

## **Local Community Network Meeting Notes**

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Vale of Frome

Date: Monday, 8 July 2024

Location: Rode Memorial Hall

Chaired by: Cllr Max Wide, Frome Town Council

### **LCN core membership attendance:**

#### **Name:**

Adam Boyden

Dawn Denton

Beckington, Beckington Parish Council

Buckland Dinham, Buckland Dinham Parish Council

Frome Town Council, Frome Town Council

Selwood, Selwood Parish Council

Wanstrow, Wanstrow Parish Council

Neha Bhagi Frome Medical Practice

### **Other attendees:**

#### **Name:**

Cllr Sarah Barnett	Buckland Dinham
Cllr Bill Stock	Nunney
Melody Hunter-Evans	Connect Somerset
Lenka Grimes	Fair Frome
Steve Tanner	Frome Town Council
Alan Brady	Mells & Vobstor
Nataliya Wills	LCN Team

Kate Hellard  
Micheal Hardwick-Ford

LCN Team  
LCN Team

## **Virtual attendees:**

### **Name:**

Emmaline Kay LCN Team

## **Summary of discussion:**

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

Item 1: **Apologies for Absence**

Item 2: **Declarations of Interest**

Item 3: **Elect the Chair of the Local Community Network**

Nominations: Max Wide, nominated by Adam Boyden, seconded by Dawn Denton.

Max was unanimously elected as Chair.

Item 4: **Appoint the Vice-Chair of the Local Community Network.**

Nominations: Adam Boyden, nominated by Max Wide, seconded by Dawn Benton.

Adam Boydon was appointed as Vice Chair.

The newly elected leaders expressed their ambitions for the LCN, focusing on community engagement and the creation of a community plan. This leadership structure aims to steer the LCN towards achieving its goals, particularly in enhancing community engagement and planning.

Item 5: **Consider the Yearly Report of the LCN's work in the last 12**

## **months**

A yearly report summarizing past achievements and future goals was presented, with Max adding an introduction to reflect on the LCN's progress. All agreed the yearly report was great and, while faced with challenges, progress has been made.

Following a brief overview of the Yearly Report the LCN discussed key points and actions still to be completed.

### **Concerns raised:**

- communication - participants raised concerns about communication issues, including the timely dissemination of agendas and minutes, and the need for a more structured approach to ensure all members are well-informed and prepared for meetings
- accessibility of meeting information – suggestions were made to streamline the process for better member preparation.

Kevin Bishop commented that the highways meeting was good, particularly having representations, but there has been a gap in the meetings. Kate reassured that dedicated support for the working group would be provided by the newly appointed LCN Link Officer.

**Action 1:** Communication: Review and update the mailing list to ensure all parishes receive agendas and minutes timely. (LCN Team)

**Action 2:** Highways Working Group: Schedule the next Highways Working Group meeting to discuss terms of reference and membership. (LCN Team)

### **Priorities discussed:**

- Highways workgroups – top priority to set up an interim meeting
- Flooding working groups / Flooding environment
- Active travel – transport – to be combined for consideration
- Cost of living -
- Children and young people – this priority was covered in the first year of the LCN, and has a role taken up with Connect Somerset – discussion around whether any more was needed to be done in this area by the LCN or have regular updates on the work of Connect Somerset and other agencies in that area

- Housing - social and affordable housing were identified as important, albeit it is not in the LCN's remit in the way that planning decisions are made; may need a different approach

Looking at the other areas to be discussed in the different LCN meetings - each meeting will have notes and an action log.

**Action 3:** LCN Yearly Report: Review and approve the corrected LCN yearly report at the next meeting. (LCN Members)

## Item 7: **Overview of Highlights from LCNs across Somerset**

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

**Focus Areas for LCN:** The meeting identified several key focus areas for the LCN, including health and wellbeing, broadband and connectivity, active travel, transport links, flooding, highways, and large developments. These areas were chosen based on community feedback and are intended to guide the LCN's efforts in addressing local concerns.

Community feedback played a crucial role in shaping the LCN's focus areas, ensuring that the network's efforts align with residents' needs.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** The discussion highlighted the need for engaging a wider range of stakeholders, including farmers and the Environment Agency, in discussions on topics like flooding and landscape management. This is to ensure a comprehensive approach to addressing community issues. The call for wider stakeholder engagement underlines the LCN's commitment to a comprehensive approach in tackling community challenges.

### **Discussions from the group work:**

**Health and wellbeing** – Lenka, Meldoy & Neha

#### **Data**

- F.T.C. data from Community engagement
- Somerset intelligence
- FSM
- Parish Plans (Their Data)
- Fair Frome Data
- FMP

### **Issues**

- Inequality / Poverty
- Access to Services – Gaps
- Resources
- Cost of Living

### **Who do we need**

- Stakeholders and partners
- I.C.B.
- S.F.T.
- P.C.N.
- L.M.C (GP's and health practitioners)
- Mind MH Forum
- Fair Frome

### **Flooding and Landscape**

- FWAG
- EA
- Highways
- Wessex Water
- Bristol Water
- Defra
- Farmers
- SRA
- LLFX – Somerset Council
- Money Land you give to ???? fields to run off
- Less Water in ??
- Less Flooding Dirch Cleaning
- Gulley – Highways
- Freezing and gritting because drains / Gulleys overflows

### **Bridges**

- Restrict Flow
- Damaged by High Water
- Survey needed

### **Mapping**

- Catchment
- Flood areas.
- Development
- Land Use
- Tree Cover
- Crop – Maize and Bare Fields
- Where does the money come from to fix?
- Planning Decisions.
- Houses / Farm / industry

### **Large Developments**

Impact on infrastructure across the LCN

**Data**

- GP Waiting List
- Sewerage outflows
- Road usage increase from development

**Issues**

- Can't get a GP Appt.
- Sewerage outflows increasing
- Accidents

**Who do we need**

- Medical Practice
- Wessex Water
- Highways

**Affordable Housing**

**Data**

- 30% proposed but only 23% achieved in Somerset east
- Not Enough one and two bed houses
- Need Data from Somerset Housing

**Issues**

- No Enforcement
- Weak Planning (No Local plan in force)

**Who do we need**

- Enforcement officer
- Housing Officer
- County Councillors

**Employment**

**Data**

- Percentage of non-Jobs
- Amount of employment space
- Demand for Business

**Issues**

- Creating dormitory towns and Villages

**Who do we need**

- No DGA?

**Active travel, Road safety, Transport and Highways**

**Highways**

- Speed limit enforcement
- Cameras
- A&S police

**Issues**

- A&SP & S.H Say no
- Auto speed watch
- Cameras
- Inadequate motorbike / police Cameras
- Frome missing limb
- Radstock to Great elm to “missing” (needed for walkers and cyclists) – Frome

**Who do we need**

- Somerset Bus partnership in the room
- Trowbridge B&NES limb
- Repairing verge
- Sewer capacity for middle village
- Extra divert Roads, Houses affected
- Flooding needs FWAG in the room

**Action 4: Flooding and Resilience:** Organize a detailed workshop with Civil Contingencies Unit and Somerset Rivers Authority to discuss emergency plans. (LCN Team)

**Action 5: Local Plan:** Invite the head of planning to discuss local plan policy and influence opportunities in a future meeting. (LCN Team)

Item 8: **Agree the schedule of meetings for the next 12 months**

Suggested dates:

Tuesday, 15 October 2024

Thursday, 16 January 2025

Tuesday, 22 April 2025

Monday, 14 July 2025

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