

## **Local Community Network Meeting Notes**

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Bridgwater

Date: Monday, 25 September 2023

Time: 7.00pm

Location: The Clubhouse - Morganians Rugby Club

Chaired by:

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

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Hilary Bruce	Somerset Council
Lance Duddridge	Somerset Council
Kathy Pearce	Somerset Council
Leigh Redman	Somerset Council
Diogo Rodrigues	Somerset Council
Gill Slocombe	Somerset Council
Brian Smedley	Somerset Council
Tim Mander	Bridgwater Town Council
Ryan Kennedy	Bridgwater Without Parish Council
Steve Leahy	Business Chamber

### **Officer attendance:**

**Name:**

Sara Skirton  
Kate Hellard  
Emily Window  
Leila Nicholson

**Representing**

LCN Team  
LCN Team  
LCN Team  
Democratic Services

**Other attendees:****Name:**

Kate Lang  
Gary Perrett  
Darren Horne  
Lewis Hayes

**Representing**

Bridgwater Without PC Clerk  
Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign  
Bridgwater Business Chamber  
Sydenham Improvement Group

**Virtual attendees:****Name:**

Emmaline Kay  
Ally Laing  
Cllr Andy Dingwall  
Scott Wooldridge  
Daniel Mumby  
Debi Slaiter  
Luke Jackson  
Tasha Astill  
Wes Hinkes

**Representing**

LCN Team  
LCN Team  
Somerset Council  
Somerset Council  
Press  
Community Agents  
SASP & Connect Somerset  
Bridgwater & Taunton College  
Public

## Apologies:

Name:

Representing

None

## Summary of discussion:

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

Item 9: **Apologies for Absence**

None received.

Item 10: **Declarations of Interest**

No further declarations of interests were made.

Item 11: **Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**

The positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the LCN had been contested due to issues with the core membership and therefore it was agreed that another election should be undertaken.

Councillor Brian Smedley proposed Tim Mander (Bridgwater Town Council) and this was seconded by Councillor Hilary Bruce. Councillor Gill Slocombe proposed Councillor Diogo Rodrigues and this was seconded by Brian Kennedy (Bridgwater Without Parish Council).

Both candidates spoke in support of their experience that they would bring to the post.

The votes took place for each candidate which resulted in 5 votes each in support (10 eligible to vote).

Scott Wooldridge (Interim Head of Governance) advised the meeting via Teams that the Terms of Reference stated that in the event of tie in an election, then it would be decided via an electronic Random Number Generator. This took place and Councillor Rodrigues was voted in as the Chair.

Election of Vice-Chair:  
Councillor Brian Smedley proposed Tim Mander (Bridgwater Town Council) and this was seconded by Councillor Hilary Bruce. Tim Mander was duly elected as Vice-chair as there were no other proposals.

Item 12: **Notes from the Previous Meeting**

The notes from the previous meeting held on 21 June 2023 were confirmed as a correct record. Councillor Slocombe wished to put on record her apologies for any offence that was caused in the phrasing of a comment that had been made.

Members also commented on the core membership for this LCN and it was noted that the membership would be reviewed in January 2024 and additional organisations could be proposed then, however if there were specific priorities, then organisations/groups could be invited to those meetings.

Item 13: **Public Question Time**

There were no questions from any member of the Public.

Item 14: **Highlights of themes discussed at the last meeting**

Kate Hellard went through the highlights and themes from the first meeting, these were:

Communication	Support for businesses
Active Travel	Active Lifestyle
Access to Healthcare	Affordable Housing
Planning and Enforcement	Anti-social Behaviour
Car Parking	

During discussion, Councillors also asked that Highways and public transport including buses and trains under Active Travel, however it was clarified that active Travel related to walking and cycling.

It was confirmed that certain areas were common to other LCNs and these included Highways and Active Travel.

Councillor Slocombe requested that Dentistry & GP services also be included within access to healthcare.

Item 15: **An introduction to data**

All LCNs will get the same profile areas and shows comparison to County and England, it was confirmed that agreement was needed as to what data was needed and for explanations and details to be provided.

It was suggested that people can come to specific meetings to talk through their areas and where the opportunities would be for each LCN.

Item 16: **Discussion**

Members of the LCN were asked to consider how the group could further the following priorities that were established at the previous meeting.; these being:

- Well Being & Active Travel
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Business

There were a number of comments made from the 4 groups and these are listed below:

Anti-social behaviour:

Issues raised:	Need assistance from:
Speeding on Estate roads Violence Fly tipping Gangs of youths Drug dealing throughout the estates Bad parking – especially around schools	Police One Team Town Centre Wardens School staff/PTA/ Governors Parents SASP Youth Groups EDF
Data can also be collected from Police, Youth Unlimited, Carnival Clubs (supporting YP), football clubs, Youth Groups	

Wellbeing/Active Lifestyle & Active Travel:

Issues/Comments	Need assistance from:
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<p>Previous initiatives were popular “Beat the Street”</p> <p>Health walks</p> <p>Cycling routes using old train routes, need safe bicycle storage areas/locations, training to ride a bike, cycle mileage instead of using cars</p> <p>Access to activities and getting to them, also need activity sessions to be made available to those that work</p>	<p>Local business for support and also to pay mileage</p> <p>Slinky bus</p> <p>“On your bike” who run number of initiatives.</p> <p>SASP</p> <p>Community Sports Trusts</p> <p>GPs</p> <p>Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign/ Sustrans</p>
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**Business:**

Needs/Issues:	Need assistance from:
<p>Policing /ASB in the town centre</p> <p>Need to revive the centre and encourage footfall</p> <p>Disabled access</p> <p>Engaging big businesses in the area to engage with the smaller businesses – create local supply chains</p> <p>Inward Investment Team: share best practice &amp; identify objectives – identify pain points (recruitment, finance etc)!</p> <p>Identify sectors i.e. retail, manual etc</p> <p>Bus services</p> <p>Stakeholders and partners to be identified.</p>	<p>National and Local Government initiatives/ Industry Bodies</p> <p>Police – Town team</p> <p>Chamber of Commerce</p>

It was agreed that a meeting should be set up with the Chair and Vice-chair to be agree the way forward on specifics and to agree other partners/organisations who should be invited.

**Item 17: Dates of future meetings**

It was confirmed that the next meetings of the LCN would be :

Monday 20 November 2023 and Monday 22 January 2024.

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