

Public Agenda Pack



Notice of Meeting of

LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK - LEVELS AND MOORS

Wednesday, 20 September 2023 at 7.00 pm

**Westonzoyland Village Hall, Cheer Lane,
Westonzoyland, TA7 0EX**

To: The members of the Local Community Network - Levels and Moors

Chair:

Vice-chair:

Councillor John Bailey
Councillor Adam Dance
Councillor Tim Kerley
Councillor Emily Pearlstone

Councillor
Jo Roundell Greene
Councillor Richard Wilkins
Barrington
Charltons

Curry Mallett
Fivehead
Huish Episcopi
Kingsbury Episcopi
Long Load

Councillor Alan Bradford
Councillor Andy Dingwall
Councillor Matthew Martin
Councillor Bill Revans

Councillor Dean Ruddle

Aller
Beercrocombe
Chedzoy

Curry Rivel
Hambridge & Westport
Isle Abbots
Kingsdon
Long Sutton

Councillor Norman Cavill
Councillor David Fothergill
Councillor Harry Munt
Councillor
Diogo Rodrigues
Councillor Mike Stanton

Ash
Burrowbridge
Compton Dundon Parish Council
Drayton
High Ham Parish Council
Isle Brewers
Langport
Lyng

Martock
North Curry
Puckington
Westonzoyland

Middlezoy
Othery
Somerton

Muchelney
Pitney
Stoke St Gregory

For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact LCN Team 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: democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk by **5pm on Thursday, 14 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.

The meeting will be webcast and an audio recording made.

Issued by (the Proper Officer) on Tuesday, 12 September 2023

AGENDA

Local Community Network - Levels and Moors - 7.00 pm Wednesday, 20
September 2023

Core Membership 5 - 6

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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 - 20)

To approve the notes from the previous meeting held on 19th June 2023.

4 Public Question Time (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: to agree initial priorities, actions for each parish and the creation of working groups.

8 Dates of future meetings

Core Membership

Unitary Councillors:

Councillor John Bailey
Councillor Alan Bradford
Councillor Norman Cavill
Councillor Adam Dance
Councillor Andy Dingwall
Councillor David Fothergill
Councillor Tim Kerley
Councillor Matthew Martin
Councillor Harry Munt
Councillor Emily Pearlstone
Councillor Bill Revans
Councillor Diogo Rodrigues
Councillor Jo Roundell Greene
Councillor Dean Ruddle
Councillor Mike Stanton
Councillor Richard Wilkins

City, Town and Parish Councils (one voting member from each):

Aller
Ash
Barrington
Beercrocombe
Burrowbridge
Chedzoy
Compton Dundon
Curry Mallet
Curry Rivel
Drayton
Fivehead
Hambridge and Westport
High Ham
Huish Episcopi
Isle Abbots
Isle Brewers
Kingsbury Episcopi
Kingsdon
Langport
Long Load

Long Sutton
Lyng
Martock
Middlezoy
Muchelney
North Curry
Othery
Pitney
Puckington
Somerton
Stoke St. Gregory
The Charltons
Westonzoyland

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
Young Farmers



Local Community Network

Levels and Moors

Wednesday 20th September 2023: 7pm

Westonzoyland Village Hall
Cheer Lane
Westonzoyland
TA7 0EX

We'd love to see you in person, but if you can't make it this time, we're trialling a hybrid set-up, so please use this

MS Teams Link

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 324 982 367 345

Passcode: amhRGb

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

Please note:

Parking is available in front of the Hall.

There is also disabled parking and facilities at the Hall.

We want everybody to have the opportunity to take part in the LCN meetings - fully and comfortably - and have booked appropriate venues with accessibility requirements in mind.

If you've specific access needs, and are at all concerned, please contact us so we can provide reassurance, or seek solutions beforehand:

lcn@somerset.gov.uk



Local Community Network Meeting

Agenda

1. To receive any apologies for absence
 2. Declarations of Interest
 3. Approve the minutes of the last meeting
 4. Public Questions (not covered on the agenda)
 5. Highlights of themes discussed at the last meeting
 6. An introduction to data
 7. Discussion: to agree initial priorities, actions for each parish and the creation of working groups.
 8. Dates of future meetings
-

- ✓ Identify and respond to local priorities.
- ✓ Influence decisions and how services are delivered locally.
- ✓ Councillors, local groups, partners, and residents' joining together to make change happen.

A warm welcome awaits!

Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Levels and Moors

Date: Monday, 19 June 2023

Time: 7.00 pm - 8.40 pm

Location: Curry Rivel Village Hall - Curry Rivel

Chaired by: Cllr Richard Wilkins

LCN core membership attendance:

Name:	Representing
Cllr John Bailey	Somerset Council
Cllr Adam Dance	Somerset Council
Cllr Andy Dingwall	Somerset Council
Cllr Matthew Martin	Somerset Council
Cllr Harry Munt	Somerset Council
Cllr Emily Pearlstone	Somerset Council
Cllr Diogo Rodrigues	Somerset Council
Cllr Jo Roundell Greene	Somerset Council
Cllr Dean Ruddle	Somerset Council
Cllr Mike Stanton	Somerset Council
Cllr Richard Wilkins	Somerset Council
Judy Brown	Aller Parish Council

Steve Davey	Ash Parish Council
Andrew Plumbly	Beercrocombe Parish Council
Mike Jay	Burrowbridge Parish Council
Tamzin Elliott	Charltons (The)
Rodney Young	Chedzoy Parish Council
Geoff Walker	Compton Dundon Parish Council
Fleur Wood (Chair)	Curry Mallett Parish Council
Marcus Hembrow	Curry Rivel Parish Council
Derek Lawther	Drayton Parish Council
Laura Howard	Fivehead Parish Council
Simon Denley	Hambridge & Westport Parish Council
David Vigar	High Ham Parish Council
Jane Redfearn	Huish Episcopi Parish Council
Lorraine Vawn Davis (as sub)	Isle Abbotts Parish Council
David Hall	Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Council
Sean DromGoole	Langport, Langport Town Council
Rupert Cox	Long Sutton, Long Sutton Parish Council
Grace Salter Haskins	Lyng Parish Council
Louise Clarke	Martock Parish Council
Andrew Flower	Muchelney Parish Meeting
Mike Dennis	North Curry Parish Meeting
Anthony Betty	Othery Parish Council
Mo Fletcher	Somerton Town Council

Officer attendance:

Name:	Representing
Stephanie Gold	Democratic Services
Frances Gully	LCN Team
Adrian Moore	LCN Team
Emma Plumber	LCN Team
Emily Window	LCN Team
Sarah Skirton	Service Director, LCN Team
Dawn Rogers	LCN Team

Other attendees:

Name:	Representing:
Caroline Dunn	Somerset Rivers Authority
Alexander Priest	Mind In Somerset
Cllr Val Keitch	Somerset Council
Gillian Midworth	Clerk - Beercrocombe P C
Kim Larsson	Clerk - Aller, Isle Abbots and Kingsbury P C
John Wood	Huish Episcopi PC
Julia Gadd	Huish Episcopi PC
Paul Helyer	Martock PC
Julie Ferguson	
Helen Barrington	Clerk - Lyng PC Clerk
William Wilkes-Wood	Curry Mallet PC
Morag Kelly	Clerk - Langport TC Clerk
Sarah Potepa	Kingsbury Episcopi PC

Amanda Chuter

High Ham P C

Phil Stone

Andrew Tizzard

Othery PC

Virtual attendees:

Name:

Representing:

Darren Hatherley

Clerk - Muchelney P C

Don Bourne

Laura Gowers

Paul Baker

Middlezoy P C

Apologies:

Name:

Representing:

Cllr Alan Bradford

Somerset Council

Cllr Norman Cavill

Somerset Council

Cllr David Fothergill

Somerset Council

Cllr Tim Kerley

Somerset Council

Cllr Bill Revans

Somerset Council

Isle Abbots Parish Council

Cllr Jackie Fisher

Westonzoyland Parish Council

Summary of discussion:

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

Item 1: **To appoint the Chair of the Local Community Network** DS

Nominations:

1. Cllr Sean Dromgoole - nominated by Rupert Cox, seconded by Cllr Jane Redfearne
2. Cllr Richard Wilkins – nominated by Cllr Mike Stanton, seconded by Cllr Adam Dance

Resolved:

Cllr Sean Dromgoole – *8 in favour*

Cllr Richard Wilkins – *23 in favour*

Cllr Richard Wilkins was duly elected as the Chair of the Local Community Network.

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

Nominations:

1. Cllr Anthony Betty of Othery Parish Council - nominated by Cllr Diogo Rodrigues, seconded by Cllr Andy Dingwall
2. Cllr Louise Clarke of Martock Parish Council – self nomination, seconded by Cllr Mike Stanton

Resolved:

Cllr Anthony Betty – *17 in favour*

Cllr Louise Clarke - *11 in favour*

Cllr Anthony Betty was duly elected as Vice-chair of the Local Community Network.

Item 3: **Apologies for Absence** DS

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Cllr Alan Bradford, Somerset Council
- Cllr Tim Kerley, Somerset Council
- Cllr Norman Cavill, Somerset Council
- Cllr David Fothergill, Somerset Council
- Cllr Bill Revans, Somerset Council
- Philip Edge – Langport and Somerton Transport group
- Cllr Gerard Tucker, Aller Parish Council

- Cllr Jackie Fisher, Westonzoyland Parish Council

Item 4: **Declarations of Interest** DS

Declarations of interest were received from:

- Cllr Mike Stanton declared an interest due to his role as the Chair of the Somerset Rivers Authority Board.

Item 5: **Public Question Time** DS

There were no questions, statements or petitions received from members of the public.

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

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.



There is a dedicated page on the Somerset Council website which can be accessed via this [link](#).

The LCN Development Lead invited comments and questions from members and the following items were discussed.

- The role of the LCN as a decision-making body.
- The role of the link officers and when they will be in post.

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

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

Somerset Council

- The planning function – approvals process, lack of enforcement, lack of communication
- Lack of understanding of Somerset Council responsibilities
- Lack of action on known issues

Housing and development management

- Protection of Heritage and listed buildings
- Affordable and Social Housing
- Community Land Trusts
- Lack of strategic planning

Transport

- Public Transport – cuts to bus services, access to train, links to larger villages and towns - especially when no amenities at a village/loss of local shops.
- Active Travel issues – lack of cycle/walking routes, lack of pavements on walking routes, inaccessible footpaths, car sharing
- EV charging points

Highways

- The state of roads i.e potholes
- Freight routes through small villages causing disruption.
- Air pollution
- Availability and cost of parking in rural areas
- EV charging point at key sites
- A358 dualling

Communication/connectivity

- Access to broadband/fiberoptic

Flooding

- Businesses struggling to operate due to disruption.
- Impact on mental health in flood hit communities.

Rural crime

- Antisocial behaviour
- Burglary & theft
- Speeding
- Drink and drug driving

Environmental issues

- Out of date sewage systems/water pollution/phosphates
- Tree Planting and tree care.
- Loss of habitats
- Loss of hedgerows
- Reducing waste
- Dog waste/fouling
- Air pollution

Employment and Skills

- Tourism and Local Economy

Health and wellbeing

- Education and special educational needs provision
- All social care - Adults, Youth, Seniors, Disabled
- Youth Services - funding streams, what is available, venues and support, non-sport related ideas
- Lack of support for those who work as voluntary carers.
- Lack of burial space
- Access to funds for community projects i.e. playground equipment and community shop, and knowing where to apply and help in applying
- Cost of living issues
- Access to open spaces
- Mental Health in rural communities

How do we know?

- Complaints received.
- Surveys
- Speedwatch
- Local data collection
- Existing village plans

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

Somerset Council

- Somerset Council contact for repairs and improvements on council land
- Support for available funding and grant opportunities
- Effective two-way communication

Housing and development management

- More support in claiming 106 funding.
- Provision of affordable housing for local residents.

Transport

- Smaller buses more often
- More cycle paths and walking routes, more links between these routes and neighbouring towns/villages.

Highways

- Improved road systems – extra mini roundabouts?

Flooding

- Flood Protection Scheme

Rural crime

- Speedwatch works
- Increase police presence.

Environmental issues

- Land for tree planting and support with tree care post planting
- Support with funding and grant opportunities

Employment and Skills

- More local employment opportunities

Health and wellbeing

- Land for burial grounds
- More support for food banks i.e Martock Christian Fellowship food bank
- Parish funded community teams.
- Support for funding and grant opportunities.
- Support with volunteer recruitment.

Who do we need to talk to? Who else could be in the room?

-

- Collective working to get better deals and service, voice as a group.
- Communication within LCN
- Police – esp. PCSO's
- Somerset Council – Streetscene, Public Health, Flood Warden, Highways
- Environment Agency
- Somerset Rivers Authority
- Drainage Boards
- Water Companies i.e Wessex water
- Schools/local Academies.
- Local NHS Integrated Care Board
- Community hubs
- Active groups within parishes

Is there any data that would help?

-

- Neighbourhood/community plans.
- Better use of local knowledge/influence.
- Community Engagement
- Follow those already showing good practice.

Item 7: To agree the frequency of meetings

LCN

The Chair asked members to consider the frequency of meetings of the LCN Levels and Moors and advised that the officer recommendation is 6-8 weekly. The following comments and questions were received and discussed –

- The frequency of meetings would depend on the resource available within the LCN team.
- Some members felt daytime meetings would be preferred, but officers advised that during early consultation with parish and town councils there had been a strong steer for evening meetings.

The Chair concluded that the recommendation from officers of 6-8 weekly meetings was agreed, but that this would need to be reviewed after the initial 12-month period.

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

LCN

The Chair asked members to consider the schedule of meetings for the LCN Levels and Moors and advised that the next meeting would be scheduled in for September. The following comments and questions were received and discussed:

- Need to plan LCN meetings carefully to avoid repeated clashes with parish and town council meetings where possible.
- Need to consider timings of how parish and town council representatives can feed back LCN notes and decisions to their own council meetings, especially Parish Meetings that are only held once or twice a year.

The Chair concluded that the schedule of meetings for the next 12 months would be confirmed at the next meeting in September 2023.

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

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