

# Public Agenda Pack



Notice of Meeting of

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK - TAUNTON**

**Monday, 5 February 2024 at 6.30 pm**

**Taunton Minster (St Mary Magdalene), Church Square, Taunton, TA1 1SA**

To: The members of the Local Community Network - Taunton

Chair: Councillor Dawn Johnson

Councillor Lee Baker

Councillor Dixie Darch

Councillor Caroline Ellis

Councillor John Hunt

Councillor Derek Perry

Councillor Mike Rigby

Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts

Councillor Liz Leyshon

Councillor Simon Coles

Councillor Tom Deakin

Councillor Habib Farbahi

Councillor Dawn Johnson

Councillor Hazel Prior-Sankey

Councillor Fran Smith

Councillor Andy Sully

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For further information about the meeting, including how to join the meeting virtually, please contact LCN Team [lcn@somerset.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:democraticserviceteam@somerset.gov.uk) by **5pm on Tuesday, 30 January 2024**.

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](mailto:lcn@somerset.gov.uk).

**Please Note** - Canon Street Car Park is free after 6.00pm

Issued by (the Proper Officer) on Friday, 26 January 2024

# **AGENDA**

**Local Community Network - Taunton - 6.30 pm Monday, 5 February 2024**

## **Core Membership (Pages 5 - 6)**

### **Click here to join the online meeting (Pages 7 - 8)**

#### **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 Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting**

To discuss matters arising from the notes not covered in later agenda items.

#### **5 Update on Somerset Council's Financial Position**

To receive an update on Somerset Council's Financial Position including:

- General Update
- Service and Asset Devolution

## **6 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.

## **7 Community Resilience and Emergency Planning**

To receive A Community Resilience and Emergency Planning update including:

Flooding, Severe Weather – Presented by Nicola Dawson, Paul Elliston and Bel Derring from The Somerset Contingency Team – “How prepared is our/your Community in an Emergency”.

## **8 Feedback from the Young People’s Working Group.**

To receive an update from the Young People’s Working Group

## **9 Priorities and forward plan for the Taunton LCN.**

To go through priorities and forward plan for Taunton LCN.

## **10 Dates and Agendas for the next meeting**

To confirm date and agenda for the next meeting.

## **Core Membership**

Unitary Councillors:

Councillor Lee Baker  
Councillor Simon Coles  
Councillor Dixie Darch  
Councillor Tom Deakin  
Councillor Caroline Ellis  
Councillor Habib Farbahi  
Councillor John Hunt  
Councillor Dawn Johnson  
Councillor Derek Perry  
Councillor Hazel Prior-Sankey  
Councillor Mike Rigby  
Councillor Fran Smith  
Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts  
Councillor Andy Sully

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

Bishops Hull  
Bishops Lydeard  
Cothelstone  
Cotford St Luke  
Norton Fitzwarren  
Taunton  
Trull

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  
Quantocks AONB

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## Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Taunton

Date: Thursday, 30 November 2023

Time: 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm

Location: Trull Memorial Hall, 21 Church Rd, Trull, Taunton TA3 7JZ

Chaired by: Dawn Johnson (Chair)

### LCN core membership attendance:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Lee Baker	Somerset Council
Tom Deakin	Somerset Council
John Hunt	Somerset Council
Liz Leyshon	Somerset Council
Andy Sully	Somerset Council
Patricia Bainbridge	Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council
Tessa Dean	Trull Parish Council
Bev Fernandes	Taunton Town Council
Nick Fernandes	
Richard Holt	CICCIC
Joanna Lewin-Harris	Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council
Andrew Pritchard	Mind in Somerset

Vicky Robins

Brewhouse Theatre Group

Martin Straus

Taunton Town Council

Tony Taylor

Bishop's Hull Parish Council

Graham Withnell

Norton Fitzwarren Parish Council

### **Officer attendance:**

#### **Name:**

#### **Representing**

Emma Plummer

Somerset Council

Pippa Hughes

Somerset Council

Josh Barrett

Somerset Council

Lee Willment

Somerset Council

### **Other attendees:**

#### **Name:**

#### **Representing**

Nicola Dawson

Member of the Public

### **Virtual attendees:**

#### **Name:**

#### **Representing**

Dixie Darch

Somerset Council

Caroline Ellis

Somerset Council

Janet Gobey

Norton Fitzwarren Parish Clerk

Nigel Pearce

Taunton Chamber of Commerce

Iain Porter

Quantock AONB

Dawn Rogers

Somerset Council

Sharon Baker

Avon and Somerset Police

Adrian Coucher

Cotford St Luke Parish Council

Chris Mann	Milverton Parish Council
Clive Martin	Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council
Mike Palmer	Norton Fitzwarren Parish Council

## **Apologies:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Simon Coles	Somerset Council
Habib Farbahi	Somerset Council
Mike Rigby	Somerset Council

## **Summary of discussion:**

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

#### **Item 19: Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Simon Coles, Phillip Durbin – Bishops Lydeard Residents Action Group, Councillor Habib Farbahi, Nigel Pearce – Chamber of Commerce, Councillor Mike Rigby and Paul Smith – Taunton Town Football Club.

#### **Item 20: Declarations of Interest**

Somerset Councillors present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor of a Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority: -

##### **Somerset Councillor**

Lee Baker – Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council  
Tom Deakin – Taunton Town Council  
Caroline Ellis– Taunton Town Council  
John Hunt – Bishops Hull Parish Council

#### **Item 21: Notes from the Previous Meeting**

The members of the Taunton Local Community Network agreed

that the notes from the previous meeting held on 28th September 2023 were a correct record.

Item 22: **Presentation from Charles Biscoe about Local Active Travel Plans**

Due to a delay in Councillor Liz Leyshon attendance, the agenda was changed on the day and will not reflect that of the original agenda sent out. This was in agreement with the Chair.

Charles Biscoe, Chair of Grand Western Greenway Association presented an update about Local Active Travel Plans and the plan for an active travel route between Wellington and Taunton. A summary of the points raised in his presentation can be found below:

- Greenway Cycle Routes was set up by engineer John Grimshaw, who built the Bath to Bristol cycle path which is used for around 400,000 journeys a year.
- The route would follow the Great Western Canal, then the railway line from Nynhead to Wellington.
- The path would link two town centres with a traffic free route.
- It would provide 7.5 miles of safe traffic free space for exercise and recreation.
- Provides commercial benefits for new and existing businesses.
- The greenway is completely flat making it a more inclusive travel path.

After the presentation, the members of the LCN discussed the following topics and questions:

- The amount of money the project would cost.
- Engagement with landowners.
- The durability of the proposed path to take a large volume of journeys.
- Potential timescale

The LCN were given the email of [grandwesterngreenway@gmail.com](mailto:grandwesterngreenway@gmail.com) if any further information or questions were required on the topic.

Item 23: **An update on Somerset Council's current Financial Position**

Councillor Liz Leyshon gave an update on Somerset Council's current financial position. A summarised overview of highlights of the update are below:

- Somerset Council knowingly declared a financial emergency, reflecting the level of concern increasing the pace of work.
- Somerset Council were making progress on the overspend for the current financial year.
- Somerset Council were actively trying to set a budget for 2024/25 which avoided actioning a section 114 notice.
- A big factor in the budget gap was the large rise in care home fees as well as placements and transport in children's services.
- Somerset Council were currently working through a range of savings proposals that could save around £22m.

After the update from Councillor Liz Leyshon a discussion was had between the members where the following topics were raised:

- Nottingham City Council and their recent section 114.
- Somerset Councils plan to bridge the budget gap for future years.
- Concern from Parish Councils about the devolution project and raising of parish council precept.
- Members reminded of email address [devolution@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:devolution@somerset.gov.uk) to email any queries regarding this.

Item 24: **Public Question Time**

No public questions were asked.

Item 25: **Feedback from the Young People Working Group meeting on 23rd November**

Councillor Bev Fernandes, Chair of the group gave feedback from the Young People Working Group meeting. This meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 at Taunton Town Football Club. The summarised review of the update is below:

- Current organisations attending included the Somerset Youth Alliance, In the Mix project, Somerset Sports and Activities Partnership, Taunton Youth for Christ, Edventure, Connect Somerset, Taunton Minister.
- Charmaine Dyer from the Violence Reduction Partnership shared findings from a recent survey focussing on the locality of the East Street area of Taunton, undertaken by over 700 11 - 17-year-olds. A snap shot of the patterns that emerged were that 85% of those surveyed visited East Street on Saturdays between 1 and 5 and there was little difference in whether it was summer or winter, to shop or meet friends, 82% of those surveyed visited McDonalds over the weekend, 68% spent weekends with family and friends and only 10% spent time partaking in organised activities, such as football clubs etc. The Partnership will be able to make use of the patterns to put into place different methods of intervention.
- There was a lot of enthusiasm towards the forum from organisations and there are aspirations to take the group countywide.
- The next meeting is in February, the group will continue to identify gaps and work to support young people.

Item 26: **Feedback from any of the parishes/other organisations on any Active projects they are planning, seeking to implement or are underway.**

The following parish councils gave updates on active projects:

- Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council - Cycleway to Taunton has been an aspiration for many years and is always an aspiration.
- Trull Parish Council expressed the need for an active cycle route in the future.
- Cotford St Luke Parish Council asked a question around the councils devolution project and when further details would be released to the city/town and parish councils.

Item 27: **Forward planning for future agendas**

The Taunton LCN Members brought up the following topics they would like discussed at future meetings:

- An update from the police
- Economic Development (updates from a variety of local businesses)
- Flood Protection and Prevention
- Public Transport
- Sport and Recreation

The next meeting is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 18:30 – 20:30, at the Minster, Taunton, TA1 1SA.

Contact officer for meeting: LCN Team [lcn@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:lcn@somerset.gov.uk)

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