



**Note of the meeting of the Somer Valley Forum
held on Tuesday, 25th November, 2014
in Beacon Hall - Peasedown St John**

Present:

Name	Organisation Represented	Status
Terry Taylor (TT)	Norton Radstock Regeneration (Chair)	Voting Member
Cllr Rob Appleyard (RA)	Bath and North East Somerset Council	Voting Member
Ed Bramall (EB)	Regional Manager, Neighbourhood Services, Curo	Public Services
Cllr Sheila Clarke (SC)	Timsbury Parish Council	Voting Member
Tracey Cox (TC)	Clinical Commissioning Group	Public Services
Dawn Clarke (DC)	Clinical Commissioning Group	Public Services
Cllr Paul Crossley (PC)	Bath and North East Somerset Council	Observer
Cllr Doug Deacon (DD)	Bath and North East Somerset Council	Voting Member
Cllr Marilyn Deacon (MD)	Timsbury Parish Council	Observer
Simon de Beer (SdeB)	Group Manager, Planning Policy, B&NES (part)	Presenting
Dave Dixon (DD)	Stronger Communities Manager, B&NES	Support
Peter Duppa-Miller (PDM)	Avon Local Councils Association	Observer
Cllr Brian Edwards (BW)	Camerton Parish Council	Corresponding Member
Cllr Michael Evans (ME)	Bath and North East Somerset Council	Voting Member
Alex Francis (AF)	Healthwatch	Observer
Cons. Mark Graham (MG)	Avon and Somerset Police	Public Services
Cllr Nathan Hartley (NH)	Bath and North East Somerset Council	Voting Member
Cllr Liz Hardman (LH)	Bath and North East Somerset Council	Voting Member
Wera Hobhouse (WH)	Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for North East Somerset (arrived at 7.15pm)	Observer
Cllr Eleanor Jackson (EJ)	Bath and North East Somerset Council	Voting Member
Louise Jones (LJ)	Avon and Somerset Police	Public Services
Cate Le Grice-Mack (CLGM)	Radstock Regeneration (arrived at 7.15pm)	Voting Member
Cllr Les Kew (LK)	Bath and North East Somerset Council	Voting Member
Cllr Sue Langdon (SL)	Timsbury Parish Council	Observer
Cllr Barry Macrae (BMc)	B&NES	Voting Member
Cllr Lesley Mansell (LM)	Radstock Town Council (Vice Chair)	Voting Member
Cllr Paul Myers (PM)	B&NES	Voting Member

Suzanne Norbury (SN)	Somerset Guardian	Observer
Cllr Veronica Packham (VP)	Timsbury Parish Council	Voting Member
Andrew Pate (AP)	Strategic Director of Resources, B&NES	Presenting
Penny Routledge (PR)	Norton Radstock College	Voting Member
Cllr Bryan Wallbridge (BW)	Westfield Parish Council	Voting Member
Alison Wells (AW)	Community Projects Officer, B&NES	Support
Rob Wicke (RWi)	ReGenerate	Observer
Cllr Les Wild (LW)	Paulton Parish Council	Voting Member
Robert Williams (RW)	Prattens Westfield Amateur Sports Club	Voting Member
Pauline Young (PY)	Clerk – High Littleton Parish Council	Voting Member

Apologies:

Cllr Simon Allen	B&NES	Voting Member
Richard Baldwin	Divisional Director, B&NES	Support
Jason Edwards	Avon Fire and Rescue	Public Services
Royston Knight	Radstock Action Group	Voting Member
Heidi Limbert	B&NES Children's Centre Service Manager	Observer
Brian Perrett	Radstock Residents' Association	Voting Member
Lynda Robertson	Midsomer Norton Society (Vice-Chair)	Voting Member
Shirley Steel	Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust	Voting Member
Nick Turner	Radstock Museum	Voting Member
Tina Veater	Midsomer Norton and District Chamber of Commerce	Voting Member
Cllr John Whittock	Peasedown St John Parish Council	Voting Member

1. Welcome

1.1 The Chair welcomed those present and gave a safety briefing

2. Introductions and Apologies

2.1 All introduced themselves. Apologies as above.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 There was none.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

4.1 These were proposed by PDM; seconded by ME and agreed as a true record by majority. ME asked whether the Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust now have a vote. AW confirmed that they do.

5. Matters arising

5.1 EJ said that the Radstock and Westfield Economic Forum is now established, although it had taken some time. DD said due to the cyclical nature of the Town and Parish Council meetings, it had taken some time for their representatives to be formally identified. The next meeting would take place on 1/12/14.

6. Consultation Items

Placemaking Presentation

6.1 TT welcomed Simon de Beer to present on Placemaking.

Action AW to circulate the presentation with the minutes.

6.2 SdeB said the Placemaking Plan Options Document is now on the Council's website. Parish and Town Councils will receive a hard copy of the document but it is also available on-line <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/placemaking-plan>.

6.3 When the Placemaking Plan is adopted, it will complement the Core Strategy, which is a broad requirement – Placemaking provides more detail and gives clarity on applications. It has been broken down into four areas: Bath; Keynsham; Somer Valley and Rural. Planning Policy is consulting on the document until 30th January 2015. They will then work collaboratively with Town and Parish Councils and local communities to draft the document. This will be examined externally in a process similar to the adopted Core Strategy. In terms of the Somer Valley, the sites should be familiar but are they right? Are any missing? Are they deliverable? What will the impact be in terms of access, highways, landscaping etc?

6.4 Over the next six months, there will be a Housing Development Boundary Review and B&NES will work with Town and Parish Councils on this. As part of the consultation process, B&NES will be holding exhibitions, undertaking publicity and holding drop in events. If any villages would like to host an event, or combine this with another, contact Planning Policy. Support with publicity would also be appreciated.

Action All

6.5 SdeB said the Council appreciates the work put in by Parishes to date – it is important to get policies right as they will be used by Planning Committees when considering applications. TT thanked SdeB for his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

6.6 BMc asked SdeB to confirm that the consultation and contributions will not overturn or supersede the Core Strategy. He said that housing is a key issue and wondered whether Town or Parish Councils could overturn the recommendations in the Core Strategy by identifying other sites – which document has priority? SdeB said the Core Strategy is strategic and should not be contradicted by Neighbourhood Planning.

6.7 NH said that Peasedown should not have more housing allocated to it – the village's amenities and services still need to catch up. Also, Paulton and Peasedown seem to be paired in documents but should be seen separately. The Somer Valley Forum can work together but also needs to recognise communities' differences. Peasedown Parish Council has voted not to

change allocations as part of the Housing Development Review – will they be listened to? SdeB said no new sites have been identified in Peasedown. He appreciated the feedback re separating Peasedown and Paulton and this can be done going forward. The Housing Development Review is there to correct any anomalies.

Action SdeB

6.8 WH asked how the Council aims to engage the public in the process? SdeB said this is not always easy and they usually become more involved when development is planned. However, undertaking local events should help, as should the support of the Somer Valley Forum in raising the consultation profile locally.

6.9 LH said Paulton is closer to the Cam Valley than the Somer Valley. She asked whether the development highlighted here is industrial or housing? SdeB said it is the Old Mills employment site. The Council supports this designation but the Government requires a view, so a decision needs to be made on whether this use is appropriate.

6.10 BE said some communities do not have the infrastructure in place to support additional development. This includes the impact on the road networks of neighbouring communities, such as Camerton, which has seen increasing volumes and speed of traffic as a result of nearby development. There were S106 agreements in place regarding the recent housing development in Paulton but nothing seems to have happened. SdeB said there are no sites in Camerton coming forward and 50 dwellings allocated to larger villages. It will be important to speak with Transport and Highways about these issues.

6.11 EJ said local employment, with jobs at a reasonable distance is the answer. The area seems to be losing employment space to housing. SdeB said the Council will work with Town and Parish Councils on local communities' wishes. However, it is not possible to hold on to undeliverable employment sites as developers may win on appeal.

6.12 BMc said we've got a Core Strategy with which we are broadly happy and there is a growing number of employers at Old Mills – a minority wish to see it developed as accommodation. SdeB said there is Greenfield allocation to the west of the existing employment building which has not come forward in ten years.

6.13 ME asked for clarification of 'SUDS'. SdeB said it is a sustainable open drainage system which allows water to be absorbed into the ground first.

6.14 RW said developers will do what they want, even if 90% of people object. SdeB said the Council was vulnerable when there was no Local Plan in place and some sites were lost. However, it is now able to resist and refuse applications.

6.15 EJ said she is worried about Greenfield developments in Paulton as it may merge with Midsomer Norton – there does not seem to be enough protection. SdeB said Greenfield sites are not being looked at in this area – Old Mills exists from the 2007 Local Plan. Housing boundaries should protect merging of communities. Developers will try and there are a couple of appeals taking place but the Council is working to resist these.

6.16 CLGM said statistics show the changing pattern of employment to an increase in home-working. SdeB said the latest Census data relating to commuting should be available before the end of the year.

6.17 SC said that, in Timsbury, there is an industrial owner that wants housing. SdeB said that rather than engage in detailed discussion about individual communities, he will speak directly with the Parish Council on this.

Action SdeB

6.18 BW asked what would be done to encourage appropriate infrastructure to support development. There are employment sites that no-one wants because of the road network. SdeB said employment sites are situated in or near town centres. There is also an infrastructure delivery plan relating to the Core Strategy, which includes education as well as roads. It is difficult as the development proposed is low level and the related CIL money will not be enough to fund major road building. Most new growth has been allocated to Bath and Keynsham to avoid transportation issues.

6.19 RA asked whether 9 weeks, over Christmas, is enough to allow the community and Town/Parish Councils to respond. SdeB said this is the start of a process and the Council will be working with Town and Parish Councils over the next 6 – 9 months.

6.20 TT thanked everyone and introduced Dawn Clarke and Tracy Cox of the B&NES Clinical Commissioning Group.

CCG Presentation

6.21 TC said the CCG is pleased to have been invited and would like to attend Forum meetings more regularly in future. As an introduction, they will present this evening on their 5 Year Strategy and Primary Care in the Somer Valley.

6.22 Clinical Commissioning Groups replaced Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in 2013 as part of a re-organisation of the National Health Service. More clinicians are now involved in commissioning front-line services. The CCG is made up of 27 GP practices in B&NES. There is a Governing Body which is accountable to them. The Somer Valley is represented on this by a GP from St Chad's surgery.

6.23 The CCG are not responsible for GPs, opticians, dentistry and some specialised treatments. They have a £213m budget and work closely with B&NES to join pathways of care. There are some areas where they jointly commission, such as mental health. They also commission some services from The Circle Hospital and BMI Bath Clinic as well as the RUH.

6.24 While the CCG is performing well, it will face challenges going forward related to reductions in public sector funding. It is important to understand local communities when planning current and future services, which is done through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

6.25 GP practices are grouped into 5 clusters and regular meetings are held between them. For the 5 year strategy, they have been asked to set out a plan in relation to the national financial picture. There is currently a £20m funding gap, so some services will need to be delivered differently.

6.26 Future challenges in B&NES are similar to the national picture – people are living longer so we need to be ready to deal with an increasingly elderly population. If services continue to be delivered as now, there will be a £60m shortfall.

6.26 The strategy looks at a shift to where care is provided. Hospital care is expensive, so there is emphasis on preventative care. The new model also looks at provision in local communities. There is focus on self-management and care as well as support from third sector providers.

The strategy is on the CCG website

<http://www.bathandnortheastsomersetccg.nhs.uk/publications>.

6.27 There are six priorities:-

- There is a 7% increase in diabetes, so emphasis on preventative and self-care in relation to this.
- MSK is musculo-skeletal services – pain and orthopaedics – spending more on that than expected at present. Solution may be to increase physiotherapy services.
- Urgent A&E
- Other priorities relate to community services, mental health etc. Working with B&NES on how community services might be delivered.

6.28 The CCG want to engage with local communities on their views between January and April 2015. There will be a series of events and they will be seeking the Somer Valley Forum's input.

Quality – Dawn Clarke

6.29 DC said the CCG is also concerned with ensuring the care received is safe and of a high quality, delivered by caring staff. They work closely with providers to ensure this, utilising:-

- Quality schedules: safe-guarding/complaints
- CQUIN: incentivising providers to improve the patient experience
- Cost improvements across services: quality impact of care
- Site visits: GP clinical leads, nurses, lay members, wards and departments talk with people about first hand experiences of both staff and providers.

6.30 The CCG doesn't commission primary care – this is done by NHS England. GP practices now publish details on their websites of how they are performing. Grades are 1 to 6, with 6 being the highest. All those in the Somer Valley are graded 5 or 6. There is also a GP survey, with the latest published in July. Practices in B&NES are above the national average.

6.31 TT thanked TC and DC for their presentation and asked if there are any questions.

6.32 BMc said it was a very helpful overview. He asked why the local cluster had been named Norton-Radstock – it should be Somer Valley now, with all public services 'singing from the same hymn sheet'. TC will take this back to the CCG.

Action TC

6.33 LH said she had been informed that services formerly provided by children's centres will be picked up by health visitors. TC said there has been an increase in the number of health visitors but the CCG do not commission this – it is the responsibility of the Council. It is an important role in terms of prevention and early intervention. A new role will also be created around health visitors for the elderly. There are only three of these at present but the service will expand. LH asked who funds the health visitors. TC said NHS England – the CCG is accountable to them. The Council will pay when services transfer.

6.34 RW asked whether patients can still choose where they receive treatment. TC said in some cases private treatment can be commissioned and paid for by the CCG but some specialist care comes from NHS England.

6.35 PDM asked about Out of Hours Primary Care – will patients see the same or different doctors? TC said GP's services are generally 8.30am – 6.30pm. In 2006, GPs could opt out of providing out of hours care. The CCG do commission this and re-tendered it this year. It was awarded to Bath Doctors' Out of Hours Care. Patients can ring 111 for access. PDM said, so it could be the same GP but funded from a different source. TC said yes.

6.36 EJ said she sits on the Scrutiny Panel for Wellbeing and is aware of deficiencies in commissioned services. The 111 service is not functioning well and asked how they can be held to account? TC said it depends on the contract but sometimes penalties/warnings are possible. They can also terminate contracts and go elsewhere.

6.37 LM said there is a rising number of people with dementia and asked what provision there is for care. TC said work is taking place to identify patients with dementia in the local area. The CCG has commissioned dementia support workers who will connect individuals and their families to relevant services. There is also a RICE memory clinic undertaking research in Bath. The RUH is a dementia pathway. Sirona provides aids and adaptations and the need to further invest in this is being evaluated.

6.38 WH asked who set the priorities and how flexible the plan is. Mental Health is not one of the 6 priorities, despite a drive to change this and put it on a par with physical health. TC said there is a need to provide further beds at Hillview and they are working with the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Trust on this. Priorities were set in relation to areas requiring most transformation. Stakeholder feedback is important and the setting up a Wellbeing College is planned.

6.39 NH said the challenge for the CCG is being accountable and accessible. They have a lot of public funding and people need to feel their views matter. Consultation should not be tokenistic. Parish Councillors and Officers know what people think and it is important to engage with them. TC said the CCG has just written an engagement strategy. There is reference to the Somer Valley Forum and local Town and Parish Councils in it. NH said it is not possible to vote out CCG reps in the same way as Councillors.

6.40 Alex Francis of Healthwatch B&NES introduced herself and said this was set up in April 2013 to act as an independent consumer champion for health and social care services, such as GP surgeries, hospitals, dentists, pharmacies, care homes and social services. They speak to members of the public to find out whether the services they have received are good, bad, or could do with some improvements. They then share this information with service providers and

commissioners, including the NHS, hospital trusts, local authorities and the Care Quality Commission, and work with them to shape services based on the needs of the people that use them.

6.41 Healthwatch B&NES is run by The Care Forum, a charity based in Bristol. The Care Forum also runs Healthwatch schemes in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Somerset, enabling them to have an overview of a wide geographical area and the provision of health and social care services across it. Each Healthwatch scheme has its own priorities that are unique to the district and communities within it.

6.42 The priorities for B&NES include: public/patient transport, long-term conditions, older people and dementia, children with physical impairments and the transition from children's to adult services. These are specific communities or services that they are particularly interested to hear about, however they are keen to encourage people to get in touch with them about any aspect of health or social care within B&NES.

6.43 AF said her role as Healthwatch Development Officer is to speak to members of the public and gather as much feedback as possible about their experiences. She does this through visiting groups and attending events, or alternatively people can get in touch directly through the contact details listed below. Healthwatch B&NES also has a range of volunteer roles available, giving people the opportunity to help shape and improve local health and social care services – for further info visit www.healthwatchbathnes.co.uk.

T: 01225 232401
E: info@healthwatchbathnes.co.uk

TT thanked everyone for their contributions.

7. Standing Items

7.1 DD introduced Mark Graham and Louise Jones from Avon and Somerset Police.

7.2 MG said that since the last Forum meeting, the Carnival had taken place in Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Westfield. Overall it was well received by the public but there were a few teething problems to address for the future. There were few reported crimes. There has been a spate of vehicle crime in Radstock recently, particularly in Lower Whitelands. This is being investigated and may be a one-off target. In Peasedown, the Beat Team is tackling anti-social behaviour (eg littering, egg throwing and door knocking). Twelve people have now signed acceptable behaviour contracts relating to this. In Paulton, the Police worked with a local housing association re a tenant eviction. Community Speedwatch schemes are being set up in Radstock and Peasedown – they are both seeking volunteers to join. In the run up to Christmas, there was a reminder not to put presents on public view. Also, to be aware of security in relation to recently filled oil tanks.

7.3 TT thanked the Police and asked if there were any questions. PR said it would be useful for her/the College to know about any of their students that have signed acceptable behaviour contracts. MH said these are signed by the police, the child and their parents/guardians. There is no legal comeuppance if they breach it but it will trigger the start of evidence gathering that could lead to an anti-social behaviour order. He will liaise with PR on this.

Action MG

7.4 WH said she always hears much praise of the Police from local people.

7.5 LM asked whether the Radstock Community Speedwatch will include Writhlington? MG said once the volunteers have been trained, they will work with them on the most appropriate locations.

7.6 BMc said the Community Speedwatch had been very successful in Midsomer Norton but he wonders who funds the speed-guns they use? MG said he would find out and come back to him. The Police left the meeting at this point.

Action MG

8. Action Planning

8.1 DD said that while this is only the third meeting of the Forum, it is important to push ahead with this and identify priorities. The Council is working on developing area profiles to support this and to compare and contrast all the Forum areas. The initial work will be sent out with the minutes and all are to consider information they hold (such as Community Plans) that might be fed into this. Also, potential sub-groups that might be established.

Action AW/ALL

8.2 AP said by Summer 2015, it would be useful to have identified some priorities, involving a range of partners. At the next meeting, it may be useful to identify some sub-groups and consider how the profiles might be developed and used. We also need assistance from all members in ensuring the right organisations are represented on the Forum.

Action All

9. Future Agenda Items

9.1 DD said that Economic Development had been suggested as a topic.

9.2 EJ suggested public transport, due to proposals by Somerset Country Council to reduce bus services. She said it is important Mendip Parishes attend such a meeting to get their input.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 There was none.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

11.1 DD asked whether any Parishes interested in hosting the next meeting could get in touch with him or AW.

Action All