and seconded by Somerset Councillor Matt Martin.

No other nominations were received, Councillor Pauline Ham was duly elected as Chair for the Cheddar and Axbridge LCN.

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

Axbridge Town Councillor Frankie Mitton was nominated by Somerset Councillor Pauline Ham and seconded by Somerset Councillor Ben Ferguson.

No other nominations were received, Axbridge Town Councillor Frankie Mitton was duly elected as Vice-Chair for the Cheddar and Axbridge LCN

Item 3: **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Somerset Councillors: Tony Grimes, Harry Munt and Ros Wyke and from Helen Marshall (clerk to Badgworth and Rodney Stoke Parish Councils).

Item 4: **Declarations of Interest**

No additional declarations of interest were made.

Item 5: **Public Question Time**

In response to a question over the core-membership it was explained that the membership of a LCN would evolve over time.

The LCN recommended that the Mendip Hill AONB Service be included as a Core-Member

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

Item 6a: What are LCNs and how will we work together

A presentation was given which explained the concept of the LCN meetings and their purpose.

Item 6b: Discussion – What is important to residents and businesses in our area? (An opportunity to raise any local issues or concerns for LCN to consider)

During the group discussions LCN) members highlighted the following as priorities for their area:-

- Current issues, that have been notified to the Council, need to be resolved, so that the current relationship can be built on and mutual trust can be restored.
- The need for the Police to engage with LCNs when topics arise for them
- Anti-social behaviour – predominantly anti-social driving

e.g. noise and speed.

- Speeding and the lack of speed limit enforcement
- Care and support in the community
- Access to services – hospitals, GPs, mental health and youth services.
- Planning – its impact on local services, planning enforcement and the need for regard to local views on planning.
- Traffic & Transport – Public transport, parking, rights of way, road/pedestrian safety and maintenance of highways.
- Communications with town and parish councils and details of who to contact in Somerset Council.

Other priorities, which were captured on flipchart paper included:-

Planning

Enforcement, planning needing to liaison with licensing, infrastructure.

Highways

Fly tipping, speeding (rules of operation/decisions on this), volume of traffic, department of highways needs to be more involved, listening, investigating, parking at school times especially, drain maintenance, verge maintenance, rights of way, road closures, Lack of pavements and cycle paths, vulnerable road users, flooding issues

Transport

Volume of transport needs to be looked at, sustainable transport, school kids transport, elderly people transport, transport to services.

Services

Visitor economy (pros/cons), hospital provisions + parking, doctor surgeries, direct support and not going through remote systems to get to services, youth clubs, links to education, connections with planning, services and schools linking, care and support in the community, the need to share good practice as well as between Axbridge and Wells.

Environment

Nature reconnect, natural environment, green issues.

Communication

Communication needs to be better, connect with parish facebook page.

Who else to invite to these meeting: -

- Highways authority
- Police
- NHS
- Neighbourhood watch

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

The Cheddar and Axbridge LCN agreed that the frequency of meetings should be bi-monthly and that this could be reviewed as the LCN developed.

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 and this would be circulated.

A statement from the Chairman of the Avon & Somerset Watch for LCNs within the Avon & Somerset region was read out. This emphasised their vision, together with the key objectives they felt collaboration with LCN could help them achieve.

Item 9: **Statement from Avon and Somerset Watch for LCN**

Copy of the statement provided at the LCN meeting.

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

Neighbourhood Watch

Statement from Avon & Somerset Watch for LCN's within the Avon and Somerset region.

Statement from the Chairman of Avon & Somerset Watch. which emphasises our vision, together with those key objectives that we feel, collaboration with local LCNs, could help us achieve.

Avon & Somerset Watch is the Region's lead body for all local Neighbourhood Watch Units, who are located in strategic areas throughout Avon and Somerset.

Each Neighbourhood Watch Unit, run by a volunteer Coordinator with a volunteer support team, have the goal of **making their community a better and safer place to live.**

Coordinators can do this by harnessing the power of neighbours working together, so that they can build safer, vibrant and inclusive communities; that not only help prevent crime, but also **make a positive, and sustainable difference, within each of their communities.**

The National Neighbourhood Watch movement, which is the largest crime prevention voluntary movement in England and Wales and has **upwards of 2.3 million members and over 90,000 Coordinators,** supports and enables Regional Associations and local Units to operate by providing resources, training and networking support.

By strengthening the voice of the community with councils, the police,

other public services and VCFSEs, Neighbourhood Watch want to work with other organisations including the Local Area Networks.

The mission statement of Avon & Somerset Watch is:

"Empowering Coordinators | Supporting Police | Helping Community".

This motto informs our strategic priorities that includes increasing the number of strategic partners who we work with.

As a result, we see the value of Local Community Networks and we are fully supportive of your work.

Avon & Somerset Watch, fully supported by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC), is excited to engage with LCN's across the region, and whilst we are a relatively new organisation with limited resources, we are keen to work together and contribute towards building safer communities in Avon and Somerset, with a view to establishing a long-term partnership.

Frank Simonds - Chair

Jeff White - Deputy Chair
(@ meeting)

also Village Watch Coordinators
(WEDMORE)