Somerset Council

Notice of Meeting of

LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK
- CREWKERNE AND ILMINSTER

Thursday, 21 September 2023 at 7.00 pm

The Henhayes Centre,
South Street, Crewkerne TA18 8DA

To: The members of the Local Community Network - Crewkerne and Ilminster

Chair: Councillor Mike Best
Vice-chair: Leanne Taylor

Councillor Steve Ashton	Councillor Adam Dance	Councillor Mike Hewitson
Councillor Val Keitch	Councillor Sue Osborne	Councillor Oliver Patrick
Councillor Jo Roundell Greene		

Ashill PC	Broadway PC	Chaffcombe PC
Chillington PM	Chiselborough PC	Crewkerne TC
Cricket St Thomas PM	Cudworth PM	Dinnington PM
Donyatt PC	Dowlish Wake PC	Haselbury Plucknett PC
Hinton St George PC	Horton PC	Ilminster TC
Ilton PC	Kingstone PM	Knowle St Giles PM
Lopen PC	Merriott PC	Misterton PC
North Perrott PC	Norton Sub Hamdon PC	Seavington PC
Shepton Beauchamp PC	South Petherton PC	Stocklinch PC
Wayford PC	West Crewkerne PC	West & Middle Chinnock PC
Whitelackington PM	Winsham PC	

And other stakeholders as detailed in the core membership on pages 5 and 6.

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

Parking is available at the venue with overflow car parks located 100 yards away. Disabled parking and facilities are present at the hall.

The LCN team want everybody to have the opportunity to take part in the LCN meetings and have booked appropriate venues with accessibility requirements in mind. If you have specific access needs, and are at all concerned, please contact the LCN Team so they can provide reassurance or seek solutions beforehand: lcn@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, 15 September 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.

Issued by David Clark, Monitoring Officer (the Proper Officer) on Monday, 11 September 2023.

AGENDA

Local Community Network - Crewkerne and Ilminster
7.00 pm Thursday, 21 September 2023

1   Apologies for absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2   Declarations of Interest

To receive and note any declarations of 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: City, Town & Parish Twin Hatters - Somerset Councillors 2023)

3   Notes from the previous meeting (Pages 9 - 16)

To approve the notes from the previous meeting.

4   Public question time (for items not covered on the agenda)

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.

5   Highlights of themes discussed at the last meeting

6   An introduction to data

7   Discussion:

What are the more detailed issues, how do we know, what does good look like and what can we do with regard to:

- The state of the roads and road signage
- Volume and weight of the traffic
- On street parking
- Flooding
- Speeding
- Events and road closures
- Diversion of traffic during road closures

8   Feedback and Q and A

9   Dates for the next meetings

Core Membership

Unitary Councillors:
Councillor Steve Ashton
Councillor Mike Best
Councillor Adam Dance
Councillor Mike Hewitson
Councillor Val Keitch
Councillor Sue Osborne
Councillor Oliver Patrick
Councillor Jo Roundell Greene

City, Town and Parish Councils (one voting member from each):
Ashill
Broadway
Chaffcombe
Chillington
Chiselborough
Crewkerne
Cricket St. Thomas
Cudworth
Dinnington
Donyatt
Dowlish Wake
Haselbury Plucknett
Hinton St. George
Horton
Ilminster
Ilton
Kingstone
Knowle St. Giles
Lopen
Merriott
Misterton
North Perrott
Norton sub Hamdon
Seavington St. Mary
Seavington St. Michael
Shepton Beauchamp
South Petherton
Stocklinch

Wayford

West and Middle Chinnock

West Crewkerne

Winsham

Whitelackington

Other Stakeholders (one voting member from each):

Avon and Somerset Police

NHS

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue

Education

Spark Somerset

Society Local Council Clerks

Somerset Association Local Councils

Somerset Activity Sports Partnership

Community Council for Somerset

Citizens Advice

Department of Work and Pensions

Somerset Rivers Authority

Somerset Local Nature Partnership

Business Chamber

Churchview Surgery

Young Farmers

Crewkerne Small Business Group

This meeting is an in-person meeting at the Henhayes Centre, Crewkerne.

If you are unable to make the meeting in person we are also trialling a hybrid set-up – the joining details are below:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 371 478 509 769

Passcode: oHWziW

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+44 1823 772277,,783517676#](#)   United Kingdom, Taunton

Phone Conference ID: 783 517 676#

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![Somerset Council logo]

Minutes of a Meeting of the Local Community Network - Crewkerne and Ilminster held in the Donyatt Village Hall, Donyatt, Ilminster TA19 0RG, on Thursday, 15 June 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Steve Ashton	Somerset Council
Cllr Mike Best	Somerset Council
Cllr Adam Dance	Somerset Council
Cllr Val Keitch	Somerset Council
Cllr Sue Osborne	Somerset Council
Cllr Oliver Patrick	Somerset Council
Cllr Jo Roundell Greene	Somerset Council
Neil Harvey	Ashill Parish Council
Peter Gregory	Broadway Parish Council
Geraldine Wills	Chaffcombe Parish Council
Kathy Head	Crewkerne Town Council
Katharine Sheehan (Clerk)	Crewkerne Town Council
David Light	Donyatt Parish Council
Bill Porritt	Donyatt Parish Council
Kim Larsson (Clerk)	Donyatt Parish Council and Ilton Parish Council
Nicky Handlay	Dowlish Wake Parish Council
Hugh Williams	Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council
Pippa Reynolds	Hinton St George Parish Council
Julie Chant (Clerk)	Hinton St George Parish Council
Ray Buckler	Horton Parish Council
Leanne Taylor	Ilminster Town Council
Ian MacKillop	Ilminster Town Council
Mike Fry Foley	Ilminster Town Council
Matt James	Ilminster Town Council
Mark Tredwin (Clerk)	Ilminster Town Council
Janice Tarrant	Ilton Parish Council
Nick Jones	Lopen Parish Council
Lisa Wilson (Clerk)	Lopen Parish Council
David Shillibier	Merriott Parish Council
David Aslett	Merriott Parish Council
Paul Bradly	Misterton Parish Council
Tom Winder	North Perrott Parish Council

Sue More	Norton Sub Hamdon Parish Council
Louise Brooks (Clerk)	Norton Sub Hamdon Parish Council
Jim Pendleton	Seavington Parish Council
Nigel Wylie Carrick	Shepton Beauchamp Parish Council
Stella Davies (Clerk)	Shepton Beauchamp Parish Council
Stephen Carp	South Petherton Parish Council
Frank Freeman	West Crewkerne Parish Council
Sarah Love	Winsham Parish Council Council

Others present remotely:
Cllr Mike Hewitson (Somerset Council), Dr Roger Bulley and Martyn Hamlin (Chiselborough Parish Council), Elizabeth Griffiths (West & Middle Chinncok Parish Council), Sam Murrell and Victoria Byrne (Somerset Council), and two members of the public.

In attendance:
One member of the public.

Officers:
Kate Hellard, Frances Gully, Sara Skirton, Nathan Turnbull, All Laing and Becky Sanders (all Somerset Council).

1   To appoint the Chair of the Local Community Network - Agenda Item 1

Somerset Councillor Mike Best was nominated by Somerset Councillor Jo Roundell Greene, seconded by Somerset Councillor Val Keitch.

No other nominations were received so Councillor Mike Best was duly elected as Chairman.

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

Leanne Taylor (Ilminster Town Councillor) was nominated by Somerset Councillor Adam Dance, seconded by Somerset Councillor Sue Osborne.

No other nominations were received so Leanne Taylor (Ilminster Town Council) was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

3   Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 3

Apologies for absence were received from Somerset Councillor Mike Hewitson due

to illness, however he was in attendance online via Teams.

4   **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 4

There were no declarations of interest.

5   **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 5

A question was briefly raised from a member of the public present at the meeting who asked if there would be a performance standard regarding communications with everyone. In response Sara Skirton (Service Director for Partnerships and Localities), thanked the gentleman for his suggestion and noted it was a good idea and she would take it forward.

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

Kate Hellard (LCN Development Lead) provided a presentation on the purpose of the LCN and how it would feed back into the work of Somerset Council. The presentation slides are [attached](#).

There is also a dedicated page for Local Community Networks (LCNs) on the Somerset Council website which is viewable at: https://www.somerset.gov.uk/local-community-networks/

In break-out groups, attendees were asked to consider three discussion questions (sub headings below) and to share what themes, issues and opportunities they wanted the Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN to explore over the next 12 months.

What is important to our residents and how do we know that?

Transport

- Public transport – routes and costs vs fares
- Road links

Communication / Connectivity

- Poor access in some areas to fast internet/broadband service.
- Poor mobile network coverage in many areas

Services - Lack of, or difficulty accessing

- Banks
- Dentists
- GP access and nurses – stroke and hyper acute services
- Access to health hubs and links to transport
- School Places
- Youth Activities
- Services accessible to the elderly
- Lack of health infrastructure to support growth
- Access to education and youth provision

Rural / Social Isolation

- Lack of public transport – and so reliance on private car
- Growing elderly population
- Lack of things for young people to do / and transport.
- Rural sustainability
- Access to and maintaining existing essential services such as shops and post offices

Environmental Issues

- Dog Bins/Mess
- Litter and fly-tipping.
- Maintaining open spaces
- Ranger services – communication – management and cost vs quality.
- Play park equipment

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Lack of Police
- Perceptions of Anti Social Behaviour

Employment and Skills

- Employers – needed to attract people to stay and live locally
- Support infrastructure / jobs for population growth

<u>Highways</u>

- State of roads – potholes, verge and hedge cutting, land slips, fly tipping – reporting and timelines for issues
- Accountability of utility companies regarding states of roads post their works.
- Efficiency of repairs
- Road closures - notices – lack of consistencies
- Volume, speed and weight of traffic, and also driver behaviour
- Flooding and blocked drains and culverts.
- Dualling of A358 delayed

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- SC Financial performance
- Growth in properties has been slowed by the phosphates issue
- Housing need
- Sheltered housing and affordable / social housing
- Planning – Parish Councils not listened to.
- Planning – issues with portal, timeframes, enforcement and inconsistencies
- Financial support for village halls
- Finance and grant funding
- More engagement early and often at a local level
- How will LCNs empower communities and deliver priorities if no access to funding or beudgets?
- More accountability and easier access into services.
- More input at parish council meetings.
- Access to every-day services delivered efficiently and cost effectively – able to speak to person when needed.

<u>Other</u>

- Access to resources – equality across the LCNs
- Cost of living – distribute data
- Resilience
    - weather – flood and heat
    - food security
    - isolation

How do we know?

- Social media / Facebook
- Emails

- Speaking to residents informally and formally

Is there something we can do about it, and / or are there examples already working?

<u>Highways</u>

- Some parishes have local speedwatch schemes / 30mph and SIDs

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- Communication – list of contacts
- Up to date website
- People / officers to talk to
- Email contacts
- Answering the phones
- Service Level Agreements
- Know who people are and understanding what they do
- Different Portfolio Holders attending Parish Council meetings
- Rather than councillors providing feedback on what SC will be doing – opportunity for more early engagement and consultative approach with parishes
- More information as to what level of local government does what and how those roles affect the communities.
- Funding
- Share good practice across the LCN and wider – what can be learned from neighbours?
- Share proactive initiatives
- Better connections – Highways, public transport, Police feedback, access to youth facilities
- Planning
    important to residents
    lack of enforcement
    status of parishes
    planning department – local knowledge

<u>Transport</u>

- Community driving schemes
- Highways wardens
- School / education

Health

- Build community driving schemes – links to resilience
- NHS needs to be a key stakeholder

Resilience. other groups and projects – examples already working elsewhere

- Community groups – eg Green Ilminster
- Frome and Bruton – Transition Towns
- CARG (Chard Area Resilience Group)
- Ilminster are working with young people
- Scything project, re-wilding and finger-post maintenance

Rural Isolation

- Bring generations together at a local level.
- Consider community land trusts – mixed housing including social housing
- VCFSE and village agent involvement in LCN
- Get residents involved and talking
- Better Police contacts

Environmental Issues

- Link parishes to strategies e.g trees

Other

- Volunteers need access to training and freedoms to take local action (insurance).

Who do we need to talk to? Who else could be in the room? Is there any data that would help?

- Somerset Council – Difficulty in accessing the right contact.
- Guest speakers from Somerset Council from various departments or on a required basis (SC Accountability)
- Youth worker
- Police
- Fire Service
- Highways
- Planning

- Portfolio Holders
- NHS – Doctors and Dentists
- Grant application advisor
- VCFSE
- Environment Agency
- Utility Companies
- Businesses
- Farmers and land owners
- Speedwatch volunteers
- Other agencies and service providers
- Residents
- The other LCNs and all the parishes within this LCN
- Public transport providers
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Wessex Water
- Community infrastructure – to include education

7   To agree the frequency of meetings - Agenda Item 7

During a brief discussion mixed opinions on the frequency of meetings were raised. It was agreed that initially the meetings would be bi-monthly but may move to quarterly at a later date.

8   The schedule of meetings for the next 12 months - Agenda Item 8

It was suggested and agreed, that the main summer holidays be avoided and the next meeting be arranged for early September.

The Chairman noted there was much work to be done. Officers would look closely at parish meeting dates and suggest some dates for future meetings of the Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN.

(The meeting ended at 8.30 pm)

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CHAIR