

Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Yeovil

Date: Monday, 7 August 2023

Time: 7.00 pm - 8.15 pm

Location: Westlands Entertainment Venue, Westbourne Close, Yeovil BA20 2DD

Chaired by: Cllr Mike Hewitson

LCN core membership attendance:

Name:	Representing
Cllr Mike Hewitson	Somerset Council
Cllr Tony Lock	Somerset Council
Cllr Graham Oakes	Somerset Council
Cllr Emily Pearlstone	Somerset Council
Cllr Evie Potts-Jones	Somerset Council
Cllr Faye Purbrick	Somerset Council
Cllr Andy Soughton	Somerset Council
Cllr David Woan	Somerset Council
Paul Herbert	Brympton Parish Council
Karen Taylor	Chilthorne Domer Parish Council
Sue Murrison	Closworth Parish Meeting
Duncan Goodes	East Chinnock Parish Council
Clive Wakely	East Coker Parish Council
Robin Carpenter	Hardington Mandeville Parish Council
Hilary Panter	Ilchester Parish Council
Sarah Moore (Clerk)	Montacute Parish Council
Dave Peters	Odcombe Parish Council
Lyn Foley	Stoke Sub Hamdon Parish Council
Annette Davies	West Camel Parish Council
David Neal	West Coker Parish Council
Emma-Jayne Hopkins	Yeovil Town Council
Rob Stickland	Yeovil Without Parish Council

Hannah Snowdon
Rachel Clark

Spark Somerset
Avon & Somerset Police

Officer attendance:

Name:

Kate Hellard
Emily Window
Jeff Brown
Emmaline Kay
Ally Laing
Tim Cook
Beth Poole
Jo Morris

Representing

Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council

Other attendees:

Name:

Cllr Val Keitch
Amanda Card (Clerk)
Barabara Appleby (Clerk)
Peter Hulett

Clare Paul
David Hall
Linda Snelling

Kaitlyn Higgins
Gill Gillott
Steve Haigh
Dan Crawford
Clare Owen
Robert Halls
Christine Saint
Sue Richings
Mike Phillips
Neil Bloomfield
Sue Burgess
Anita Perry
Colin Rose

Representing

Somerset Council
Yeovil Town Council
Yeovil Without Parish Council
Stoke Sub Hamdon Sports & Recreation
Trust
Marcus Fysh MP Office

Yeovil Bus User Group & Somerset Bus
Partnership
Barwick & Stoford Community Centre
Barwick & Stoford Community Centre
Radio Ninesprings
Avon & Somerset Police
Closworth Parsish Meeting
Hardington Mandeville Parish Council
Montacute Parish Council
Montacute Parish Council
Stoke Sub Hamdon Parish Council
Stoke Sub Hamdon Parish Council
West Camel Parish Council
West Coker Parish Council
Yeovil Without Parish Council

Virtual attendees:

Name:	Representing
Cllr Oliver Patrick	Somerset Council
Linda Hull	Somerset Skills and Learning
Sue M	Somerset Council
Philip Ham (Clerk)	Ilchester Parish Council

Apologies:

Name:	Representing
Cllr John Bailey	Somerset Council
Cllr Henry Hobhouse	Somerset Council
Cllr Andy Kendall	Somerset Council
Cllr Peter Seib	Somerset Council
Cllr Wes Read	Somerset Council

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 Mike Hewitson was nominated by Somerset Councillor Tony Lock, seconded by Somerset Councillor Andy Soughton.

No other nominations were received so Councillor Mike Hewitson was duly elected as Chair of the Yeovil Local Community Network.

Item 2: To Appoint the Vice Chair of the Local Community Network

Rob Stickland (Yeovil Without Parish Council) was nominated by Somerset Councillor Graham Oakes, seconded by Somerset Councillor Andy Soughton.

No other nominations were received so Rob Stickland (Yeovil Without Parish Council) was duly elected as Vice-Chair of the Yeovil Local Community Network.

Item 3: **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Somerset Councillors John Bailey, Henry Hobhouse, Andy Kendall, Peter Seib and Wes Read.

Item 4: **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made by Somerset Council members.

Item 5: **Public Question Time**

There were no questions, statements or petitions received from members of the public.

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

Kate Hellard (LCN Development Lead) provided a presentation on the purpose of the LCN and how it would feed back into the work of Somerset Council. The presentation slides are attached.

There is also a dedicated page for Local Community Networks (LCNs) on the Somerset Council website which is viewable at:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/local-community-networks/>

The LCN Development Lead invited comments and questions from members. Her response included the following:

- There may be issues where there was no data evidence available and this would need to be explored over time and worked on collaboratively. The experience of residents was also an important aspect to be considered.
- It was acknowledged that there was a need for the membership of the LCN to grow over time and reach wider parts of the community.
- It would become more relevant for organisations and voluntary groups to attend in the future as meetings of the LCN evolve and discussions are held on specific topics as the priorities are developed.

In break out groups, attendees were asked to consider three discussion questions (sub headings below) and to share what themes, opportunities they wanted the Yeovil LCN to explore over the next 12 months.

What is important for residents and how do we know?

Accessibility to town

- Buses
- Disabled access
- Elderly

Children and Young People

- Things to do
- Accessibility
- Sports facilities for young people
- Creative arts & opportunities for young people
- Diversity and how to engage
- Parks and recreation
- Support system for pre-school care, young carers and children in care

Public Transport

- Connectivity
- Reliability
- Cost
- Equity of service

Antisocial behaviour

- Community policing
- Sense of community
- Reporting
- Breakdown in social fabric
- Drug dealing
- Lack of respect
- CCTV
- Lack of enforcement
- Neighbourhood support – no regular input or communication
- The need for housing associations to focus on anti-social behaviour

Highways

- Hidden signage due to vegetation
- Potholes and the conditions of roads
- Speeding on A37
- Poor road markings
- Excessive traffic
- Lack of enforcement around speeding
- Speedwatch – issues with training
- Drains
- Overgrown hedgerows
- Road closures
- Incidents and accidents not always reported to the local community and parish councils
- Parking
- Over use of single track roadways, pull ins unusable
- Evidence from SIDs

Communication/Connectivity

- Dialogue
- Different mediums for difference audiences
- A voice for all
- Fibre broadband roll-out, issues with landowners not allowing permission and issues with funding
- Parish Councils working together
- People don't know what parish councils can do
- Not everyone uses social media

Employment

- Jobs
- Learning needs of the community

Housing

- Affordable housing
- Lack of infrastructure of small rural communities with regard to housing development. The roads are not wide enough.

Environmental Issues

- Clean and tidy streets
- Energy efficiency in homes
- Sustainability
- Community orchard

- Litter picking
- Solar panels – need to go on buildings and brown field sites not greenfield sites

Health and Well-being

- Dentists
- Overstretched primary care
- Defibs – who has them, who doesn't
- Shortage of GP appointments in some areas
- Tackling social inclusion
- Health and well-being for older people including support network and resources
- Community Centres
- Support for single parents

Flooding

- Preventative work needed
- Water courses not being maintained

Lack of services

- Post – not always deliveries in outlying areas

Planning

- Clarification on planning policies
- Communication on Phosphate and planning
- Planning issues

Somerset Council

- Concerns on the large financial spends on entertainment
- Positive engagement on the Refresh project
- Communication on what is to be passed to local councils to take on
- Yeovil Boundaries Review – concerned that new housing will be absorbed therefore precept reduction

Is there something we can do about it, and / or are there examples already working?

- Different mediums for different audiences
- Improve public engagement and communication
- Parish Clerks and active use of notice boards
- Local media
- Online social media

- Online parish and town websites
- Don't forget about rural villages in Yeovil LCN
- Informing and sharing news with local groups
- How to inspire the growth and vibrancy of the town centre
- Parish Councils working together

**Who do we need to talk to? Who else could be in the room?
Is there any data that would help?**

- Youth group leaders and providers
- Youth Council
- Youth Parliament
- YCRT
- Local Community Associations and Groups
- Chamber of Commerce
- Faith groups
- Big employers
- Health – PCNs/GPs
- Charity Groups
- Housing Associations
- Military services
- Village agents
- Public Transport
- Highways
- Education
- Community Projects
- Charities
- Lords Larder
- Yeovil Community Church
- Internet providers

Item 7: To agree the frequency of meetings

It was agreed that future meetings of the Yeovil Local Community Network would be held every two months.

Kate Hellard said that the next meeting was likely to be slightly delayed due to capacity issues, but the ambition was to hold meetings every two months thereafter.

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

Officers would look to arrange a suitable date for the next

meeting in consultation with the Chair and contact members when this had been agreed.

It was noted that there was an issue with suitable venues to hold meetings and therefore any suggestions for a venue that provided adequate wi-fi and car parking were welcomed.

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