

## Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network – Avalon

& the Poldens Date: Wednesday, 19 July 2023

Time: 7.00pm – 8:25pm

Location: Crispin Hall - Street

### LCN core membership attendance:

#### Name:

#### Representing

Councillor Suria Aujla	Somerset Council
Councillor Simon Carswell	Somerset Council
Councillor Nick Cottle	Somerset Council
Councillor Andy Dingwall	Somerset Council
Councillor Susannah Hart	Somerset Council
Councillor Tim Kerley	Somerset Council
Councillor Liz Leyshon	Somerset Council
Councillor Matt Martin	Somerset Council
Councillor Harry Munt	Somerset Council
Councillor Dean Ruddle	Somerset Council
Councillor Heather Shearer	Somerset Council
Councillor Claire Sully	Somerset Council
Councillor Alex Wiltshire	Somerset Council
Councillor Ros Wyk	Somerset Council
Councillor Gus Wans	Ashcott Parish
Councillor Mary Phillips	Baltonsborough Parish
Councillor Simon Jackson	Barton St. David Parish
Councillor Trevor Willmott	Butleigh Parish
Councillor Geoff Barnett	Catcott Parish
Councillor Timothy Hayne	Chilton Polden
Councillor Lindsay MacDougall	Glastonbury Parish
Councillor Chris Bennett	Meare & Westhay Parish

Councillor Graham Croucher  
Councillor Hugh Gange-Harris  
Councillor Phillip Jay  
Councillor Peter Goater  
Councillor Bryan Knickerbocker  
Councillor John Harvey  
Anne Diment

Shapwick Parish  
Stawell Parish  
Stawell Parish  
Street Parish  
Street Parish  
Walton Parish  
Somerset Association Local Council  
(SALC)

**Other attendance:**

**Name:**

**Representing:**

Councillor James Hall  
Julia Marshall (Clerk)  
Councillor Mike Aylmer  
Councillor Gayle Richards  
Councillor Lesley Gaskell  
Councillor Rachel Ashman

Catcott Parish  
Catcott Parish and Edington Parish  
Chilton Polden  
Meare & Westhay Parish  
Shapwick Parish  
Walton Parish

**Officer attendance:**

**Name:**

Julie Cooper, Council Staff  
Jeff Brown, Council Staff  
Kate Hellard, Council Staff  
Val Keitch, Associate Lead Member for Localities (LCNs) & Public Health  
Ally laing, Council Staff  
Emma Plummer, Council Staff  
Debbie Widdows, Council Staff  
Emily Window, Council Staff

**Virtual attendees:**

**Name:**

Hannah Snowdon, Spark Somerset  
Cossington Parish Councillor Georgia Terry  
Marion Colman  
Tom Holley

## Summary of discussion:

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

#### Item 1: **To elect the Chair of the Local Community Network**

Somerset Councillor, Matt Martin, was nominated by Walton Parish Councillor, John Harvey, and seconded by Street Parish Councillor, Bryan Knickerbocker.

No other nominations were received.

Councillor Matt Martin was duly elected as the Chair for Avalon & the Poldens Local Community Network.

#### Item 2: **To appoint the Vice-Chair of the Local Community Network**

Street Parish Councillor, Bryan Knickerbocker, was nominated by Walton Parish Councillor, John Harvey, and seconded by Street Parish Councillor, Tim Kerley.

No other nominations were received.

Councillor Bryan Knickerbocker was duly elected as the Vice Chair for Avalon & the Poldens Local Community Network.

#### Item 3: **Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Mark Healey

Councillor Diogo Rodrigues

Councillor Julie Welch

Councillor Brian Tilbury

Councillor Sam Gilbert

Councillor Alex Wiltshire

Mark Wilcox, Youth & Community Development Manager YMCA  
Mendip

Item 4: **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

Item 5: **Public Question Time**

How do LCNs work in other councils?

It was confirmed that the rolling out of LCNs in other councils, such as Wiltshire, Cornwall and Buckinghamshire have been successful and Somerset have built on the learning from their experiences.

A further question was raised regarding Allocated funding for LCN's.

Councillor Keitch explained that in another Council where pots of money, where specifically allocated, the LCN merely became a grant making body. She pointed out that the Somerset LCNs wanted to avoid that and therefore the Council would not be allocating individual pots of money to each LCN at the current time

As LCN identify and develop their priorities there may be a need to identify funding sources to support the delivery of actions however we have seen in the pilots that this funding could come from an array of sources.

She further pointed out that the LCNs were set up by Somerset council for each LCN to decide what they needed and have a voice within the council.

Item 6: **To determine the priorities and areas of focus for the Local Community Network for the next 12 months**

Item 6a: **What are LCNs and how will we work together**

Kate Hellard (Service Manager LCN) shared a presentation on the purpose of the LCN and how it would feed back into the work of Somerset Council.

The meeting noted there was a dedicated page on the Somerset Council website at [Local Community Networks \(LCNs\) \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/local-community-networks-lcns) and a contact officer could be contacted on [lcn@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:lcn@somerset.gov.uk).

Attendees were asked to share what themes, issues and opportunities they wanted the LCN to explore over the next 12 months. The questions they needed to keep in mind whilst doing this were:

*What topics are important to our residents?*

*How do we know?*

*What data/evidence/information would help?*

*What could be done to solve/improve topics?*

*Are there local examples already working?*

*Who do we need to involve?*

*Who else could be in the room (partners and stakeholders)?*

Item 6b: **Discussion - What is important to residents and businesses in our area? An opportunity to raise any local issues or concerns for LCN to consider**

During the group discussions the Local Community Network (LCN) members highlighted the following as priorities for their area:

- Rural broadband speeds
- Community Infrastructure
- Roads, maintenance of
  - Cycle routes

- Footpaths
  - Glastonbury to Wells following the A39
  - Survey of existing & wanted paths
  - Safe walking
- Car parking
- Noise pollution
- Bottle necks
- A39 relief road
- Highways
- Pedestrian crossing on the A361 in West Pennard
- pavements
- Speed
  - Special cameras
  - More funding
  - 20mph (incl. visible signs)
  - Can also be shared across villages
  - Ability to have some say in speed limits
- Transport
  - Frequency and more services
  - More busses
    - Cost post £2
    - The 126 route – Strode college
    - Glastonbury, Bridgwater connections
    - Make sure it connects with villages
    - Evening and night travel
- Youth services and support
  - Education
  - Work
  - More activities/play parks
  - West Pennard would like a park
  - Public space to meet eg hall
    - Meare doesn't have a Village Hall
- Adult social care
  - Lobby govt for funding
  - Social contact
  - Can we get rural isolation data
- Traveller sites
  - They are doing illegal development,
  - Their planning applications being quickly accepted whereas others haven't been.

- Planning/development/infrastructure– general across the LCN
  - When will the local plans be confirmed?
    - Local and neighbourhood plans
    - Standardise SW106 & CIL
    - Enforcement Officers and feed back
    - Yurts, Shepherds Huts no planning permission
    - Understanding of planning decisions and how they are made
    - Feedback vital
    - Affordable housing – pref. Social grant (some 100% not 30%)
      - Sedgemoor housing could not offer better help
    - New housing
- Mobile libraries and other accessible to affordable services
- Health
  - Surgeries
  - Dentists
  - Chemist availability
- Environmental concerns
  - Phosphates & mitigation
  - Litter
  - Grass cutting
  - Fly tipping
  - Waste sites need to be open more and would be cost effective not to charge because it costs more to deal with fly tipping
  - Dog waste
  - Parishes sharing good practice with Somerset wildlife trust
  - Parishes sharing good practice within and without the LCN
  - Ensure fair representation across the whole LCN
    - Make sure villages receive their fair share of resources
  - Climate emergency related support

**Other priorities, which were captured on flipchart paper included:**

- Is there an LCN neighbourhood plan?
- Libraries/services
- Banking
- Communications to Parish Clerks
  - Who can help on certain topics
  - Shared data knowledge base
  - Pool resources/cost effective measures
- Police and their partners
  - Police divisions represented
- NHS
- Head teachers
- Shortage of trades for building
- Cost of living
- Farming community is important
- Housing
- Cultural life

**Things that have been done to help included:**

- Local parish survey has taken place to help identify issues in the area. (LCN to receive a copy of outcomes.)
- Recently taken a section on the playing field in Cossington and planted a small woodland area.

**It was suggested that the following people be invited to the next LCN:**

- Sedgemoor housing.
- Planning policy people
- Gypsy and traveller liaison person

**Item 7: To agree the frequency of meetings**

It was discussed setting up sub-groups.

The LCN agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled for late September/October, due to the summer holidays.

Meanwhile, it was discussed that the meetings would possibly be monthly after that at first, going to bi-monthly as time went on.



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

The LCN Team would work with the Chair of the LCN to schedule the meeting dates for the remainder of the year.

Councillor Val Keitch thanked everyone for coming. She further thanked the team for their hard work the staff who helped out.

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