



**Connecting Communities**  
**Note of the meeting of the Chew Valley Area Forum**  
**held on Thursday, 20th November, 2014, 6.30pm**  
**in The Wellsway - Harptree Hill, West Harptree, BS40 6EJ**

<b>Meeting Attendance</b>	
Rodney Douglas Andrews	Chew Magna Parish Council
Kate Atkinson	Temple Cloud & Cameley Parish Council
Mike Bolwell	Avon and Somerset Police
Judith Chubb-Whittle	Stanton Drew Parish Council
Tony Crouch	Chair, Keynsham Connecting Communities Forum
Richard Curry	Chair, Chew Valley Area Forum
Richard Daone	Bath & North East Somerset Council – Planning Policy Officer
Sara Dixon	Bath & North East Somerset Council – Stronger Communities Officer
David Dixon	Bath & North East Somerset Council - Stronger Communities Officer
Peter Duppa-Miller OBE	Local Councils Association
John A Harvey	Stanton Drew Parish Council
Mark Hayward	Bath & North East Somerset Council - Strategy & Performance Officer
Chris Head	West of England Rural Network
Wera Hobhouse	Paulton Resident
Richard Ireland	West Harptree Parish Council
Rosemary Naish	Clutton Parish Council
Councillor Vic Pritchard	Bath & North East Somerset - Ward Councillor
Glyn Samways	Avon and Somerset Police
Inspector Will Stephens	Avon and Somerset Police
Jill Tovey	Chew Valley Resident
Councillor Tim Warren	Bath & North East Somerset – Ward Councillor
John Weiss	Ubley Parish Council

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- 1.1 Richard Curry Chair of the Forum welcomed everyone to the meeting. The aim of the Forum is to improve collaboration and engagement between the public sector, voluntary sector and the local community. As a way of encouraging members of the public to attend our meetings, at our last meeting we agreed to split the meeting into two parts.



- 1.2 The first part of the meeting, 'Ask the Forum', will be an informal open session where members of the public and forum members are invited to ask questions. This will last no longer than 1 hour. The second part of the meeting is more formal and will include presentations and invited speakers on topical issues.
- 1.3 'Ask the Forum' session will finish at 7.20pm, there will be a short tea break before commencing the second part of the meeting. Members of the public are invited to stay if they wish.

## **2. Ask the Forum**

2.1 The Chair invited questions. There were no questions submitted in advance of the meeting.

2.2 Will Stevens from Avon and Somerset Police provided the meeting with an update covering the Chew Valley.

2.2.1 The levels of crime that has been report in the area is low.

2.2.2 An aim of the Police in the area is to remain highly visible.

2.2.3 In the lead up to Christmas there will be a visible level of patrols.

2.2.4 The PACT meeting for the Chew Valley area will no longer be meeting. Reports will now be presented at the Chew Valley Area Forum. The intention will be to have a representative present at Forum.

2.2.5 There has been a level of anti-social behaviour investigated in Bishop Sutton, Gemma is monitoring this and is engaging with the young people in the area. An honest reflection of the issues is required and any additional reporting will help with this.

2.2.6 There are visible patrols on Norton Lane to keep check on vehicles speeding when using as a cut through.

2.2.7 A pedal store in Chew Valley has been requested and ideas are being looked at.

2.2.8 Speeding issues on the A37 are logged; the statistics report will be looked at and reported back to the next meeting.

2.3 Mike Boswell from Avon and Somerset Police provided the meeting with an update covering Paulton.

2.3.1 There has been widespread concern raised by farmers due to the level thefts from barns and stables. Farmwatch is operational and the intention is that messages will be got out through this group.



2.3.2 Criminals appear to be watching properties and planning before carrying out the thefts.

2.3.3 Operation shogun has been operational. Farmers and the police are buddying up in Land Rovers and are using radio communications to report any strange activities.

2.3.4 There have been a number of barn fires across the area, information was requested using the media and a person has been arrested and bailed for the offences. There fires have stopped since the arrest was made.

2.3.5 A tractor that was stolen in Stanton Drew, enquiries are ongoing.

2.3.6 A problem was investigated in West Harptree regarding issues with a dog, no criminal offences were committed but the owner has been made aware of their responsibilities to the animal.

2.3.7 A report was made of two men in a van trying to sell a generator. Descriptions and registration number should be fed into the Police where incidents like this occur.

## 2.4 Questions and comments

2.4.1 Was the tractor that was stolen stripped down for parts? – It is unknown if the tractor was stripped down but it was it would have been easier to move and ship out of the UK.

2.4.2 There was a report of two men in East Harptree being apprehended, what happened? – The Police attended a call but the vehicle was gone, we remain on the lookout for this.

2.4.3 Is the community speed watch scheme back in operation? – Yes this is in operation in Temple Cloud; the Officer is now in place and is able to administer the paperwork. Any feedback on this scheme can be fed into the Chair of this meeting.

2.4.4 There is a growing level of concern about the number of cycling events that are taking place in the Chew Valley area, a number of the events have official permission but there are others that do not. The issue is that where bikes are riding two or three abreast is causing bad or impatient driving from motorists. The police agreed that this is an item that they will report back on at the next meeting; the initial thoughts are that there needs to be a better level of education between cyclists and other road users to ensure everybody's road safety.

2.4.5 A suggestion was raised around the cycling issue. In the longer term thought is needed for finding ways to keep motorists and cyclists separated when possible as they do not mix well.

2.5 Ed Brammal, Neighbourhoods Manager for Curo, has agreed to answer any Curo related questions. Ed was unable to be present at this meeting but is happy to have questions passed on to him.



**(15 MIN BREAK)**

### **3. Apologies and notes of the previous meeting**

3.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Paul Crossley (B&NES) and Ed Bramall (Curo).

3.2 The notes were agreed as an accurate record.

### **4. Matters arising**

#### **4.1 Highways Issues**

4.1.1 The closure of Chew Stoke High Street has resulted in a diversion being put into place that signposts people on a fifteen mile diversion for a five hundred yard stretch of road. Environmental Services Director, Matthew Smith was invited to attend this meeting but declined. The solution that was put in place was not sufficient and appears to have been an urban solution in a rural area. The road that passes the Pony and Trap pub was brought into a state of gridlock.

4.1.2 In one month's time another situation will be created when Chew Valley High Street is closed due to Hibernia roadworks.

4.1.3 The closures are having a negative impact on businesses with very little understanding to this matter being given. It takes a long time for businesses to recover from such a loss in trade.

4.1.4 School coaches that use the routes are impacted and late attendance has been a result of the delays.

4.1.5 There needs to be a better level of communication about planned highways works with businesses and the communities being better informed.

4.1.6 It was commented that the closure of Dundry Hill was miss-managed.

4.1.7 There was a suggestion made that more consideration should be given the contractors to carry out works overnight.

### **5. Placemaking**

5.1 The Chair welcomed Richard Daone to the meeting. Richard gave a presentation on the Placemaking Plan consultation.



5.2 The consultations documents are available online at:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/placemaking-plan>

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

5.4 Question and answers raised during this item are as follows:-

Q – Has there been any definition set out about local green spaces?

A – *Yes, this is included in options document in the planning framework.*

Q – Is there communication about the plan being placed in the Chew Valley Gazette?

A – *Local media is being co-ordinated and it we will check that the publication is included.*

Q – Has the extension to the boundaries for affordable housing been agreed?

A – *Yes a parish is able to extend.*

(\*It was commented that other than Bishop Sutton no other parishes are keen to extend)

## **6. Area profile, forum priorities and action plan**

6.1 Sara Dixon referred to the amended profile previously circulated to group. This is a working draft and aims to provide an overview of the population and its characteristics and 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.

6.2 The forum was asked to think about any gaps that may exist and what else could be included. We need to decide how we will move the profile forward.

6.2.1 It was suggested that data around first and second car ownership would be useful to have included, this would show how high the level are in some parishes.

6.2.2 Data on GP Surgeries would be seen as a useful addition.

6.3 The point was raised that there are four existing Neighbourhood Plans within the Chew Valley area, we need to be careful that there is not duplication occurring.

6.3.1 The Forum profile is a broader document than the Neighbourhood plans. An effort to avoid confusion with overlaps needs to be considered.

6.3.2 There needs to be coverage that takes in the whole area which includes parishes without neighbourhood plans and cross reference to the parishes that do have them.

6.3.3 Volunteers are required to take the area profile onto the next stage.



## **7. Rural Broadband**

7.1 The broadband discussion was differed to the next meeting. A new officer has been appointed and will be able to provide a clearer explanation of what is being done and take on actions from the forum.

## **8. 10 in 100 Project**

8.1 For information. The Council's internal 10 in 100 project, which aims to bring forward the ideas of staff through a supported programme, is exploring the idea of offering this to the community. Any ideas for this programme to be sent to Sara Dixon.

8.2 Previous projects included; Parish Rangers, incentives for volunteers, Book Bugs, Reading between the lines, shopping plus, Wheels for All and Warpit.

## **9. Any other business**

9.1 None

## **10. Future agenda items**

10.1 Scheduling Highway works.

10.2 High Speed Broadband

10.3 Cycling Issues - Police Update

## **11. Dates of future meetings**

11.1 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 6.30pm, The Wellsway - Harptree Hill, West Harptree, BS40 6EJ