



**Note of the meeting of the Chew Valley Area Forum
held on Thursday, 9th October, 2014**

The Wellsway - Harptree Hill, West Harptree, BS40 6EJ

1. Welcome and Introduction

1.1 The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting and explained the order of business for the meeting.

1.2 The Chair provided the following statement to the group

The Forums are a new way of working. The aim is to improve collaboration and engagement. We need to ensure consultations and engagement are fed through the Forums and also set out our priorities. We do need to be realistic about what we can achieve but we need to focus on common issues across the Forum area rather than specific parish issues. We need to come together equally. Everyone has an important part to play; Members need to ensure they report back to their organisations, it's your responsibility to do so. We need you to bring issues back to the Forum, these needs to be a two way communication.

There may be issues that we need to resolve ourselves rather than looking to the authorities to do this for us. We need to be positive and look for solutions rather than focussing on the problems. We need to work together to achieve the same goals.

The Forums will take some time to bed in and there maybe things we need to change or improve upon but we need everyone's help to make this work. We have a voice for the Chew Valley and it is important that we use this Forum constructively.

We have a number of presentations tonight and there is a lot to get through this evening. This is an open meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend to observe. Later in the meeting there will be a group discussion and members of public can participate in this discussion if they wish. Members of the Forum are encouraged to ask question but please be respectful to the presenters and wait for an appropriate time to raise your questions.

Thank you for voting me as your Chairman. Our Vice Chairman, Tony Heaford is away at present and sends his apologies. I am very excited that the Forum is now set up and creates a positive avenue for discussions about issues affecting the Chew Valley. I would like to thank everyone for your attendance, particularly to the Police and the Fire Service for coming along and joining the Forum. We hope that you feel this will be a positive group where you can bring issues, consultations and seek feedback from the group. Thank you also to our guest speaker, Richard Daone from Planning policy who will be presenting later on the Core Strategy.

1.3 Those present introduced themselves.

Richard Curry (Compton Martin Parish Council and the Forum Chair), Sara Dixon (B&NES Council), Mark Hayward (B&NES Council), Julie Bragg (Publow with Pensford Parish Council), John Harvey (Stanton Drew Parish Council Clerk), Peter Duppa-Miller (Observer representing B&NES Local Councils Association), Kate Atkinson (Camerley Parish Council), Rosemary Naish (Clutton Parish Council), Helen Richardson (Clutton Parish Council), Wesley Hallam (Ubley Parish Council), Chris Head (WERN), Tony Crouch (Observer representing Keynsham Forum), Mark Thompson (Chew Valley Chamber of Commerce) Rodry Andrew (Chew Magna Parish Council), Richard Ireland (West Harptree Parish Council), PC Gemma Hill (Police), Stuart Peard (Police), Richard Doane (B&NES Council Planning Policy).

2. Apologies

2.1 Apologies were received from Louise Fradd (Sponser), Derek Quilter (Sponser), Tony Heaford (Vice Chair), Councillor Paul Crossley, Councillor Tim Warren , Rod Podger (Chew Valley Chamber of Commerce) and Chew Stoke (Parish Council)

3. Minutes of the first inaugural meeting

3.1 The notes from the last meeting that took place on 24th July 2014 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Outstanding issue 4.4 of the Ask the Leader, Councillor Tony Hooper, raised the issue regarding whether outline planning permission that have not been signed off can go back to be re-appraised now that the Core Strategy is implemented. It was suggested that this would be carried over to the next meeting, there was however feedback that stated that the issue had now been overtaken by events and therefore could be closed off.

5. Working arrangements and membership

5.1 Sara Dixon provided a verbal update to the group on working groups, membership and promotion of meetings.

5.2 The forum will meet a minimum of four times a year with an annual general meeting will be incorporated into these arrangements. The terms of reference (TOR) have been circulated to the forum members. Should the Forum have the need to set up working groups the TOR allow for this to happen.

5.3 The forum covers the geographical area of 14 villages and 4 wards and we are bringing the parishes together along with voluntary sector, the chamber of commerce and the public sector services.

5.4 Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) have dedicated sponsors to help us resolve outstanding issues and help with move us through the process, for this forum these are Louise Fradd (Strategic Director for Place) and Derek Quilter (Divisional Director for Major Projects).

5.5 The arrangements for the meetings will be published on the B&NES Council meeting calendar. The agenda and minutes papers will also be available from the same websites page. <http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=527&Year=0>

5.6 The public sector partners that will take part in this Forum are the two Police representative Gemma Hill and Stuart Peard, Jason Edwards from Avon Fire and Rescue, Curo Housing (we are awaiting a representative to be put forward) and Public Health (further information about involvement is noted later in the meeting)

6. Parish and Community issues

6.1 A verbal update on how local issues could be raised was provided by Sara Dixon.

6.2 In the past parish councils have been able to raise issues through the Parish Cluster meetings; these have now been disbanded now that this Forum has been set up. We do need to still allow for some provision where local issues to be raised. What we should be looking to deal with will need to be those issues that have a common purpose across the forum area and not those specific to individual parishes.

6.3 Local village issues need to be dealt with directly by contacting the relevant organisation whether that is with the council or another public sector partner. Where there are issues that will affect the whole forum area or a group of villages we need you to raise this at the forum area. This is open to all members not just for parish councils.

How this will work:-

- Prior to each meeting a request will be made for questions or concerns to be submitted for discussion.
- The Chair and Vice Chair will discuss at the pre-planning meeting with the Sponsor whether this is an item for discussion at the Forum or whether it needs to be passed to the relevant officers for action.
- An issues log will record all of the questions and concerns raised and will be circulated with the paperwork.

6.4 In addition Parish Cluster meetings from over the past two years have been reviewed and there are no outstanding issues. What is obvious is there have been a number of issues raised

around service delivery such as drainage clearing; hedgerows clearance etc. As this is a service standard and it would be helpful to everyone if this information can be shared. Therefore we would like to start building noting the Question and Answers that cover the Council, public sector partners and members of the Forum which can be easily be shared, this is something we can be built upon over time. Some of the information may be relevant to the other forum areas or just area specific. If it is felt it would be useful we can include information such as the local summer fetes and key events to help with promotion, this will help with avoidance of diary clashes.

6.5 The forum attendees had no further questions on this item.

7. Consultation Items

7.1 The Chair introduced Richard Doane, B&NES Council Planning Policy Team Leader who presented an update on the Core Strategy and what the update means for the area.

7.2 The Core Strategy as it stands is available online and there will be an update final version available in two weeks' time (23rd October 2014) along with a hard copy version.

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/core-strategy-examination>

7.3 The attached presentation that accompanies these minutes covers the full presentation that was provided at the meeting.

7.4 Question and Answers from this meeting:

Question 1: On what date does the plan start and how long does it run for?

Answer 1: The plan started on 1st April 2011 and runs for 18 years until 2029.

Question 2: What happens when multiple applications are received that are not linked (for example - different land owners) which result in a total of more than 50 homes being provided to an individual RA1 village?

Answer 2: There is a risk that more homes than have to be built could be passed. It is more likely that the Council would be able to use the controls in the Core Strategy to decline applications if requirements have already been met.

Question 3: What is definition meant by the wording 'affordable housing'?

Answer 3: (i) Homes that are built for the purpose of social housing rental dwellings. (ii) Homes that provide an opportunity for shared ownership. (iii) Dwellings that are made available at 80% of the normal market value.

Question 4: Where a development is put forward that straddles village boundaries is there the ability for the boundaries to be adjusted for the provision to be met?

Answer 4: Limited affordable housing can be built on green belt land where a there is a shortage, as set out in the Core Strategy. Rural exceptions policy also allows for smaller market developments. Where objections are made regarding green belt usage, the national policy now states that schemes can go ahead where there is a need for affordable housing.

Question 5: Does HDB give the same level of protection as given to the Green Belt?

Answer 5: There is less protection given to HDB sites, the form of development is where the protection is used.

Question 6: Where applications require an inclusion of 15% affordable housing how is the actual number homes determined calculates to a partial figure?

Answer 6: There is case law that determines that partial figures will need to move up the next full number. There are cases where the Council refuse plans by stating that the plans are inefficient use of land when numbers are manipulated.

Question 7: What is the date that CIL becomes applicable to submitted applications?

Answer 7: CIL is to be adopted by April 2015 and runs from the date it is adopted, B&NES Council are submitting their request to adopt on 10 October 2014 for the inspectorate to carry out its examination before Christmas 2014. It is important for the adoption of CIL to be in place before April 2015 as if it is not there will be the potential loss of income for both B&NES and the Parish Councils. There will be two levels of income from CIL, 15% is the standard amount and 25% to areas that have a Neighbourhood Plan in place.

The date that an application is determined is what counts to whether CIL is applicable.

7.5 It was discussed that where section 106 schemes are planned there is a risk of these being struck through and communities will then miss out. It is in our interest monitor what the schemes are and to encourage our Ward Councillors to support getting CIL adopted.

8. What are our priorities?

8.1 Sara Dixon provided a short presentation that asked the forum to consider what the challenges are for the area and what the gaps are in our data that requires further work.

8.2 The meeting split into three groups to discuss and report back on the priorities for the Chew Valley.

8.3 Sara Dixon agreed to take away the feedback and build a profile based on this information and then bring it back to this forum.

8.4 It was agreed by the group that the two priorities that have the greatest urgency are access to services and transportation.

9. Standing Items

9.1 PC Gemma Hill and PC Stuart Peard. Both Police Officers cover parts of the Chew Valley provided an update on policing in the area. It was put to the group that they are able to put forward ideas on what they would like to hear from the officers at future meetings.

9.2 It was suggested that future agendas would give the Police an earlier slot to allow for the need to leave the meeting due to operational requirements.

9.2 The update from PC Stuart Peard covered the following points:

- The Police Station in Bath has been sold to The University of Bath for re-development. It is presently still in use and open until 8pm. The plan to use the One Stop Shop opposite is not going to happen as the space available is not great enough for the needs.

- Radstock Police Station remains open Monday – Wednesday and Friday – Saturday 10am – 2pm.
- The Ashmead custody suite is now open and houses 48 cells centre in Keynsham is now operational as are the centres at Patchway and Bridgewater.
- The initial Community Speed watch that was setup continues to be built upon. .
- Farmwatch is now operational across 250 farms in Bath and North East Somerset.
- Crime Prevention - there has been a number of shed breaks that have increased due to the time of year. General care and awareness is needed and needs to be reiterated.
- If Parishes wish to share information within newsletters it is helps get the message out there.

9.2 The update from PC Gemma Hill covered the following points:

- The beat officers will be located at the new civic centre in Keynsham.
- The Keynsham Police Station remains open.
- A vehicle stop check resulted in £20,000 worth of cannabis being found.
- Six out of eight dwelling burglaries have seen suspects identified and the other two are ongoing investigations.
- A beat warrant resulted in a chemist factory being identified.
- Beat officers have been concentrating on being highly visible.
- Bishop Sutton has been highlighted as a hot spot for anti-social behaviour and work is continuing to deal with these issues; this is seen to be due to a lack of facilities for young people.

9.3 Responses to questions put to the Police.

- 1) It was confirmed that the PSCO will continue to carry out duties.
- 2) With tax discs now longer needing to be visible on vehicles it makes it more difficult to identify if cars have been abandoned. The DVLA online provides the ability for anybody to check a vehicle for valid Tax or MOT. <https://www.gov.uk/get-vehicle-information-from-dvla>
- 3) PACT meetings are continuing in some areas. Other areas have discontinued. There are other methods of communicating where PACT is not happening.

9.4 Health related issues – Sara Dixon provided an update on Your Health, Your Voice.

Health related issues - Your health, Your Voice

The Clinical Commission Group (CCG) has recently set up a public and patient participation group called Your Health, Your Voice. It's made up of local people with an interest in healthcare who provide feedback on the latest proposals and consultations. They currently meet every two months on a Thursday evening.

They are keen to make the group as representative of the local population as possible and need people to help with disseminating information about future CCG's consultation to a wider audience and also feedback to the CCG on local people's views regarding the local health service.

There is limited space on these groups and it has been agreed with the Public and patient participation group lead that the Chair's from each Forum will initially attend these meetings on behalf of the area. The Vice Chair's will be a substitute.

So that we make sure the communication is two- ways we will ensure there is a standing agenda item for members to raise issues regarding health provision to feedback to the CCG.

9.5 No Fire Service report was provided for this meeting. Jason Edwards from Avon Fire and Rescue has been asked to provide us with an update from the Fire Service at future meetings.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Mark Hayward explained that this group are invited to take part in the Council Budget Fair meetings that are planned for the first week in November. Further information is with the minutes of this meeting.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

11.1 The next two meetings of The Chew Valley Forum will take place at The Wellsway, Harptree Hill, West Harptree, BS40 6EJ on:

- *Thursday 20th November 2014*
- *Thursday 12th February 2015*