

## Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Shepton

Date: Monday, 10 June 2024

Time: 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm

Location: Shepton Mallet Council Chamber, Council Offices, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BT

### LCN core membership attendance:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Cllr Barry Clark	Somerset Council
Cllr Phillip Ham	Somerset Council
Cllr Edric Hobbs	Somerset Council
Cllr Martin Lovell	Somerset Council
Cllr Rob Reed	Somerset Council
Cllr Tony Robbins	Somerset Council
Cllr Jayne Cox	Batcombe Parish Council
Cllr Christopher Pearce	Coleford Parish Council
Cllr Estelle Kerby	Leigh on Mendip Parish Council
Cllr Nick Hall	Pilton Parish Council
Cllr Murray Stewart	Evercreech Parish Council
Cllr Dave Crisfield	Shepton Mallet Town Council

### Officer attendance:

Kate Hellard (LCN Development Manager), Jeff Brown (Interim LCN Lead), Michael Hardwick-Ford (LCN Project Officer). Emma Plummer (Virtual - Interim LCN Lead) and Emmaline Kay (Virtual - LCN Link Officer)

### Other attendees:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Iain Kerby	Leigh on Mendip Parish Council
Autumn Gouldiry	Member of the Public
Rosie Dunscombe	Member of the Public (Hillsmead)

## **Virtual attendees:**

### **Name:**

Dawn Townsend  
Mark Davies  
Alan Townsend  
Simon Reed  
Simon Collins

### **Representing**

Member of the Public  
Member of the Public  
Coleford Parish Council  
Member of the Public  
Stoke St Michael Parish Council

## **Summary of discussion:**

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

#### **Item 44: Elect the Chair of the Local Community Network**

Nominations – Councillor Phillip Ham was nominated by Edric Hobbs and seconded by Martin Lovell.

Unanimous election and Councillor Phillip Ham was voted in.

Philip Ham thanked everyone involved and made a promise to get to every LCN meeting around the area.

#### **Item 45: Election of Vice-Chair**

Nominations received for:  
Claire Sully (nominated by Martin Lovell)  
Tony Robbins (nominated by Rob Reed, seconded by Martin Lovell).

As Claire was not present to confirm if she would like to take the role, the nomination was withdrawn.

Councillor Tony Robbins was elected as Vice Chair.

#### **Item 46: Consider the Yearly Report of the LCN's work in the last 12 months**

All agreed the yearly report highlighted the great progress that had been made. More information can be found in the slides [here](#).

**Action 1:**

Circulate the report to local groups and stakeholders.

Flooding is still a big issue, affecting; Nunney, Dean and Cranmore. This remains an area of focus for the LCN, and the Flooding and Resilience working group. It was agreed to proceed with the delivery of an Emergency Planning workshop.

**Action 2:**

Confirm the date and circulate details to all parishes to attend the workshops involving the civil contingencies and Somerset Rivers Authority - Emergency Planning workshop. There are £5000 Grants available.

The report has been sent to all Parish Clerks, and Parish Councillors. The report is going to be added to parish websites and social media.

**Action 3:**

Kate to arrange a meeting with Highways Service and parish representatives. Please make sure all the questions for highways officers are submitted in advance so that the Highways team can come to the working group prepared.

LCN link workers are being interviewed and someone will be in place to help as soon as possible.

Do we need to include Quarries operations? – This question has been answered before. The Quarries are highly regulated. All the water testing is completed regularly. Therefore, no, they do not need to be involved.

**Item 47: Overview of Highlights from LCNs across Somerset**

The LCN Link officers present provided an overview of the work of the LCNS across Somerset. More information is available in the slide pack which can be viewed [here](#).

Cllr Edric Hobbs provided an overview of a recent meeting with the police pertaining to another LCN area.

**Action 4** - The LCN team to liaise with the police regarding attendance at the Shepton LCN twice per year. Invite the police and crime commissioner and a senior police officer to attend the LCN meeting on 30th September and provide data and information on antisocial behaviour and low-level crime.

Item 48: **Consider the Priorities and areas of focus for the LCN for the next 12 months**

At this point the room divided into a breakout session including those participants online.

**A) What are we missing from the local LCN?**

- More information on planning – update on Local Plan, training and briefing sessions on the role of PC and enforcement.
- Quarry working group = different ways of working and attitudes.
- Parish Council cannot share problems in isolation, their issues are shared – particularly flooding.
- Local action plans. Born from community plans.
- Share Local Community plans with LCN.
- Support for fewer main meetings – 3 a year was mentioned.
- Priority for anti-social behaviour /low level crime for the forthcoming year. Information and data required on stats, what to look for etc.
- More sharing of good practise – e.g. how has Taunton or Exmoor achieved what they have? Chairs and Vice-Chairs of working groups of other LCNs invited to future meetings to present how they have done it and answer questions.

**B) What matters to residents in our communities?**

- Get rid of the red tape.
- Planning enforcement – Better understanding to reduce parishioner frustration.
- Health and Support – Signposting – Mental Health, GP
- Holding Social housing providers to account – Problems for some but not all.
- Education – State of the Schools – Kids struggling post COVID 11-14-year-olds.

- Buses – not constantly reliable for an ordinary life. Evercreech has a bus partnership member = Pro-active involvement. How to get timetable coordination.
- MUPs – Evercreech?
- Cost of Living.
- More People at parish Council meetings, how to encourage more? They are concerned but do not come forward.
- A lot on social media - Planning – Housing – But do not come to the parish council meetings!!!

### **Discussion from the group work:**

- Fewer LCN main meetings would be better, reducing to four times a year. The working groups are to feed in information to the main LCN meetings.
- Feedback from other LCN areas workgroups, should be available to be shared in the meeting. Removing the red tape involved to help resolve local issues faster.
- Housing – Social housing and private housing, the impact on health - Is the housing stock up to standard? Homes in rural areas that are not on a bus routes.
- Schools - some of the children are not in school full time, being on a part-time timetable.
- Mental health involved in school children. This is due to them not being in school full time. After effects of Covid.
- There is a big drug issue in Shepton; mostly cocaine. Why is the social hub in Hillmead not open? This can be used for SDAS (Somerset drug and alcohol service) drop-in sessions. Could this be at weekends too? This problem is the same across all the areas of somerset.
- There was also discussion for the need for clean and affordable housing and holding social housing providers to account. Ensuring homes are meeting the minimum standards regarding insulation and providing decent windows.
- What has happened to the Aster Residents Group? The Chair is going to investigate this and see what has happened to the group. The Chair and Barry have been in discussions with Aster as there has been a lot of negative interaction.
- A housing working group with housing and police involved.

- Mental health, drug and alcohol workshop to be considered or held.
- Communication to have people involved from parish councils to LCN to share issues.
- Buses are no good for the rural life in Somerset. Better timetables needed.
- Batcombe has a water issue as most people are on a private water supplier.
- Antisocial behaviour – asking for the police to be involved, having them to come along to a planned meeting 30/09/2024. Needs to be a member of the senior management team. Ask them to just one LCN and not just the parish ones. New police commissioner has been asking to attend, needs to have a balance in the meeting – Matt Day is the officer for the area.
- The importance of involving members of the public in meetings and working parties to ensure that the voice of all residents are represented. The group discussed what matters to residents in their communities, and how to ensure that they capture the evidence to support this.

**Action 5** – How do we get locals involved in the LCN or in other ways? Can all LCN Members consider suitable methods for engagement especially to those regular non-attendees.

**Action 6** - LCN Chair and Vice-Chair: to visit every parish in the LCN area and find out their issues and priorities.

**Action 7** - Set up a housing working group and involve different housing providers and residents.

Item 49: **Agree the schedule of meetings for the next 12 months**

All Members are happy with the meeting dates below:

- 30th September 2024
- 27th January 2024
- 28th April 2025
- 7th July 2025 – AGM

Venues to be confirmed.

Item 50: **Table of Actions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
June	To circulate the report to local groups and stakeholders	All Members
June	To confirm the date and circulate details to all parishes to attend the workshops involving the civil contingencies and Somerset Rivers Authority - Emergency Planning workshop. There are £5000 Grants available.	Barry Clark
June	For Kate to arrange a meeting with Highways Service and parish representatives. Please make sure all the actions for highways are in and ready to be asked.	Kate Hellard
June	LCN team to liaise with the police regarding attendance at the Shepton LCN twice per year. Invite the police and crime commissioner and a senior police officer to attend the LCN meeting on 30th September and provide data and information on antisocial behaviour and low-level crime.	Kate Hellard / LCN Team
June	How do we get locals involved in the LCN or in other ways? Can all LCN Members consider suitable methods for engagement especially to those regular non-attendees.	All members
June	LCN chair and vice chair: to visit every parish in the LCN area and find out their issues and priorities	Phillp Ham and Tony Robbins
June	Set up a housing working group and involve different housing providers and residents	All members / LCN Link officer.

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