

Wednesday, 3rd December, 2014

Present:

Councillor Paul Crossley	Leader of the Council
Councillor David Dixon	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Councillor Simon Allen	Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
Councillor Tim Ball	Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning
Councillor David Bellotti	Cabinet Member for Community Resources
Councillor Caroline Roberts	Cabinet Member for Transport
Councillor Dine Romero	Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Youth
Councillor Ben Stevens	Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

93 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair was taken by Councillor Paul Crossley, Leader of the Council.
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

94 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda.

95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Dixon declared that in relation to Item 14 Procurement of Leisure Contract, he felt that as a member of the Board of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust he would have an "Other" interest in parts of the contract and so would not take any part in the eventual decision to award the contract.

97 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

98 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 11 questions from Councillors and 6 questions from members of the public.

[Copies of the questions and responses, including supplementary questions and responses if any, have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix 1 and are available on the Council's website.]

99 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Katie Hedges in a statement thanked all those who had helped by organising, running and contributing to the “Run for Harmonie” on the previous Sunday.

The Chair congratulated Katie on organising such a successful Fun Run.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson in a statement appealed to Cabinet to secure the future of the 414/424 bus service which was essential for people living in the area between Frome, Radstock and Midsomer Norton. She asked the Cabinet to consider taking on the service if Somerset Council were to cut funding. She presented a petition to Councillor Roberts to this effect.

Lesley Mansell (Chair, Radstock Town Council) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 2 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to declare a Dementia Friendly Area and asked whether the Council had adopted the Dementia Quality Mark for Care Homes.

Phil Harding (Chair, Saltford Environment Group) in a statement relating to Saltford Station, item 16 on the agenda, [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 3 and on the Council's website*] welcomed the Council's investment of £250K to take forward the feasibility study for the station. He asked the Cabinet to work closely with the Saltford community on the designs and proposals, including the car parking provision.

Chris Warren (Saltford Environment Group Station Campaign) in a statement relating to Saltford Station, item 16 on the agenda, [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 4 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to support proposals to continue development of the business case for a reopened station in Saltford. He stressed that in his view the existing site, planned by Brunel, was the best site available and that suggestions to move the station closer to Keynsham presented a number of problems, not least of which was its distance from the village.

Councillor Steve Hedges in a statement observed that a meningitis vaccine had been available privately since March but the Department of Health had been negotiating the price with the supplier which had delayed its public availability. He asked the Cabinet to write to the Department of Health urging that the vaccine should be made available as soon as possible for pre-school and infants. Councillor Paul Crossley said that he had already begun drafting a letter which would soon be ready to be sent. Councillor Hedges thanked him for this assurance.

100 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor David Dixon, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

101 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

102 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

There were none.

103 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

104 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S "THINK LOCAL" PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

Wera Hobhouse (North East Somerset Liberal Democrats) in an *ad hoc* statement welcomed the proposals as a very good way to ensure that local businesses were encouraged. She referred to the statement in the report which said that it was not possible to ascertain the level of sub-contracting to local businesses; and she suggested that the Council should attach conditions when awarding contracts.

Councillor David Bellotti, proposing the item, said that the strategy which had been launched in October 2013 had already increased local procurement from 33% to 35%. He referred to Section 10 of the Guide and observed that the threshold of £25K would be increased to £50K. He highlighted the "Meet the Buyer" events, especially in the NE Somerset rural areas. He emphasised that Cabinet had discouraged the aggregation of small contracts into larger ones, which did not facilitate local procurement.

Councillor Bellotti referred to paragraph 5.4 of the report in which it was laid out that the guidance encouraged suppliers not to use zero hours contracts. He asked contractors to align with the Council on this.

Councillor Ben Stevens seconded the proposal. He had been delighted that the council was at the cutting edge of bringing benefit to the local economy. He was thrilled that Appendix 3, the Social Value Policy, would build on what had already been achieved.

Councillor David Dixon said that he had found the "Selling To the Council" guide very easy to read and understand. He welcomed the knock-on effect that the policy was having on local independent businesses.

Councillor Dine Romero felt that the benefits would be felt across the authority and emphasised that the measures must cut across all of the Council's services.

Councillor Simon Allen said that the strategy was having an excellent impact across the community in both economic and mental health wellbeing terms.

Councillor David Bellotti in summing up said that the contribution made by Richard Howroyd, Acting Procurement Manager, had been outstanding. He referred to the positive feedback from a number of local businesses following the Meet the Buyer events.

On a motion from Councillor David Bellotti, seconded by Councillor Ben Stevens, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To NOTE the progress report on implementing the Councils "Think Local" Procurement Strategy;

(2) To NOTE the intention to revise the Council's Contract Standing Orders to reflect the implementation of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and other legislation, including Revising financial limits to provide local businesses with the opportunity to obtain contracts up to £50,000;

(3) To NOTE the draft Selling to the Council Guide; and

(4) To ADOPT the Social Value Policy to ensure that the Council meets its statutory requirements under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

105 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S STREET TRADING POLICY AND CONDITIONS

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones in an *ad hoc* statement observed that the proposals fitted well with the Walkable City. He felt that the Bath "brand" must always be synonymous with excellence. He welcomed the recent trial of mains electricity provision for a small number of street traders and asked for it to be extended. He asked for enforcement action when traders allow their pitches to creep out onto the pavement.

Councillor David Dixon in proposing the item expressed his thanks to the officers who had consulted widely during the preparation of the report. He assured Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones that he was already considering the points he had made. He referred to the increasing practice of buskers offering their CDs for sale and said that action would be taken to ensure a level playing field for other traders.

Councillor Ben Stevens in seconding the proposals emphasised the need to ensure that the street trading offering must be of a high standard.

On a motion from Councillor David Dixon, seconded by Councillor Ben Stevens, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To ADOPT the revised policy and notes the proposed conditions and guidance.

106 PROCUREMENT OF LEISURE CONTRACT

Wera Hobhouse (North East Somerset Liberal Democrats) in an *ad hoc* statement said she was particularly pleased that it was proposed to invest heavily in Keynsham. This would be vital to bringing visitors into the town..

Councillor David Dixon said that the plans for the Council's leisure facilities were bold and ambitious, underpinned by the Leisure Strategy, which he was determined to deliver. In Keynsham, a new facility would be built; at Culverhay, the running facilities would be retained; and in Bath, he was very excited that a fantastic facility would be delivered.

Because of his declared interest as a member of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust, he moved a different motion from the one recommended in the report so as to ensure that he would take no part in awarding the leisure contract.

Councillor Paul Crossley seconded the proposal and said that the entire community would be helped by the proposals. Cabinet had ensured that the new facilities were fully funded and would be delivered.

Councillor David Bellotti said that Cabinet had put £12M into the budget to ensure delivery of this project. The new facility at Keynsham would be a pool and gym, which was possible because the Council's finances had been run well. The partner

company selected for the project would not only put £3M into the project up front, but would also pay the Council each year a portion of their income from the contract.

Councillor Bellotti referred to the facility in Bath which he had not found impressive when he had last visited. He would be delighted to see the updated facilities. He referred to the separation of the two golf courses from the leisure contract, which he felt was a good move.

Councillor Tim Ball said that he was pleased that the centre at Culverhay was being retained.

On a motion from Councillor David Dixon, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To DELEGATE authority to the Strategic Director for Place in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Resources and s151 officer to award the contract to the preferred bidder. This authority extends to agreeing a lease, or other appropriate arrangements, with the Recreation Ground Trust and all other decisions that may be required to secure the contract.

107 CONNECTING COMMUNITIES: UPDATE

Lesley Mansell (Chair, Radstock Town Council) in an *ad hoc* statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 5 and on the Council's website*] observed that it would be important not to overlook previous very good work which had taken place in Radstock. She asked whether the Bath City Conference would include the other more rural areas.

Peter Duppa-Miller (Secretary of the local Town and Parish Councils Association) in an *ad hoc* statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 6 and on the Council's website*] felt that the initiative would enable considerable opportunities to narrow the gaps which had existed. He welcomed the empowerment of Town and Parish Councils to contribute their own local knowledge in the context of the aspirations of their communities. He urged Cabinet to extend the Connecting Communities Area Forum approach, and to set up a Bathavon Area Forum early in 2015.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson in an *ad hoc* statement asked that the venue and times of new meetings should be considered so as to be convenient for as many local people as possible. She observed that it was not true that because something worked in Keynsham, it would work in the Somer valley.

Wera Hobhouse (North East Somerset Liberal Democrats) in an *ad hoc* statement said that having attended all 3 of the forums, she was aware that they were all different. She congratulated the Cabinet for putting the arrangements in place but had noticed that very few members of the public had attended. She hoped that ways would be found to issue direct invitations to the public.

Councillor Tim Warren in an *ad hoc* statement observed that members of the public often attended Parish Councils.

Councillor Paul Crossley, in proposing the item, agreed with Councillor Eleanor Jackson that location was an important factor influencing attendance. He agreed that although the model adopted for Keynsham was working very well, this would not be imposed on the Somer valley. He thanked Wera Hobhouse for her endorsement of the proposals.

Councillor Dine Romero in seconding the proposal emphasised the importance of local communities having a voice. She appealed for meetings to be relevant, and not so long that people would disengage. She looked forward to hearing the outcome of the cross-party review and agreed with Lesley Mansell that existing working arrangements must not be ignored.

Councillor Tim Ball felt that it was essential before moving forward to understand how each community worked. There was a danger of not reaching some of the smaller communities. Even in his ward, Twerton, 14 identifiable communities had been identified.

Councillor David Dixon said that the message to communities was not “this is how you must do it”, but was “this is your toolkit”. It was essential to ask each local community how the Council can get involved.

Councillor Simon Allen referred to the Community Covenant with local businesses in Radstock, which had been involved in creating new signage with pictures in the town. He felt that in time, the Community Forums would become the accepted way of involving local people.

Councillor Paul Crossley in summing up agreed that local communities defined themselves differently. He felt the Community Forums were breaking new ground.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To NOTE the progress made in implementing the Connecting Communities programme, particularly the establishment of the three Connecting Communities Forums in the Keynsham, Chew Valley and Somer Valley areas;

(2) To NOTE the removal and reduction in duplication of meetings and therefore savings in staff time arising from this work;

(3) To ASK the Divisional Director (Strategy and Performance) to continue to develop the work of the Forums in order to:

a) Better understand local needs and priorities

b) Engage effectively with parishes, partners and local people

c) Continue to streamline local partnership arrangements and remove duplication

(4) To EXTEND the Connecting Communities Forum approach to Parish Cluster Groups 2 and 3 (encompassing Bathavon North, Bathavon South and Bathavon West wards);

(5) To NOTE that the fourth Bath City Conference is currently proposed to take place in June 2015; and

(6) To REQUEST officers to begin planning for a “conference”- style event for the parished area, comparable to the Bath City Conference.

108 SALT FORD STATION

The Chair referred to the statements made earlier in the meeting by Phil Harding and Chris Warren relating to this agenda item. He referred to an email he had received from David Wood of the RMT Union, in which David said that with his local knowledge, he supported the existing location for a re-opened station.

Councillor Anthony Clarke in an *ad hoc* statement said that his political Group supported the proposals for electrification and MetroWest, which would allow re-opening of one station. He was keen to see progress.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson in an *ad hoc* statement was very pleased to see the report and hoped that, if successful, Radstock Station would be the next to re-open.

Councillor Caroline Roberts, in proposing the item, thanked both the previous speakers for their support and hard work. She confirmed that although consultants had looked at two sites, she felt that the existing site was the optimum but nothing had been ruled out. She told Cabinet that the previous day the Government had announced its Infrastructure Plan which had recognised the need for congestion relief to the east of Bath. The plans being considered for Saltford Station would begin to address issues to the west of Bath. Cabinet were actively looking at walking and cycling routes to serve a re-opened station.

Councillor Paul Crossley seconded the proposal and said that it was crucial to get rail invigorated. It would be a massive investment.

On a motion from Councillor Caroline Roberts, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To AGREE that work should continue to develop the Business Case for a station at Saltford and that this should include the option of opening a station to the west of the village where future development may support the new facility.

109 EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR BUDGETARY APPROVAL FOR EXPENDITURE 2014-15

Lesley Mansell (Chair, Radstock Town Council) in an *ad hoc* statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 7 and on the Council's website*] welcomed the proposals for investment in St Mary's Writhlington and reminded the cabinet that there would soon be 52 new homes close to the school.

Councillor Dine Romero, in proposing the item, asked the Cabinet to support the proposals to allocate the capital maintenance grant from Government, to which had been added some s.106 money for Bishop Sutton. She referred to section 5 of the report for detail. She promised that further plans would be put forward at February Cabinet.

Councillor Tim Ball seconded the proposals.

Councillor Simon Allen felt that the proposals were investing in the future.

On a motion from Councillor Dine Romero, seconded by Councillor Tim Ball, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

To APPROVE for inclusion in the 2014-15 Capital Programme:

(1) 2014-15 and 2015-16 Basic Need funding totalling £1,102,000, 2014-15 Capital Maintenance funding of £810,000 and S106 of £42,000 at Bishop Sutton Primary School to meet statutory requirements for pupil places.

(2) 2015-16 Capital Maintenance funding of £100,000 at St Marys Primary School, Writhlington to replace and expand a poor condition temporary classroom block.

(3) Basic Need funding of £394,258 at Weston All Saints Primary School to meet the extra cost arising from delays in the planning process.

(4) Basic Need funding of £74,000 for St Saviours Infant School to enable it to accommodate a bulge year from September 2014.

(5) Capital Maintenance funding of £90,000 for Chandag Infants School for works arising from the UIFSM statutory requirements.

(6) funding of £142,000 from 2013-14 capital programme savings for the replacement of classroom block at Chew Magna Primary School.

(7) £68,000 from the 2013-14 capital programme savings, £130,000 from the remainder of the unallocated £500,000 earmarked funding and £52,000 from 2014-15 Maintenance grant totalling £250,000 for phase 2 works at Southdown Primary School.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

CABINET MEETING 3rd December 2014

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

Where the intention is to speak about an item on the Agenda, the speaker will be offered the option to speak near the beginning of the meeting or just before the Agenda item.

Statements about issues NOT on the Agenda

- Cllr Eleanor Jackson
Re: Petition: Bus Users
- Lesley Mansell (Chair, Radstock Town Council)
Re: Dementia

Re: Agenda Item 16 (Saltford Station)

- Phil Harding (Chair, Saltford Environment Group)
- Chris Warren (Saltford Environment Group Station Campaign)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M 01	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
How long is it anticipated work to demolish Avon Street car park will take, and what is the exact planned start date of the demolition work?		
	Answer from:	Councillor Ben Stevens
<p><i>In order to gain LEP Investment Board Approval for EDF Funding, we have submitted a prior demolition Notice to the LPA to demolish the carpark.</i></p> <p><i>Subject to completing a procurement process for the demolition works which will confirm the exact programme period, the project team is planning on a 16 week demolition programme from award of contract which is indicatively programmed to commence Q3 2015.</i></p> <p><i>This start date is subject to LEP Leadership Board approval of the business case (December 2014) and the Council's approval of the Capital Programme in February.</i></p> <p><i>It may also be influenced by the construction phasing of the Bath Quays Waterside flood works and the Network Rail electrification, both of which will be ongoing at this time.</i></p> <p><i>The Council's priority is to minimise any disruption during Summer and the Christmas Market. The works may therefore, by agreement, be either brought forward or deferred until September 2015 <u>IF</u> there is overlap which negatively impacts the operation of the city centre.</i></p>		
Supplementary Question:		
Bearing in mind the loss of 400 parking places, is provision being made for the 200 which will be required during that period?		
	Answer from:	Councillor Ben Stevens
<i>We will look into the point he has made.</i>		

M 02	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
Does the Council measure PM-2.5 levels?		
	Answer from:	Councillor David Dixon
<i>The Council does not monitor for Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) as it does not have a</i>		

statutory duty to do so.

Supplementary Question:

Is the Council not being complacent over the effect of PM10 particulates and does he not think the Council should voluntarily monitor these?

Answer from:

Councillor David Dixon

I have in fact been discussing this recently with officers and I can confirm that we have not been in danger of coming near to the published levels. If that were to happen, we would monitor on a more formal basis.

M 03

Question from:

Councillor Anthony Clarke

Has the Cabinet member had the opportunity to consider the officers' report following the resolution in Council following the petition on parking?

Answer from:

Councillor Caroline Roberts

The report regarding the petition on parking was discussed at an informal meeting of Cabinet members on Friday 28th November. I now intend to respond to the lead petitioner by the end of next week.

M 04

Question from:

Councillor Michael Evans

What was the % of the A level entry at each secondary school achieving A or A* in the subjects they entered over the past 5 years?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

The data requested has not currently been analysed or published in the form requested. Officers are investigating the feasibility and timescale for doing this and I have asked them to work with the requestor to agree how best to provide a satisfactory answer that can then be published.

M 05

Question from:

Councillor Michael Evans

What was the % of the GCSE entry at each secondary school achieving A or A* in the subjects they entered over the past 5 years?

Answer from:	Councillor Dine Romero
<p><i>The data requested has not currently been analysed or published in the form requested. Officers are investigating the feasibility and timescale for doing this and I have asked them to work with the requestor to agree how best to provide a satisfactory answer that can then be published.</i></p>	

M 06	Question from:	Councillor Eleanor Jackson
<p>Will cabinet intervene to save the Saturday 414/424 service from Frome to Norton via Writhlington, Kilmersdon, Haydon and Radstock, and make representations about the withdrawal of subsidy. (Frome residents) Residents already get stranded trying to get from Bath to Frome on the First Bus 184, which is turning round in Norton or Chilcompton.</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>The reduced 184 service between Bath and Frome is a direct consequence of subsidy withdrawal earlier this year by Somerset County Council.</i></p> <p><i>I now understand that Somerset County Council is consulting on the withdrawal of the Saturday service 424 that serves Haydon and Writhlington in B&NES. We recognise that this bus service provides important links for our residents working in and travelling to Midsomer Norton and Radstock. I have written directly to Somerset County Council, emphasising the mutual benefits gained from both authorities continuing their commitment to the operation of cross-boundary bus services such as the 424.</i></p> <p><i>At this stage it would not be appropriate to comment on whether B&NES should intervene directly to retain the Saturday service.</i></p>		

M 07	Question from:	Councillor Paul Myers
<p>It was in July 2012 that Midsomer Norton Town Council formally requested to enter negotiations concerning community assets transfer – in response to a meeting Cllr Watt and I had in January 2012 with John Everitt to raise the question. Over two years on, despite assurances at the 2013 and 2014 budget meetings that the project was progressing and would be completed in a matter of weeks, not a single asset has transferred to Midsomer Norton Town Council. What assurances can the Cabinet member give me that there is a commitment to achieve this asset transfer and can the Cabinet member give a firm date by which it will be achieved?</p> <p>As some useful background information for Cabinet member, I include below details of key events so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan 2012: Councillors Chris Watt and Paul Myers met with John Everitt to discuss asset transfer for a range of assets in Midsomer Norton - based on a study of Community Buildings Joint Working carried out by the Town Council in the Autumn of 2011 with the consultant presenting a report in January 2012. 		

- Almost immediately after this meeting on the 10th January 2012 - Draft heads of terms received from B&NES.
- 20th July 2012 – Town Council sent a letter to Tom McBain of B&NES requesting the opening of formal negotiations.
- July 2012 – June 2013 – There were a number of meetings between Property Services and Midsomer Norton Town Council who in parallel began a series of steps to underpin the asset transfer including the creation of two new Trusts – Midsomer Norton Town Trust and the Midsomer Norton Community Trust and detailed schedules of conditions for the Town Hall and the Orchard Hall were commissioned.
- 6th June 2013 – Concerned at the lack of progress Midsomer Norton Town Council invited the Leader of the Council Paul Crossley and David Belotti to visit Midsomer Norton, meet with Council representatives and viewed the assets.
- 26th June 2013 – Follow-up meeting with Town Councillors Paul Myers and Steve Plumley and David Belotti at Bear Flat concerning the detailed elements of the asset transfer. Minutes of that meeting prepared by Midsomer Norton Town Councillors run to 18 pages.
- 31st October 2013 – Revised Heads of Terms received from B&NES and detail on asset transfer terms.
- 4th November 2013 – Proposed Heads of Terms put to the Town Council in but there was concern over a lack of any detail on the repairs required. B&NES Officers agree to look at the costs of meeting the repairs discussed in June 2013 and agree to commission surveys and get contractor quotes.
- 2nd January 2014 – Lease surrender documents provided by B&NES.
- 28th May 2014 – B&NES complete reports on the condition of the Town Hall and Orchard hall and copies sent to the Town Council. Midsomer Norton Town Council express concern that these still don't provide costs or nature of the work required. B&NES agree to get quotes.
- 30th June 2014 – Quotation reports by B&NES completed and provided to Midsomer Norton Town Council.
- 10th July 2014 – Meeting with Town Councillors Paul Myers and Steve Plumley and David Belotti at Bear Flat concerning the repairs required and what B&NES as landlord would fund to bring the buildings up to an acceptable level.
- 1st September 2014 (there being no August meeting) Town Council discussed and agreed to the costings minuted on the 10th July 2014 – letter sent to B&NES on 12th September 2014 noting the Town Council agenda deadlines for October and November 2014. This has since been chased and it is now understood that another officer has taken over the project.

Answer from:

Councillor David Bellotti

Discussions that Midsomer Norton Town Council (MNTC) had with the council before June 2013 are not a matter for the Cabinet as MNTC choose to deal only with officers. After a meeting in June 2013 I took a personal interest in ensuring this Community Asset Transfer could take place. Between June 2013 and July 2014 I attended three site visits in Midsomer Norton and four other meetings in Bath with representatives of the MNTC. At every meeting new issues were raised by representatives of the MNTC who at every opportunity wanted the Council to guarantee to spend more on works before the transfer. In September 2014 I was happy to finally agree the terms of a transfer, but then received even further representations. However all was finally agreed some weeks ago and Bath and North East Somerset Council instructed Solicitors to do the transfer - well before this particular question was submitted. So if there is any delay

now it is with the MNTC solicitors or MNTC.

M 08	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
Can the Cabinet Member please detail what action the Council takes to ensure that parents of disabled children in B&NES access all the help and financial support they are entitled to, and can the Cabinet confirm that no parents of disabled children in B&NES are forced to go without food or heating because they cannot afford the basics?		
Answer from:		Councillor Dine Romero
<p><u>Customer Services team:</u></p> <p><i>Welfare benefit applications from parents with disabled children will undergo a full financial assessment; a holistic approach will determine urgent areas of need as well as a full examination of benefit entitlements. The Welfare Support Team will work with the parents to resolve any financial issues; during this period the team will provide basic provisions such as housing costs, food, heating and any other element to secure financial wellbeing. Funds from the budget will be made available to support vulnerable customers at a time of crisis. The team will work alongside partners and relevant organisations to ensure vulnerable needs are addressed with the right level of expertise.</i></p> <p><u>Disabled Children's Team:</u></p> <p><i>The disabled children's team are part of the Children's Services specialist division and are based at the RUH. The team are thoroughly experienced in working with children in need and following assessment they can provide to children and families:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice & information • Put together creative packages of support involving families, other service areas and agencies in a collaborative manner • Short breaks/Respite through residential short breaks overnight., family based short-breaks (day and overnight), day care with child-minders for younger children • Direct payments to parents to employ a personal assistant to take child out to do a specific activity, develop independence stay with child in home so parent can go out or for parent to maintain physical wellbeing by attending a gym, Pilates so that a direct service is not required for child • Direct Parenting support for parents of some disabled children to help them understand and develop strategies to manage their child's presentations, budgeting, safe care. Done on a sessional basis (set number then review) • Food Vouchers for Food Bank. Very occasionally have had to help with money for electric/ gas meter until family get benefits. • Identify suitable universal, targeted and specialist schemes that child /young person can attend. Schemes are mostly heavily subsidised by LA commission with parents having to contribute. • Accompany parent to court, specific hospital appointments for child/young person, contentious meetings, Mental Health meetings etc (case by case identification) • Advocate and liaise with other agencies eg Nursing Services, Sirona, CAMHS, Adult Mental Health, and GP (at times re the parent's need). Intervene to postpone 		

an action eg council tax enforcement at a particular time.

- **Assist parents** to be aware of options so that all decisions are made on informed choice. Critical around school entry, transition, course of treatment etc
- **Substitute/shared care.**
- **Funding for transport to maintain contact** between parent/family and child.
- **Signpost or refer parents to a variety of agencies** (would usually refer if parents are unable to achieve for themselves) eg CAB for benefit advice to ensure they are getting the appropriate benefits, Law Centre for legal advice etc, Holiday Trusts if family would benefit from a break away as a family
- **Letters of support**, for example to Housing Department when overcrowded or where there are maintenance issues that will impact on the child's health and development. Letters to court
- **Link with Housing /Homelessness Department** when at risk of eviction
- **Application to charities** where professional support is required or parent is unable to do so, when funding is required which is outside what the local authority can provide.
- **Help arrange transport** to get parent child to specific appointments.
- **Aids and adaptations:** DCT Occupational Therapist provides in the home and assesses for Disabled Facilities Grant for house extensions, signing off the work when completed. Addresses issues with builders on behalf of parents.
- **Listening Responsive Ear:** There is always a duty person if the allocated worker is not available to hear and talk through a concern a parent may have, who will initiate action if necessary.
- **Also provide Statutory Service** under Child Protection, Children In care, Adoption Contribute to EHC plans

The Disabled Children's team are confident that none of the families they work with are being forced to go without food or heating because they cannot afford the basics.

M 09	Question from:	Councillor Geoff Ward
Rats remain a major public health challenge for residents and businesses, what understanding do we have of the level of infestation within BANES? have we the capacity to deal with complaints and satisfy our obligations on sewer baiting? What current interventions are being undertaken?		
Answer from:		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>There is no information relating to the population of vermin in the area, however in terms of pest control treatments for rats and mice, the number of treatments have remained largely constant over the last 4 years.</i></p> <p><i>There is no expressed obligation on the Council to have a sewer baiting programme, there is however the duty to secure so far as practicable that the district is kept free from rats and mice. The responsibility for controlling vermin within the sewer system is the responsibility of the water undertaker, Wessex Water.</i></p> <p><i>We have the capacity to undertake sewer baiting when required to do so. This may take place in an area where complaints relating to vermin are more widespread than</i></p>		

affecting a single property. In situations such as this, officers liaise with Wessex Water to agree a programme of sewer baiting in addition to treating individual properties. Other interventions we offer in terms of vermin control include:

- *Domestic treatments*
- *Commercial treatments*
- *Provision of advice and guidance*
- *Environmental Protection Officers investigations into vermin related problems, with the ability to undertake enforcement actions to secure compliance and improvement.*

Supplementary Question:

You say that the Council has a “duty to secure so far as practicable that the district is kept free from rats and mice”. How can you ensure that if, as you say, you have no population data?

Answer from:

Councillor David Dixon

We use the number of residents’ complaints as an indicator. These have stayed roughly constant.

M 10

Question from:

Councillor Brian Webber

Is it the case that Discovery Cards should be issued only to persons whose principal place of residence is in Bath & North East Somerset? Why should someone who has only a second home in the district not also be eligible, if the second home is a dwelling-house on which he/she is paying full council tax (discounts on second homes no longer being applicable)? What checks are made that an applicant for a Discovery Card occupies the property, for which he has submitted a council tax or utility or mobile phone bill, as his principal place of residence?

Answer from:

Councillor Ben Stevens

The Discovery Card is intended to be a benefit exclusively to Council Tax payers and residents of Bath and North East Somerset. When applying for a Discovery Card, residents are asked to produce two forms of identification: 1) to prove they live in Bath and North East Somerset; and 2) to demonstrate that they are who they say they are. The card is valid for three years and, since it was introduced in 2002, nearly 90,000 card-issues have been made, with around 25,000 valid cards in circulation at any one time. Staff have never been instructed to ask whether people have another home elsewhere, or whether their Bath and North East Somerset address acts as a second home for them. If the local address is registered in their name, they will be a Council Tax payer and eligible for a Discovery Card.

The recent query raised by a resident applying for a Discovery Card at the One Stop Shop in Manvers Street has highlighted two lines in the ‘Terms & Conditions’ which are open to misinterpretation by staff who process applications. These will be amended and the details on the Council’s website will be updated with immediate effect. The

application form will be amended at the next reprint and all staff across the Council who issue Discovery Cards will be made aware of the changes.

M 11	Question from:	Councillor Brian Webber
<p>Disregarding students and their accommodation, has any estimate been made of the proportion of other dwellings in the district which are owned as second homes? Failing a current estimate, does the number of second home discounts for council tax purposes, when such discounts were available, provide an indication?</p> <p>Has any assessment been made whether, overall, the owners of second homes contribute more in council tax than the cost of the Council services they receive?</p> <p>I understand that the Council's share of the National Non-Domestic Rate pool is related to the population of the district. If so, are students and owners of second-homes included in the population figure?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Tim Ball
<p><i>Disregarding student accommodation there were 702 dwellings on our Council tax records classed as second homes as of October when we completed the CTB1 return to Department of Communities and Local Government.</i></p> <p><i>Council Tax is a contribution towards the cost of delivering local services, it is not directly relevant to the amount of any service received by an individual contributor but is designed to benefit the community in general.</i></p> <p><i>National Non Domestic rate redistribution is calculated using an extremely complicated formula linked to Revenue Support grant and other factors and cannot be directly related to the levels of Student and Second Home Accommodation in the area but will take account of the general nature of the population and its needs.</i></p>		

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P 01	Question from:	Ian Barclay
<p>In his paper "Firs Field, Combe Down" , dated 26/06/09, presented at the Sulis Club Meeting on the same date, Cllr Malcolm Hanney, then Cabinet member, stated under Legal Position Of Firs Field, inter alia, "The "pink" land is held on charitable trust for the purpose of providing the public recreation facility as an addition to the "blue" land"</p> <p>Please may I have up-to-date information on the Charitable Trust, its governing document, trustees, activities etc, as this information does not appear to have been made public.</p>		

Answer from:	Councillor Paul Crossley
<p>Advice was received by the Council in 2009 that the 'Pink Land' should be regarded as being held under a charitable trust and this was the basis of the paper presented by Cllr Hanney.</p> <p>The 'Pink Land' is that part of Firs Field on the North East side conveyed to Monkton Combe Parish Council in 1965 which subsequently passed by statute to this Council's predecessor Bath City Council following changes in the city boundary. Although the advice was accepted, there was no contingent requirement to formally constitute a trust board. In lieu of this, the Leader of the Council is empowered to make decisions on behalf of the trust as representative of the Council as Corporate Trustee.</p> <p>There has been no public information as no activities requiring formal decisions on behalf of the trust have taken place. The governing document is the conveyance dated 10th February 1920 to the Church Army which set out the terms of the trust by a declaration that <i>'in the event of the Church Army quitting or giving up possession of the said land the Trustees...shall have full power and authority to dedicate the same by way of Gift to the Parish Council of Combe Down aforesaid in trust for the perpetual use thereof by the inhabitants of the said parish as an addition to the Public Recreation Ground.'</i></p>	

P 02	Question from:	Duncan Hounsell
When will the Toucan crossing be installed on Bath Road, Saltford, near to Norman Road?		
Answer from:		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>The scheme is included in the 2014/15 capital programme for design work only. Once the design and costing of works officers have been completed, further consideration will be given to whether the scheme should progress as a priority project as part of the 2015/16 programme.</i></p> <p><i>Officers are currently reviewing the “long list” of requests for traffic-related schemes and will submit recommendations as part of the Council’s democratic budget setting process.</i></p>		

P 03	Question from:	Duncan Hounsell
How popular has been the introduction of the Lib Dem free school meals policy for infants at Saltford C. of E. Primary School? What practical steps has B&NES Council taken to support Saltford C. of E. Primary School in the implementation of this policy?		
Answer from:		Councillor Dine Romero
We have recently undertaken a census of the take up of Universal Infant Free School		

*Meals across the authority and are very pleased with the uptake of 87%.
At Saltford C. of E. Primary School the uptake has been above average at 89.2%.
We have liaised with the school very closely since the beginning of the year to ensure that the school would be ready for this initiative. For example, we held a whole school meeting to look at the dining room. After looking at what solutions were feasible we put 1 extra service point in the dining room and 2 mobile serveries to be placed into the reception classes where they would be served. In addition to the purchase of mobile serveries, additional electric sockets were installed and we have employed 2 extra staff to help with the lunchtime service.
Support is ongoing, as the school has recently decided to implement their own menu which we have worked with them on and will be in place just after Christmas.*

P 04	Question from:	Vicky Drew
Can Cabinet please confirm that the transfer of the public toilet block in Batheaston is being considered and that it will be offered to the Parish Council as previously advised.		
	Answer from:	Councillor David Dixon
<i>Yes. This is all in hand.</i>		

P 05	Question from:	Vicky Drew
<p>As one of the frustrated residents of Batheaston, I am advised that the planning permission for our Village Hall renovation has been quashed again. A key contention of the objectors was initially that of parking and my understanding is that our applicants (BNVH Trustees) were advised by B&NES that there could be no consideration of using any of the adjoining field as new parking. However, I am advised that a new and separate plan is to be submitted by a group calling itself BCH and this plan incorporates using the field for parking. Can the council please advise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have BCH been speaking to different planners to BNVH • has B&NES changed its stance on this critical issue or • are BCH misguided in their ambitions 		
	Answer from:	Councillor Tim Ball
<i>We are unable to comment on this question because the pre-application process is dealt with in confidence therefore we cannot confirm or deny whether a pre-application enquiry has been lodged or discuss any associated content.</i>		

P 06	Question from:	Lesley Mansell
Bearing in mind the rising incidence of dementia within the population will the council consider making B&NES a Dementia Friendly area?		
Answer from:		Councillor Simon Allen
<p><i>I am pleased to confirm that in B&NES, dementia is a priority for our Health and Wellbeing Board and the Council will continue to work with the Clinical Commissioning Group and other partners to make it even more dementia friendly and, indeed, friendly for all.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness of some services we have developed to make Bath and North East Somerset a friendlier area for everyone:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>✓ Working with the Police to roll out the Safe Places scheme for people with Learning Disabilities; making our communities safer for everyone.</i><i>✓ Developed an Autism Strategy, invested in a new autism social work team and working with our housing partners, delivered specialist autism housing.</i><i>✓ Created a new Wellbeing College to increase awareness, knowledge and support to people experiencing mental health problems and are one of only two places in the country with Mental Health respite beds to intervene early when someone is experiencing mental health difficulties.</i><i>✓ The Dementia Support Worker service which is provided by the Alzheimer's Society. The Dementia Support Workers provide support to people recently diagnosed or in the process of obtaining a diagnosis of dementia and also their carers (copy leaflet attached);</i><i>✓ Memory Technology to support people with dementia to remain as independent as possible (provided by Sirona Care & Health)</i><i>✓ Integrated hospital and community pathways using dementia coordinators and additional mental health liaison nurses in order to ensure patients with dementia are on correct care pathway and to facilitate timely discharge (provided by the RUH)</i><i>✓ A Rural Independent Living Support Service to help people living in rural areas access services (provided by Curo)</i><i>✓ A Home from Hospital service to support a successful discharge from hospital (provided by The Carers Centre and Age UK BaNES)</i><i>✓ A Community Hospital and Care Home Support and Assessment service to help community hospitals and care homes better people in their care with dementia (provided by AWP)</i> <p><i>Also, an increasing number of people, including Councillors, have undertaken training to become Dementia Friends.</i></p>		

Dementia

Current B&NES initiatives - conversation Cllr Allen Cabinet Member for Wellbeing some months back about declaring B&NES a dementia friendly area.

Cllr Allen said: "We're committed to raising awareness of dementia and its effects."

There is a real need to do this

- There were 1,146 people in 2012/13 (financial year) registered as having dementia in GP practises in Bath and North East Somerset, a rate of 0.6% of the registered population.
- 22% of death certifications in B&NES mention dementia or a related condition as opposed to national levels of 17.3%.
- Dementia cases are expected to increase by 23% for females and 43% for males between 2010 and 2025 in B&NES (1916 females, 1225 males)

Approached by residents, issue of relatives moved into the area so family can provide care and support but rent privately which can't afford.

Issue across B&NES.

B&NES website

Key Facts

The term 'dementia' describes a set of symptoms that include loss of memory, mood changes, and problems with communication and reasoning. There are many types of dementia; the most common are Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia.

Healthy lifestyles

Aerobic physical activities which improve heart and lung fitness is beneficial for cognitive function in healthy older adults and can interrupt the disease processes of dementia

Pleasing to see a number of Council initiatives include:

To meet the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the NHS Bath and North East Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and Council have 6 projects:

- Commissioned Dementia Support Workers to provide support to people recently diagnosed or in the process of obtaining a diagnosis of dementia and also their carers. This service is delivered by the Alzheimer's Society.
- Memory Technology Library to support people with dementia to remain as independent as possible (provided by Sirona)
- Integrated hospital and community support using dementia co-ordinators and additional mental health liaison nurses in order to ensure patients with dementia get treatment and support personalised to them and to facilitate timely discharge (provided by the Royal United Hospital)
- A Rural Independent Living Support Service to help people living in rural areas access services (provided by Curo)
- A Home from Hospital service to support a successful discharge from hospital (provided by The Carers Centre and Age UK B&NES)

- A Community Hospital and Care Home Support and Assessment service to help community hospitals and care homes better people in their care with dementia (provided by Avon & West Wilts Mental Health Partnership).
- improve dementia care including; driving improvements in health and care, creating dementia friendly communities, and better research

Still need for more publicity, more awareness raising direct link with connecting communities work.

The most important stakeholders in this process of course are people with dementia, and those who care for and support them.

Gone are the days when it was acceptable to provide services for disabled people without consulting them – This Disability history month note that 100 years since start WW1 that saw 2 million disabled war veterans – who mainly suffered in silence – also precipitated the call for rights not charity as and the slogan coined in the 1990's "Nothing about us without us."

What does the community say?

The South West Care Services Improvement Partnership's regional consultation on dementia brought out three themes from carers, users, and the general public;

- Improving information and raising awareness
- Promoting early diagnosis and intervention
- Improving care for people with dementia¹³

Dementia-friendly communities need to be responsive to what people want, but perhaps more importantly, people with dementia should have the right to have a sense of ownership, investment, responsibility and of connectedness to their own communities.

Labour party had training what it is like living with dementia. Good to see that some Councillors from Bath & North East Somerset Council have undertaken training about thanks to two Dementia Friends Champions.

Has B&NES adopted the "Dementia Quality Mark" for care homes to ensure that people are living well in care homes? Exceedingly vulnerable don't want to see another Winterbourn View.

Why is this important?

- With an increased national focus on both quality of care within homes and the level of dementia specific
- care within both health and social care sectors, the DQM offers an opportunity for the
- Local Authority to demonstrate proactive accreditation of dementia standards. More importantly
- there is the opportunity to support homes, promote existing resources, and encourage support
- networks in order to best improve outcomes for residents within Bristol's homes.

What does it measure?

Quality standards and expectations will always be subject to change, so the award of a Dementia Quality Mark places the onus on the provider to assure care and will indicate that:

- The home has a sound person-centred approach to the provision of dementia care, with a firm focus on quality of life
- Staff are both trained and supported to provide good quality dementia care.
- The care service has an effective quality assurance system to check that the outcomes for people with dementia care are good.
- The service is committed to ongoing improvement and development.

Why is it important for this work?

- People with dementia have a right to a say in decisions that affect their lives.
- Involving people with dementia sends an important message about the values inherent in the notion of dementia-friendly communities.
- It engenders a sense of ownership and investment.
- On a practical level it gives us a somewhere to start in developing dementia friendly communities. If people with dementia tell us they all want to use the café in the garden centre – then we start there.

The voices of people with dementia and their carers should be at the start and the heart of the process of creating dementia-friendly communities.

Pleased to see B&NES adopt this and to ensure that activities are also carried out in the rural areas as well in Bath.

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Phil Harding address to B&NES Cabinet 3.12.2014

I am Phil Harding, Chairman of Saltford Environment Group. I should like to start by emphasising how grateful we are for the support we have received from B&NES Council, the Cabinet and from all three main political parties for our shared ambition to re-open the station on the existing site.

Demand for rail travel has grown at a national and West of England level in recent years. We can all now deeply regret the short-sighted decision to close the station in 1970, just before Saltford expanded to its current size. It is common sense and foresight that can now reverse that mistake and bring the station back as part of the Metro West project.

We remain convinced that reopening the station on its existing site is the best option.

For example, an out-of-town station on the Saltford-Keynsham border would be too close to Keynsham station for trains to operate efficiently. That option would therefore require closure of Keynsham station. But, in addition to its existing users, Keynsham station is ideally located for the new housing development of 700 dwellings at Somerdale. Any sustainable development assessment for the new housing at Somerdale must have taken into account the close proximity of the station.

Just as "last century" out-of-town shopping centres are now falling out of favour, a remote out-of-town station mainly accessed by vehicles would be counter to the key objective of transferring commuters from road to rail.

A new station west of the existing site would require new access roads, a significant loss of Green Belt land and incur higher construction costs. The Green Belt "gap" between Keynsham and Saltford would also be put under much greater threat of development.

Reservations concerning reopening the station at its existing site are primarily to do with parking and safe access from the A4 without causing congestion. These issues can be mitigated through careful design by highways experts. The station site is sufficiently large for over 140 car parking spaces while surveys of potential local users show that the overwhelming majority of residents will walk rather than drive to the station.

We welcome the inclusion of £250,000 in your 2015/16 budget for taking the station forward to Network Rail's project design stages GRIP 3 and 4. That is great news.

We ask that you maintain momentum by not letting the next stage of design and feasibility work be delayed by the Council elections in May. The contract with your transport consultants can commence well before then.

Good communications provide better outcomes. We therefore also ask that the Council and its consultants work closely with Saltford's community on the designs and proposals for the station and car parking before final decisions are made.

We all share a common desire to deliver a new station that will be welcomed as a positive transport facility fit for the 21st Century benefiting Saltford, Metro West and the wider community.

Thank you.

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Statement

Chris Warren

My name is Chris Warren, the co founder and leader of the Saltford Station Campaign. What started as an idea over a pint in my local, quickly gathered pace into a community based campaign that has enjoyed support across the political divide because, quite simply, it makes sense, is achievable and brings back into use a much missed facility.

A re opened station will give access to the railway not just for the village but also outlying areas including Bath Spa University and will greatly enhance the forthcoming Metrowest services. It will play a big part in reducing traffic entering the World Heritage City of Bath and reduce pressure on the A4 Bristol/Bath corridor.

The campaign is aware of proposals to site the station further west, to an isolated spot close to the Keynsham boundary and Keynsham Station. Two stops, so close together is almost operationally impossible, which could mean a combined Keynsham & Saltford station. I would like to point out in the strongest terms, this idea defeats the object of sustainable transport. This location is a ten minute walk from the village, across fields. Sitting in a rock cutting, there would be considerable disruption to the railway in order to blast and excavate to allow construction of platforms. A road from the A4 would need to be built to give access plus a large car park would also be required, all on greenbelt land. It would generate thousands of unnecessary car journeys from both directions and would lead to a messy, time consuming campaign against the closure of Keynsham station, the second time it would have faced this threat.

No, the existing site, as Mr Brunel planned it, is the best location, directly adjacent to the A4 with 29,000 vehicles passing per day. It enjoys a network of footpaths connecting it to the community. A bus stop is close by, allowing the possibility of a rail/bus interchange, including a local shuttle bus. The former sidings offer a large, flat car park far bigger than Keynsham. With careful consideration given to the design of the site, It can be a quick and easy solution to help in reducing car dependency and promoting a healthier lifestyle.

Show that B&NES is a forward thinking council, not wedded to the past of road building, and take this exciting project forward through the GRIP process by agreeing to the further funding, and demonstrating the decisions made today will leave a lasting and positive legacy for future generations.

Thank you
Chris Warren

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Agenda Item 15

Connecting Communities update

Lesley Mansell Chair of Radstock Town Council and Deputy Chair of the Somer Valley Forum. The recommendation to engage effectively is welcome however there is a need not to ignore the work that was done before this new body was set up. The Parish Cluster and Liaison Groups have made a number of recommendations and there have been numerous surveys, questionnaire, investigations, report and we have even had action plans so its important that we do not do it all again and also ignore what has already been done.

Will the name of the Bath conference be changed, so it is not so Bath-centric and include the rest of the area or will there be separate conferences for the various Forums?

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From: Peter Duppa-Miller
To: Cabinet
Date: 3 December 2014.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

I am Peter Duppa-Miller – I am speaking as the Secretary of the Bath and North East Somerset Local Councils Association.

I have four points to make.

1. Very many thanks are due to the Officers who are providing the most efficient and effective support to the 3 existing Connecting Communities Area Fora.
2. It is very good to see that the Connecting Communities initiative is already enabling considerable opportunities to “Narrow the Gaps” which exist in North East Somerset.
3. It is also very good to see how the Town and Parish Councils are being empowered to contribute their local knowledge to the efforts of the major Public Bodies to understand, and to respond to, the needs and aspirations of their communities.

And finally,

4. I urge Cabinet to resolve tonight to extend the Connecting Communities Area Forum approach to the 3 Bathavon Wards (North, South and West) and their 18 Parish Councils and 3 Parish Meetings (which together represent over one third of the Parishes in North East Somerset) and to establish the Bathavon Area Forum with the aim of its holding its first meeting early in the New Year.

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Agenda Item 17
Capital projects

Urge councillors to support the recommendation particularly in respect of St Mary's School Writhlington. The development of a new housing project for 52 houses close by will put further strain on the school. Last year 2 of the pupils turned on the Christmas lights in Radstock and last Summer I visited the school as part of the In Bloom project. I was met by another two pupils aged about 9 and 10 and they were delighted to explain the gardening projects and show me round the school including the dragon, which also attracted the attention of the Chair of this Council Martin Veale. They were al confident and lively, not a bit phased by the visitor. I urge you to support this recommendation.

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