

## **Chew Valley Forum – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

### **Area profiles, Forum priorities and action planning**

The draft Area profile provides an overview of the population and its characteristics. It has been designed to gain a better understanding of the issues and opportunities affecting the local community. More work is required on developing the profile further, particularly around the areas where the priorities have been identified.

The data shown in the report has been sourced from the census, mostly at Ward Level where available, however some key data relates to B&NES as a whole as it is unavailable at Ward level. Further data needs to be gathered from other sources and this work will be developed over the next couple of months.

The Forum's priorities have been drawn from previous work undertaken by the former Chew Valley Area Partnership and subsequent discussions at the Forum meetings. These have been identified under eight common themes, with two main priorities, health and wellbeing and transportation.

The Council continues to build on its existing research and intelligence library and these profiles will contribute to this wider data sharing. <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/your-council-and-democracy/local-research-and-statistics/research-library>. Any consultations undertaken, such as Parish Plans or community surveys on local issues can contribute to this data library and the Area Profile. Creating one place for data and information about a local area will help ensure future priorities reflect local needs.

At the meeting, I will be seeking comments on the following:

- Draft Area Profile - any comments, amendments, inaccuracies in the profile?
- Forum Priorities - Do the priorities reflect the Forum's views, if not what is missing / what needs to be changed?
- Action plan - needs to be realistic and achievable, how should the Forum develop the action plan?

#### **What we need from you?**

- Identify consultations undertaken, such as Parish Plans or community surveys on local issues that would contribute to the data library, profile and action planning.

**Sara Dixon**  
**Acting Stronger Communities Manager**  
**Thursday, 13 November 2014**

# Chew Valley Area Profile

## Context – Chew Valley Area Forum

The 'Connecting Communities' programme is an initiative designed to help public service providers listen to, and meet the needs of, all the diverse people and communities who live in the area. The approach has been built around five key principles: 'listen, prioritise, join-up, work with you and share ideas'.

This initiative has come at the right time. Getting the input of local people in order to design the right services is seen as increasingly important. And as there is now much less public funding available, local people and neighbourhoods are being asked to help run services too. Each area will be supported by a local 'Forum' that will work together to improve local engagement between the public services and the local communities and encouraging local people to talk to each other, share their skills and ideas.

**Chew Valley Area Forum** is one of four area Forums that brings together neighbourhoods, villages and towns to reflect local issues and develop a more joined-up approach to addressing these concerns. It covers the parishes of, Cameley, Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Clutton, Compton Martin, East Harptree, Hinton Blewett, Nempnett Thrubwell, Norton Malreward, Publow with Pensford, Stanton Drew, Stowey Sutton, Ubley, West Harptree.

This profile has been designed to gain a better understanding of the issues and opportunities affecting the local community and set out the shared priorities agreed by partners across the area.

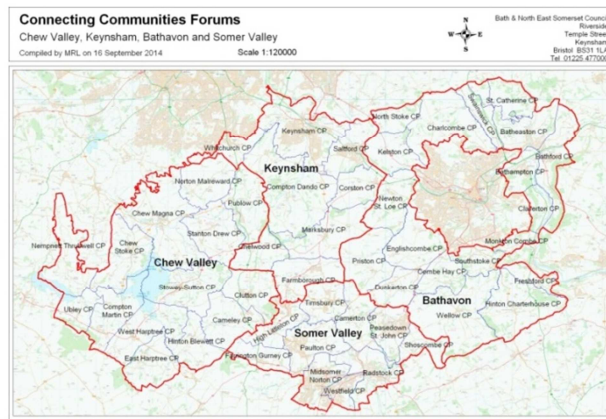
## The Chew Valley - At a glance

The Chew Valley lies to the west of Bath and North East Somerset, and has strong links to Bristol. It is a large rural area and identified as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. One of its key features is the Chew Valley Lake, an important site for wildlife which has been dedicated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area.

The Chew Valley Area covers 4 electoral wards and 14 parishes. Its population is approximately 9,974. Key villages include Chew Magna, Chew Stoke and Pensford, these are washed over by the Green Belt and are junctions to several main transport routes providing access to Bristol in particular.

Poor public transport provision means that the population is very reliant on private transport. The need for Community Transport has continued to increase particularly for health related appointments and social activities.

Unemployment in the area is lower than the national average. The Chew Valley has a higher percentage of self-employed people, along with a high proportion of people in senior managerial or professional roles. Nearly a quarter of the



### Key Facts

- There are 9,974 residents, 22% are under 18, 2% full time students, 22% over 65 and 9% are over 75. 2.1% increase in population since 2001.
- Chew Valley South Ward falls within the least deprived 10% nationally.
- 29% economically inactive, of which 18% are retired, higher than the national average.
- 38% of people have a degree or above – higher than national average (27%).
- 18% of people have no qualifications – lower than national average (23%).

workforce either work mainly from home or at home, and for those people that travel to work, the majority travel distances of between 5km and 20km.

There is one secondary school, Chew Valley, which has 1200 pupils including 200 in the Sixth Form. Many of the student travel from bordering areas such as Bristol. The school site also accommodates the leisure centre and a children centre. There are eight primary schools in the area, seven are run by the Local Authority and one of which, Chew Stoke, is an Academy.

Chew Valley is particularly prone to flooding and 48 properties across Chew Magna and Chew Stoke flooded in September and November 2012 – leading to 1 fatality.

Housing growth in the Chew Valley over the next 20 years will be limited and any new development will be focussed on villages outside the Green Belt that have a wide range of local facilities and public transport. The Core Strategy allows provision for the larger villages outside the Green Belt to identify development sites to accommodate around 50 dwelling, with small villages outside the Green Belt with a more limited range of services/facilities identifying sites to accommodate around 10 to 15 dwellings within the plan period. For those villages within and ‘washed over’ by the Green Belt new housing provision is limited to small scale infill development or limited affordable housing to meet local community needs.’

The Village Agents scheme provides support for local residents to help and support mainly older people and their families throughout a significant life change. This is often triggered by a change in circumstance such as a family member returning from hospital or a loss of a relative. The Village Agents work through the issues in order to help them maintain a healthy and independent lifestyle.

A number of the larger villages have retained their local pub and convenience stores with some provision for post office services, and a supply of library books being part of the ‘Hub in the Pub’ in Chew Stoke. All villages have a church room, village or community facility, which vary in size and are used by a range of clubs and groups on a regular basis. The mobile library service also operates once a week in the area. Chew Magna acts as a local service hub to the surrounding villages, although more recently the GP surgery in Chew Magna relocated to a nearby village Chew Stoke. Other GP surgeries are located in West Harptree and Temple Cloud.

There are high levels of volunteering, much of which is informal volunteering helping neighbours and caring for relatives. There are many residents who are involved in community activities, such as lunch clubs, local flood wardens, the hub in a pub, and community car scheme. However with an aging population the available ‘volunteer pool’ is likely to reduce and the need for health related services and adequate transport provision will increase further.

## Future Challenges

Many rural communities have experienced significant social change over the last couple of decades and the Chew Valley has experienced the greatest proportion of population ageing across

### Key Facts

- 1 in 4 children are aged between 5 and 6 years (B&NES).
- 3 in 10 children aged 10 and 11 are overweight or obese (B&NES).
- 5.8% of lives “limited a lot” by a disability (B&NES).
- 120 employment & support allowance claimants (B&NES).
- Child poverty (5%) is low compared to the UK (27%).
- Chew Valley South Ward is one of the highest rate of under 18 emergency admissions for injuries.
- The Chew Valley car scheme is run by 47 volunteers for medical appointments only. In the last year 170 passenger journeys were made averaging between 2 miles to longer distances eg RUH in Bath.
- There have been approximately 8 floods in the area since 1960. In July 1968, double the normal rainfall fell in just 18 hours, flooding 88 properties in Chew Magna – some up to 2m deep.

the authority area - latest census shows an increase by 42% of people aged 75+ (Chew Valley South Ward).

Whilst many of the villages have some services for the local community to access these are widely spread. Coupled with the lack of public transport in the rural area, accessing doctor's surgeries, schools, shops and post offices requires most people to travel by private transport, either by car or taxi. The increased costs of accessing services together with the increased costs of housing has led to rural living becoming less and less affordable, and for some completely unaffordable. This is particularly a problem for older people, families with young children and young people.

## Chew Valley Priorities

The Forum has identified a number of priorities that are of particular concern to the area which are set out below under eight common themes. The Forum recognises that work is already underway in some areas to address these issues, such as Neighbourhood plan, Placemaking, Flood Forum etc. However there are two areas where the biggest impact is being felt by the community, these are:-

Increase **Health & Wellbeing** by:

- improving access to services by offering more accessible ways to deliver services recognising the challenges of rural life and reducing inequality, isolation and loneliness.

Improve **Transport provision** to:

- increase the health and wellbeing of those more isolated by considering alternative methods to public transport.
- help reduce the impact of congestion by improving connections to the main public transport routes for commuters.

The Forum will regularly review its eight themes in order to respond to new challenges and changing circumstances. Their other priorities include:-

Children & Young people -

- improve the provision of services and facilities for young people.

Developments and Infrastructure-

- ensure the impact of development maintains the identity of villages and provides sufficient improvements to infrastructure such as schools, roads, traffic and health.
- Improve the availability of affordable housing for local people.

Economic Development & Enterprise -

- support rural businesses to thrive.
- improve the access to broadband for rural businesses.

Environmental, Sustainability and Climate Change -

- maintain awareness of the threat of Fracking in the local community.
- reduce the impact of flooding by working in partnership with agencies and the community to identify prevention measures and maintenance.

Stronger Communities -

- ensure community facilities are accessible and affordable to the whole community.

Safer Communities-

- provide a safe community by reducing anti-social behaviour.

## **Priority 1 - Health & Wellbeing**

Further information needs to be obtained from:-

- Village Agents
- Social housing – what level, existing social housing and type of stock
- Hospital provision – where?
- Projections figures for schools and health?
- Neighbourhood plan data
- GP surgery – share data with GP surgeries

## **Priority 2 – Transport provision**

Further information needs to be obtained from:-

- Dial a ride – who access the services
- Transport – age related issues
- Regional data regarding Transport – Regional spatial strategy
- Parish survey's - priorities for transport and other issues