

Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Taunton

Date: Monday, 3 June 2024

Time: 7pm

Location: Taunton Minister

Chaired by: Dawn Johnson

LCN core membership attendance:

Name:	Representing
Graham Withnell (Vice Chair)	Norton Fitzwarren PC
Dixie Darch	Somerset Council
Tom Deakin	Somerset Council
John Hunt	Somerset Council
Tony Taylor	Bishops Hull PC
Miles Orr	Bishops Lydeard & Cothelstone PC
Bev Fernandes	Taunton Town Council
Glenn Gapper	Trull Parish Council
Nigel Pearce	Taunton Business Chamber

Other attendance:

Name:	Representing
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Tash Scully

Youth Work Alliance

Anita Mosedale

Diversity Voice UK

Andrew Pritchard

Mind in Somerset

Lesley Webb

Taunton Minster

Marcus Straus

Taunton Town Council

Virtual attendance:

Name:

Representing

Richard Holt

Joanna Llewellyn

Apologies:

Name:

Representing

Lee Baker

Summary of discussion:

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

Item 45: Elect the Chair of the Local Community Network

Somerset Councillor, Dawn Johnson, was nominated by Somerset Councillor, Tom Deakin and seconded by Somerset Councillor, John Hunt.

No other nominations were received, Dawn Johnson was duly elected as Chair for the Taunton Local Community Network.

Item 46: Elect the Vice Chair of the Local Community Network

Norton Fitzwarren Parish Councillor, Graham Withnell, was nominated by Somerset Councillor, Dixie Darch and seconded by Somerset Councillor, John Hunt.

No other nominations were received, Graham Withnell was duly elected as Vice-Chair for the Taunton Local Community Network.

Item 48: **Testimonials on the first year of the Taunton LCN**

Testimonials were received from:

Lesley Webb Taunton Minster, Church Warden on behalf of the Vicar of Taunton Minster, Tobie Osmond

Andrew Pritchard, Mind in Somerset

Phil Durban. Bishops Lydeard Residents Action Group

Bev Fernandes, Taunton Town Council

Tash Scully – Somerset Youth Alliance

The Chair thanked all involved, highlighted the young people work and emphasised the positive impact and achievements, especially for young.

Vicar Tobie Osmond, Taunton Minster, read by Taunton Minster Church Warden, Lesley Webb

Most of my connections and networking have been with the children's and young people's side of things at the moment, as I cannot make the meetings on a Monday. This being said, I'm looking forward to being able to continue the networking opportunities.

I have been able to put the Police in touch with the Vicar at St Mary's Bridgwater, as the church falls right in the centre of the area where there is the most youth violence in the town and they're beginning to work on a plan.

For the Minister itself it has been an excellent working with Michelle Beck and Jenny Eastwell-Keogh at GoCreate over the town's hosting of the Knife Angel, and what a wonderful experience.

After a meeting where Paul Smith from Bridgwater and Taunton College said that they were looking for projects for some of their students to do, we have come up with a new children's tour of the Minster and a more modern version of our adult's guide and we're hopefully hoping to get these into lots of different languages as well.

One of the Minister's aims is to be a resource for young people in the town and we are working to convert the old garages from the old vicarage into a space for young people, as always on ancient sites this is just not as easy as we would like it...But it will get built! We will then be able to offer all sorts of agencies that need its space in the very centre of the town - we are very aware of the need. Thank you.

Andrew Pritchard, Mind in Somerset and Connect Somerset

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I remember this time last year, I actually zoomed in or teams then watching my son's cricket game, and was amazed that all the different people in the first meeting in the room. I remember we had the little work groups, the breakout rooms and just we were coming up with the different topics, the young people, highways, environment planning, enforcement, flooding, antisocial behaviour.

It's been a brilliant place to network. It's been a brilliant place to have conversations and I think conversations that we've wanted to have in the Taunton community, and it's given us given us that that space, all the different topics. I have to applaud the notes, Pippa, I know I said this earlier, but it just was a delight reading that and seeing all the different things that we've covered and a space for which people can come together.

What I want for the next year is that we can really try and reach out to some of those sceptics out there and say, come along, join us because it has been a space that we've been able to have conversations and I think that has set the pathway for how we can really make a difference in our community.

I hope that this can keep going from strength to strength and thank you to Dawn, John and Pippa and the team because you

really have made that possible with everything you do in the background. So thank you.

Philip Durban – Bishops Lydeard Residents Action Group

My name is Philip Durban, I co chair a progressive residents action group in Bishops Lydeard. Our objective is to engage with groups of residents in Bishops Lydeard to improve the social and environmental infrastructure of our village.

I attended the first Taunton LCN meeting and I was impressed by the action centred Chairing and leadership provided by Cllr Dawn Johnston.

The financial backdrop of local government has not been good over the last year, but despite this there has been a very positive engagement between the new, unitary Somerset Council, town & Parish councils and voluntary and community groups facilitated by the LCN structure.

This has been facilitated by the hard work of Dawn Johnson (Chair) and our lead officer Pippa Hughes.

LCN Young Peoples Group.

I was pleased to be invited to attend the Young Peoples Group by Cllr Bev Fernandes. I am a retired social work manager. Membership of this important group has allowed me to develop contacts that has resulted in direct benefits for children & young people in Bishops Lydeard.

We have a vibrant and hard working children & young peoples voluntary/arts sector here in Taunton. They provide a range of excellent services for young people and are looking for opportunities to extend and develop their services. In this context I have worked with Maxine Anderton (Edventure) & colleagues at Young Somerset to set up 2 engagement events in Bishops Lydeard to consult with young people about the sort of youth provision they need in our village. We hope this will lead to the establishment of new youth services.

Taunton and the surrounding area is benefiting from the development of new, skilled, youth service workforce through the

work of Tash Scully (Somerset Spark).

We have been working with our primary school PTA to match fund an upgrade and improvement of the school nursery class. By sharing details of this funding project in a Youth Group discussion, a helpful comment by Andrew Pritchard (Manager-Mind in Somerset) led me to a possible funding stream through the “Child Care Expansion Capital Grant” (DoE November 2023).

The benefits of the LCN Young People's Group are very clear and are having a direct impact in local communities.

Cllr Bev Fernandes, Chair, Taunton LCN Young Persons Working Group

This working group was set up following the meeting of the Taunton LCN in September 2023 where it became clear that whilst there were many groups working with young people there was a need to identify gaps in provision.

Since that date there have been several meetings of the Young Persons Working Group and I continue to be impressed with the enthusiasm and willingness of those who attend. The group provides the space to network, thereby sharing ideas and opportunities to share funding for projects to improve the lives of young people.

This is an excellent outcome for the Taunton LCN.

Tash Scully - Director, Somerset Youth Work Alliance

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The CYP group networking led to better outcomes for young people. As workers knew more of what was available, they were able to support young people into opportunities that meet their needs. We are expanding this to colleagues outside of the network of providers, particularly our school colleagues, to come to an event on the 18th June enabling them to build relationships with the variety of opportunities to support young people that they work with.

The next steps for the working group are to look at what is

available and then look at where gaps are to bring back to the LCN to see if we can join up to secure funding for additional provision to further meet the needs of young people in Taunton area.

Item 48: **Consider the Annual Report on the Taunton LCNs work in the last 12 months.**

The Chair introduced the Taunton LCN annual report, highlighting the meeting discussion, priorities, activities and working groups that had taken place in the first year of the Taunton LCN.

Discussion

The opportunities and sharing of good practice through key speakers and community

Somerset Councillor attendance

Paperwork and provision of notes

Positive exchange connectivity between Parish / Town Councils and aim for equal representation of priorities and wider circulation of information in communities

The positivity of shared success, encouraging and enabling partnership working

The Chair expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the work of the Taunton LCN, noted the collective achievements through the first year and the ambition to wider share information and increase resident and community participation.

Item 49: **Overview of Highlights from LCNs across Somerset**

The Taunton LCN Link Officer, Pippa Hughes introduced, by use of PowerPoint presentation, the highlights of the Taunton LCN, including:

Young Peoples Working Group – Chair Bev Fernades

Highways

Civil contingency and flooding

Discussion

The welcome, information, support and advice for producing Civil contingency plans for Parish Councils

Useful information on biodiversity and looking after green spaces:

[Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Item 50: **Consider the priorities and areas of focus for the LCN for the next 12 months. What are your priorities?**

The Chair invited comments from all present, with a look to revisit and reset priorities at the next meeting of the Taunton LCN:

Discussion

Transport – bus / bus & railway connection / cycle / sustainable transport / route

Housing – housing providers / taunton focus housing association

Environment – inclusion of organisations

Loneliness - ideas / solution to get people to meet with like minded similar interest groups / explore new interests / support and recognise social isolation

LCN catchment area priorities

Economic Development/ Business Support

Future LCN Events:

Want to know what is on offer in the Taunton Community for young people and parents you support?

For people working in education to connect with provision in our Taunton community for the young people and parents you support Tuesday 18th June 3pm – 5pm, Taunton Deane Partnership College, Holway Centre, Byron Road, TA1 2JD

(parking on site)

Highways working group

11 July 2024 1 - 3pm, the John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Taunton.

Item 52: **Agree the schedule of meetings for the next 12 months**

The Taunton LCN agreed the below meeting dates, with venues to be confirmed:

7 October 2024

13 January 2025

3 April 2025

7 July 2025

The Chair thanked all for their attendance, contribution and the positive engagement for future opportunities

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