

# Public Agenda Pack



Notice of Meeting of

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK - YEOVIL**

**Thursday, 25 January 2024 at 7.00 pm**

**Ilchester Town Hall, High Street, Ilchester,  
BA22 8NQ**

To: The members of the Local Community Network - Yeovil

Chair: Councillor Mike Hewitson

Vice-chair: Councillor Rob Stickland (Yeovil Without Parish Council)

Councillor John Bailey

Councillor Henry Hobhouse

Councillor Tony Lock

Councillor Graham Oakes

Councillor Emily Pearlstone

Councillor Faye Purbrick

Councillor Peter Seib

Councillor Andy Soughton

Barwick & Stoford PC

Chilthorne Domer PC

Closworth PM

East Coker PC

Ilchester PC

Montacute PC

Odcombe PC

Stoke Sub Hamdon PC

West Camel PC

Councillor Andy Kendall

Councillor Kevin Messenger

Councillor Oliver Patrick

Councillor Evie Potts-Jones

Councillor Wes Read

Councillor Jeny Snell

Councillor David Woan

Brympton PC

Chilton Cantelo PM

East Chinnock PC

Hardington Mandeville PC

Marston Magna PC

Mudford PC

Rimpton PC

Tintinhull PC

West Coker PC

Yeovil Without PC

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

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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 Friday, 19 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).

Issued by David Clark, Monitoring Officer (the Proper Officer) on Tuesday, 16 January 2024

# **AGENDA**

**Local Community Network - Yeovil  
7.00 pm Thursday, 25 January 2024**

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

## **Click here to join 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 Somerset Council's Financial Position**

### **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 Discussion on What Can Be Achieved Together**

### **7 Update from Connectivity and Transport Working Group**

### **8 Update from Antisocial Behaviour Working Group**

**9 Action and Next Steps**

**10 Dates of Future Meetings**

## **Core Membership**

Unitary Councillors:

Councillor John Bailey  
Councillor Mike Hewitson  
Councillor Henry Hobhouse  
Councillor Andy Kendall  
Councillor Tony Lock  
Councillor Kevin Messenger  
Councillor Graham Oakes  
Councillor Oliver Patrick  
Councillor Emily Pearlstone  
Councillor Evie Potts-Jones  
Councillor Faye Purbrick  
Councillor Wes Read  
Councillor Peter Seib  
Councillor Jeny Snell  
Councillor Andy Soughton  
Councillor David Woan

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

Barwick and Stoford  
Brympton  
Chilthorne Domer  
Chilton Cantelo  
Closworth  
East Chinnock  
East Coker  
Hardington Mandeville  
Ilchester  
Marston Magna  
Montacute  
Mudford  
Odcombe  
Rimpton  
Stoke sub Hamdon  
Tintinhull  
West Camel  
West Coker  
Yeovil  
Yeovil Without

Yeovilton and District

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

RNAS Yeovilton

YDH (Yeovil District Hospital)

This meeting is in person at Ilchester Town Hall.

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: 379 711 828 469

Passcode: 7dKhjE

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

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+44 1823 772277,,770343619#](#) United Kingdom, Taunton

Phone Conference ID: 770 343 619#

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## Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Yeovil

Date: Wednesday, 1 November 2023

Time: 7.00 pm - 8.45 pm

Location: Virtual

Chaired by: Cllr Mike Hewitson

### LCN core membership attendance:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Mike Hewitson	Somerset Council
Andy Kendall	Somerset Council
Tony Lock	Somerset Council
Graham Oakes	Somerset Council
Oliver Patrick	Somerset Council
Evie Potts-Jones	Somerset Council
Wes Read	Somerset Council
Peter Seib	Somerset Council
Andy Soughton	Somerset Council
Gwen O'Sullivan	Barwick & Stoford Parish Council
Paul Herbert	Brympton Parish Council
Karen Taylor	Chilthorne Domer Parish Council
Clare Owen	Closworth Parish Meeting
Duncan Goodes	East Chinnock Parish Council
Leona Drayton	Montacute Parish Council
Stephen Bartlett	Mudford Parish Council
Dave Peters	Odcombe Parish Council
Mike Phillips	Stoke Sub Hamdon Parish Council
Annette Davies	West Camel Parish Council
David Neal	West Coker Parish Council
Rob Stickland	Yeovil Without Parish Council

Hannah Snowden  
Paul Elliston  
Gill Waldron

Spark Somerset  
Somerset Rivers Authority  
Yeovil District Hospital

### **Other attendees:**

#### **Name:**

Gill Giliott  
Linda Snelling  
  
Natasha Rand  
  
Pip Tucker  
Sarah Moore (Clerk)  
Fiona Elphick  
Fiona Clements  
Gail Beaver  
Amanda Card (Clerk)  
Anita Perry  
Ray Sibley  
John Allan

#### **Representing**

Barwick & Stoford Community Centre  
Yeovil Bus User Group & Somerset Bus Partnership  
Yeovil Champion for Connect Somerset programme  
Public Health, Somerset Council  
Montacute Parish Council  
Phoenix Voices  
Village Agent for Yeovil  
Phoenix Voices  
Yeovil Town Council  
West Coker Parish Council  
Barwick & Stoford Parish Council

### **Officer attendance:**

#### **Name:**

Kate Hellard  
Nathan Turnbull  
Emily Window  
Jo Morris

#### **Representing**

Somerset Council  
Somerset Council  
Somerset Council  
Somerset Council

### **Summary of discussion:**

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

Item 9: **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Somerset Councillor Emily Pearlstone  
Somerset Councillor Faye Purbrick  
Sue Murrison – Closworth Parish Meeting  
A representative from East Coker Parish Council  
Emma-Jayne Hopkins – Yeovil Town Council  
Christine Saint - Montacute Parish Council  
Kaitlyn Higgins - Barwick and Stoford Community Committee

Item 10: **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest from Somerset Council Councillors present at the meeting.

Item 11: **Notes from the Previous Meeting**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 7 August 2023 were approved.

Item 12: **Public Question Time (for items not covered on the agenda)**

A question was asked in relation to Somerset Council's financial position and how this would affect future work of the LCNs. In response, the LCN Development Lead said that there was an opportunity in the coming months to consider what services and themes in the local area were really important and to bring together a wide range of partners. She referred to some of the other LCNs who had set up working groups and brought in a number of other organisations from the voluntary and community sector to start taking some actions forward. This had not required direct funding from Somerset Council. Some of those actions would influence the way that Somerset Council delivered its services locally and some would be delivered by a number of partners. There could also be external funding opportunities available to the LCN.

It was noted that the Parish and Town Clerks had received a briefing from Somerset Council officers regarding asset and service devolution and there could be opportunities in the future for parishes to group together.

It was concluded that there was a lot of opportunities for LCNs in the current climate and they would not be impacted by the financial position of Somerset Council.

Item 13: **Highlights of themes discussed at the last meeting**

The Chair explained that the twelve key themes identified as areas of priority at the first LCN meeting on 7 August were:

- Accessibility to Town
- Highways
- Somerset Council
- Children and Young People
- Communication and Connectivity
- Housing and Planning
- Public Transport
- Employment
- Environmental Issues
- Antisocial Behaviour
- Health and Wellbeing
- Flooding

Members of the LCN would be asked to look at narrowing down the identified themes to three top priorities during the discussion item. This was also an opportunity to look at the priorities in more detail as well as identifying any areas that may have been missed.

Item 14: **An introduction to data**

Kate Hellard, LCN Development Lead provided an introduction to data specific to the Yeovil LCN and presented a slide with some statistics regarding:

- Population
- Crime rates
- Residential properties
- Internet connections
- Road collisions
- Households with no access to a vehicle
- Pupil numbers

It was explained that the high level data itself did not tell a story but it could be a starting point for seeking further information and drilling down. It was acknowledged that experiences from local communities alongside the data was important to see the bigger picture. It was highlighted that as discussions around

priorities evolve much more comprehensive data could be provided through partnership working.

During the discussion, the following points were raised:

- It would be interesting and helpful for the data to be broken down between the parishes and the town.
- Clarification was sought regarding the threshold for free school meals. It was questioned how the Yeovil LCN data compared to other LCNs in Somerset. In response, Kate Hellard confirmed that she would circulate a comparable table with other LCNs with the notes of the meeting.
- A request for a detailed population breakdown figure detailing the number of adults and children.

Item 15: **Discussion: To discuss and agree themes based on previous meeting discussion**

The Chair invited the LCN members to join break-out groups to identify three priority areas from the twelve identified at their initial meeting in August. After the discussions, the groups feedback was:

Group 1

Some of the highlights and themes could be grouped together and were interdependent on each other for example affordable housing, the environment and flooding seemed to be a natural grouping of issues. Similarly, accessibility, highways and public transport and accessibility to the town. Housing and planning could also be grouped together.

Discussions were held regarding crime levels and the government boundary review and its implications.

The group heard about Pheonix voices, a community choir which could support in reducing loneliness and isolation.

Group 2

The main issues identified were connectivity, public transport and highways which had a massive impact on people's accessibility to employment and education.

Newton Road which runs from behind the cinema to Yeovil junction was given as an example of people walking along a 60mph road which was unsafe, and it was recognised that discussions could be held with bus companies and other

providers to address the issues.

Antisocial behaviour – was this due to a lack of preventive services such as youth facilities. It was not all related to young people and some issues were law enforcement issues.

Health and wellbeing – this covered a wide spectrum from loneliness and isolation through to mental health and physical health.

### Group 3

The main issue identified was Highways. It wasn't just about the quality of the roads but also about sunken lanes, signage, clearance of gullies and roadworks. It was felt that parishes could do more but there were certain restrictions that prevented this.

The second theme identified was the need to improve health and well-being and the need for people to work together in the voluntary sector.

The third issue related to flooding and highway gullies.

Other issues discussed were anti-social behaviour, transport and communities and productivity.

Discussions were also held regarding the Ranger service which linked in with Highways.

### Group 4

The main issues identified were:

Highways – speed, traffic, traffic control, parking

Planning/Housing – Phosphates, affordable housing

Anti-social behaviour – good to involve housing associations in the LCN meetings

Discussions were also held regarding public transport and some parishes only had one bus service as well as communication and connectivity and the need to support the elderly and look at their views could be obtained

#### Item 16: **Next Steps - themed meetings and working groups**

It was agreed to start to look at developing some working groups to focus on the following themes:

- Connectivity and Transport
- Antisocial Behaviour

It was felt that it may be more beneficial to hold the working

groups during the day to accommodate partner organisations being able to attend.

The working groups would first look at the current picture and the information available as well as what they needed to know and how they could obtain this information. The work of the LCN was about working together to see if a difference could be made and how things could be changed and measured to make sure the changes could be sustained in the future.

LCN members would be invited to attend the working groups as well as other appropriate partner organisations. The intention was to hold a couple of meetings and then to report back progress to the next LCN meeting in January if possible.

It was acknowledged that there was a lot of work for the LCN to undertake in the coming weeks and months. Once the LCN had started to develop and define its priorities it would become more relevant for organisations and voluntary groups to become engaged with the LCN.

Item 17: **Dates of future meetings**

The provisional dates for future meetings were noted as:

- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – venue to be confirmed
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – venue to be confirmed

A request was made for the proposed date in January to be moved to a later date in the month.

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

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