



**Note of the meeting of the Chew Valley Area Forum
held on Monday, 22nd February, 2016
in Chew Valley Secondary School - Chew Magna**

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Draft Notes of the
Chew Valley Area Forum
 22nd February 2016, 6.00pm
 The Library, Chew Valley Secondary School, Chew Magna

Present

Name	Organisation Represented
Chris Head	West of England Rural Network and Chair of Forum
Cllr Rodney Andrews	Vice-Chair, Chew Magna Parish Council
Ashley Ayre	Strategic Director People & Communities, B&NES and Forum Sponsor
Cllr Ashton Broad	Chair, Whitchurch Parish Council
Chris Brookes	Local Resident
Cllr Judith Chubb-Whittle	Chair, Stanton Drew Parish Council
Cllr Heather Clewett	Vice-Chair, Stowey Sutton Parish Council
Cllr Chris Craig	Compton Martin Parish Council
Peter Dawson (part)	Group Manager, B&NES Transportation and Planning
Sara Dixon	Acting Stronger Communities Manager, B&NES
Cllr Lynne Easton	Chew Magna Parish Council
Cllr Charles Gerrish (part)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency, Conservative Deputy Group Leader
John Harvey	Clerk, Stanton Drew Parish Council
Cllr Tony Heaford	Vice Chair of the Forum and Councillor for Publow with Pensford Parish Council
Helen Hewitt	Compton Martin Village Hall
Cllr Tony Hooper	Chair, Cameley Parish Council
Cllr Richard Ireland	West Harptree Parish Council
Cllr Andrew Jones	East Harptree Parish Council
Cllr Chris Lane	Norton Malreward Parish Council
Cllr Holger Laux	Chair, Dundry Parish Council
Chris Lewis	Local Resident
Heidi Limbert	Children's Centre Service Manager, B&NES
Cllr Andy Matthews	Chew Magna Parish Council
Cllr Rosemary Naish	Chair, Clutton Parish Council
Paul Pearce (part)	Parks Project Manager, B&NES
Stuart Peard	Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Cllr Victor Pritchard	Ward Councillor for Chew Valley South and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
John Weiss	Ubley Parish Council
Cllr Liz Richardson	Ward Councillor for Chew Valley North and Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning
Kevin Thatcher	Chief Inspector, Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Cllr Martin Veal from 6.20pm	Cabinet Member for Community Services, B&NES
Cllr Jim Webster	Winford Parish Council
Alison Wells	Community Projects Officer, B&NES
Evan Wienberg from 6.45pm	Truespeed
Sarah Williams	Swan Advice Network

Informal Open Public Session (6pm – 7pm)

		Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
1.1	CH welcomed those present and read out the following statement	

	<p>regarding the pre-election period in respect of the forthcoming referendum on the future governance of Bath and North East Somerset:</p> <p><i>‘The Referendum on the future Governance of the Council will be conducted in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections. In the lead up to a referendum there is a 6 week pre-referendum period (commonly known as “purdah)”. During this time, pre-referendum restrictions apply and Councils are required to take particular care over publicity to ensure that communications are balanced and without bias – that there is no appearance of support for one side or the other in the referendum. Therefore this Forum will not able be take any questions or comments regarding the campaigns for or against.’</i></p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Updates including Q&A</p> <p><u>2a - Update on Local Police Matters and Crime Stats</u></p> <p>2.1 CH welcomed Kevin Thatcher. Chief Inspector for B&NES. KT said he appreciates that there has been some inconsistency in terms of leadership in Avon and Somerset but that Andy Marsh has now been appointed as the new Chief Constable, so there should be some improvement going forward.</p> <p>2.2 The Police budgets are not being cut but they are having to direct existing resources to emerging issues such as terrorism; cyber crime and child protection which equates to a saving of £16m - £20 over the next 3-4 years.</p> <p>2.3 The Police are currently looking at a strategic alliance with Wiltshire – this could save £30m by pooling ‘back-room’ resources such as HR. They are doing our utmost to protect front-line services. The new Commander, Ian Smith, is keen to ensure the Police remain visible and accessible. Numbers have decreased due to a freeze on recruitment but the Police are recruiting again now.</p> <p>2.4 THooper said he was pleased to see Stuart Peard at the meeting as he had heard the number of Beat Managers and Neighbourhood Police was being reduced. KT said there had been some restructuring with the Neighbourhood and Patrol teams now combined.</p> <p>2.5 THeaford asked what the public should be looking out for. KT said in this area shed break-ins and cold calling are an issue. He advised looking for verifiable ID when answering the door to cold callers. He urged residents to call the Police if they are aware of anything suspicious. Cold callers often prey on the vulnerable. SP added that it is important to look after older people in the community and check on them where possible.</p> <p>2.6 VP said that when they had the PACT meetings, they ran out of incidents but there seem to be a number in the Police’s written report circulated at the meeting – has there been a spike in the Chew Valley? SP said there can be spikes in activity but a suspect has recently been identified. Non-dwelling burglaries are fairly common at this time of year when people are not regularly checking out-buildings. KT said crime rates are fairly low compared with other areas. SP said West Harptree Stores were broken into but the suspects were arrested soon after. Police are currently investigating another incident in West Harptree where a horse was hit by a trailer and seriously injured. If anyone has any information on this, they</p>	<p>ALL</p>

	would be pleased to hear from them.	
	<u>2b – Council’s Budget – Cllr Charles Gerrish</u>	
2.7	CG said he came to November’s meeting as part of pre budget consultation. Following this, came the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement and settlement to Local Authorities. The figures for this received on 21 st December came as a shock. The Council’s projections are usually right but there was a £3.6m reduction, which was more than anticipated and the Council had a short time to react before the Budget meeting.	
2.8	CG said that he and Tim Warren went to see the Minister and received £900k transition funding per year for two years. The Council is undertaking a management and service review to be implemented in the Autumn – reserves will be used in the interim. The Council has had to make provision of £360k in anticipation of a Mayoral Election as well. The transition funding will be used to implement savings and as contingency.	
2.9	There will be a 2% adult social care tax being implemented and a 1.25% rise in Council Tax – the lowest increase in the West of England. The budget will protect frontline services. This area can also expect bin and bench replacements; refurbishment of play areas; highways works (including bank stabilisation at Belluton) and drainage works.	
2.10	CH said he thought there had been works at Belluton already. SD to check. CH said works here cause a lot of disruption with a 19 km diversion put in place. CG said he hopes that a longer term improvement may help reduce future closures.	SD
	<u>2c – Joint Spatial Plan – update</u>	
2.11	LR said the recent consultation has now closed. A plan will be developed in early summer based on the results. No sites have been identified at present – just strategic ideas. Any sites identified will still be dealt with through the Placemaking Plan and Core Strategy.	
2.12	CH said all five Forums gave a joint response to the consultation. He hopes individual Parishes also commented. There will be further consultation after this – working groups have been set up for the Parishes most likely to be affected. The first meeting took place last week but it was short notice.	
2.13	SD said that the following Parish Clerks should have been notified about the meeting and to let her know if you are unaware of the working group meetings: Cameley/Temple Cloud; Chew Magna; Clutton; Norton Malreward; Pensford & Publow and Stowey Sutton	
2.14	LR said that if any Parishes missed last week’s meeting, there would be a further one for the Somer Valley and Bathavon area on 25 th February, which would be similar in content – they would be welcome to attend this.	
2.15	SD said Planning Policy would be coming back to all April Forum meetings to give an update.	
	<u>2d – Parish Clerks’ Survey</u>	
2.16	SD said that at the Forum workshops held in July, a number of issues	

	<p>were raised around communications with, and support for, Town and Parish Councils/Clerks. A working group was set up to look at these issues in more detail, involving Clerks that had expressed an interest. A survey of all Parish and Town Clerks has now been undertaken, which has had a 70% response rate. Those that have not yet responded will be contacted. Some of the information requested was practical in nature and the responses have been very helpful.</p>	
2.17	<p>SD said a meeting with ALCA had also taken place re the training requested so that the Council and ALCA can complement each other and not duplicate. Work is on-going and we will share the information when it is complete.</p>	SD
2.18	<p>CH added that, as part of the Connecting Communities programme, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each Forum regularly meet to share common issues. The aim is not to duplicate what Parishes and Councillors are doing but to join things up. Senior officers and Councillors attend these meetings, so Forums to have access to them in this way, as well as through their attendance at Forum meetings.</p> <p><u>2e – Representations of Other Partnership Groups</u></p>	
2.19	<p>SD asked VP to update the group on the recent ‘Your Care, Your Way’ meeting. VP said this covered a range of topics with more meetings scheduled. This meeting was the first of the cycle so there was no firm conclusion - it was around establishing the group and its intention. It was a little Bath-centric and held at St Martin’s Hospital. If there are any issues relating to Chew, he will let the Forum know.</p>	
3.	<p>Consultation/Information Items – Green Spaces Strategy Update</p>	
3.1	<p>CH introduced Paul Pearce, Parks Project Manager, B&NES. PP said this is a new strategy – the last one was prepared in 2007. It links with new Planning Policy and the Core Strategy.</p>	
3.2	<p>It is has been prepared by consultants who assessed the quantity and quality of green spaces across the district and the levels of access to them. It is important as it will tell us where to direct resources and help inform the way the Council works with developers. S106 monies have been accruing but allocation of funds has not been strategic. Going forward, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds can be used to deliver what the strategy is telling us.</p>	
3.3	<p>The consultants used methodology that has been applied in other parts of the UK. They received 600 responses to a household survey; had access to the Neighbourhood Planning group and consulted with stakeholder groups. They also undertook 600 site visits and mapping work on the quantity of public spaces and access to them. They also considered future need. A series of area action plans has now been prepared broken down in the five Connecting Communities Forum areas.</p>	
3.4	<p>The strategy also looks at green routes, which are the cycle-paths and canal paths being used by for commuting. The usage of these is high, so work to improve them needs to be considered.</p>	
3.5	<p>PP went through key findings and recommendations for the Chew Valley. He asked, for example, whether there is scope for a destination park in</p>	

	<p>the area. VP said there is a question of whether Chew Valley Lake is there for visitors rather than residents but they wouldn't want a 'hurdy gurdy' there. He asked what a 'destination park' is. PP said somewhere like Victoria Park in Bath, where people travel to use the facilities as opposed to a 'doorstep park', which is close to their home. He said a park like this may not be appropriate but perhaps an area for events might be.</p>	
3.6	<p>VP said that the Chew Valley is really only accessible by driving there. CH agreed but said a cycle path around the lake is an aspiration. However, the lake is not under our control – it belongs to Bristol Water.</p>	
3.7	<p>TH said the bullet relating to Cameley is out of date. They are not getting allotments but instead, 'growing patches'. They already have a play area. The developer has said that new green space will be controlled by a management company, not the Parish Council so residents will be paying a precept and a management company fee. CH said the Parish Council can respond to this strategy.</p>	
3.8	<p>CH said it would be useful to know whether the household survey had any responses from this area. He also urged people to feed back to PP on the strategy. A destination park may save other spaces that are being over-used. SD to circulate details of the strategy and contact details for PP – feedback is to go directly to him.</p>	ALL/SD
4.	Restoration of Fingerposts	
4.1	<p>SD said that Publow with Pensford had asked whether anyone else is interested in refurbishing historic fingerposts within their Parishes. If so, it would be possible to join up and potentially apply for funding. A survey about condition is being prepared and if there is interest, let her know.</p>	ALL
4.2	<p>THeaford said that fingerposts are a valuable part of the landscape and have deteriorated. It would be a shame if they were replaced with something different.</p>	
4.3	<p>CH said a similar project had been undertaken by Mendip Hills AONB. VP said Somerset County Council is getting rid of their fingerposts. CG said most parishes in B&NES would be interested and if we can get replacement SCC triangles from this Council, it would be well received.</p>	
5.	Any Other Issues	
5.1	<p>CH congratulated Joe Lomax on winning the Young Carer of the Year Award at the Chairman's Community Awards. Joe is a Chew Magna resident. Peter Duppa-Miller was also honoured with the re-naming of the lifetime achievement award. A film was also made of Peter's contribution to the Parish Councils. This will be shown at the Parish Liaison meeting on Wednesday.</p>	

Break – PP and CG left at this point.

Ordinary Meeting (7.15pm – 8.15pm)

6.	Notes of the Previous Meetings (15th October and 23rd November)	
6.1	These were agreed as a true record.	
7.	Matters Arising	
7.1	CH said most of the actions from the 15 th October meeting had now been completed. With regard to Curo attending meetings, they are going through an organisational change but will hopefully send a representative to the April meeting. He added that the Natural Environment Partnership has not met as yet.	
8.	Chew Valley Transport Strategy – Peter Dawson	
8.1	CH introduced Peter Dawson, B&NES Transportation and Planning.	
8.2	PD said the strategy should be further on and apologised for the delay. He said they are in the process of preparing material for consultation and will advise the Forum when it is ready to begin.	
8.3	The Transport Strategy will link to the Join Spatial Plan. Key issues have been identified, which are contained within the presentation (this will be circulated with the minutes).	
8.4	The slide with blue dots represents the number of traffic collisions. Stefan Chiffers from Highways has reviewed these and is looking at other common issues as well. We will replicate this process for other areas too. VP asked about the time frame for the accidents. PD said it is over a 5 year period. It doesn't show them all – some have been clustered. Different colours demonstrate the level of accident – red is for a fatality. PD said that currently, the classification for a serious injury is one where the person is affected for more than 12 months. They have some detailed information on how fast traffic is speeding through the area too.	
8.5	PD said the Council is trying to encourage health providers to look at access to their services. A workshop focussing on this, involving community transport providers as well, is possible. VP said the work is laudable but a very 'wide sweep'. The Conservative Manifesto commitment is to improve access to public transport. At present, in the Chew Valley, it is not possible to go inter-village and there is scant access to Bath, Bristol and Keynsham. If the scope of the strategy is too wide, it will not be delivered. Cycle routes are less of a priority as residents in this area are reliant on their cars. Road safety and maintenance should be taking place anyway. CH suggested that VP reflect these views to Cabinet. MV said the Forum need to prioritise their views and feedback.	
8.6	CC asked what the school travel plan is? PD said they are trying to engage with schools to minimise car use. This involves looking at where pupils live, their main routes to school and whether they can walk, cycle or use public transport. Also, what safety measures might be needed to encourage different ways of getting to school and what the school itself can do to encourage this.	
8.7	THEaford said there is no mention of agricultural vehicles. He asked whether these would be taken into account? PD said if they cause	

	significant issues for the local community, they will be and thoughts on how issues might be addressed are welcome.	
8.8	THooper said communities are under pressure to take more houses. The route to Bath is so difficult that presumably, new residents will be working in Bristol – there is no hope of reaching Bath without a car.	
8.9	CH asked whether the strategy will come up with proposals for the Forum to consider? PC said there will be a consultation event first and then the strategy priorities will be shaped. CH advised a focus on young people and said the Forum could help facilitate access to them if required.	
8.10	? said there is emerging work on Neighbourhood Plans and asked whether Transport had access to this. PD said yes – they work closely with Planning.	
8.11	CH said the Total Transport Plan links to North Somerset, which is why Winford and Dundry have been invited to attend tonight. PD said they are linking funding streams with North Somerset to develop this further.	
8.12	Bristol Airport directs people into the centre of Bristol. This is because Chew Magna Parish Council do not want them directed through the village. When the link road is complete, the direction through Bristol will be quicker.	
8.13	PD said he would like to have started the consultation by April and come to a future Forum meetings with an update.	PD
9.	Rural Broadband – Chris Head	
9.1	CH said he had given the Forum some ‘homework’ around testing broadband speeds. He thanked those that had sent in the results and urged everyone to keep doing it.	
9.2	CH showed a map supplied by Connecting Devon and Somerset (CD&S), of broadband coverage. He said people will only find out if their local box is live if they are on Twitter and following CD&S. (The map with circles is the reality – blue means the boxes are not live).	
9.2	CH said he has been informed that if you are 1,000m from a cabinet, you will get 24 mbps (mega bits per second). The length of the line is not as the crow flies though. For Chew Stoke and Bishop Sutton the service is estimated to begin between April and June, not January as promised. Other sizeable villages in the Chew Valley and some farms and businesses are still not covered.	
9.3	CH said that following an event held in Taunton in December, CD&S are now going to split the area down. Postcodes in urban areas are close together but in rural areas are more spreadout, so organising provision via postcodes means rural areas are suffering. Businesses will be key to a supplier coming in – not just industrial estates but people working from home, or those that would like to.	
9.4	Schools are on ‘grid for learning’, so receive a good service but pupils struggle with access when they get home. At the other end of the spectrum are older people who will need a service when providers use the	

	internet to help people stay in their homes for longer.	
9.5	Working with North Somerset is key. A broadband summit is planned for B&NES.	
9.6	CH introduced Evan Wienberg, the CEO of Truspeed. EW said they are working to bring fibre optic broadband to the Chew Valley and Bath. They are about to launch a contract to deliver to Bishop Sutton and Chew Stoke. He said all people need to do is visit their website and register their interest.	
9.7	When will the summit be held and who will be involved? CH said an invitation would be issued via the Parishes. It will be action focussed and probably be held after Easter now. CC asked whether co-funding with BT would be an option. HL said BT have to enable a cabinet. It costs £45k to get preferential treatment but you own no assets for that. CH asked whether they had tried Virgin. HL said yes but they are not in the area – they will come if enough interest is generated. CH said postcodes are an issue.	
10.	Any Other Business	
10.1	MV said the Parish Charter is currently under review, which may be of interest.	
11.	<p>Dates of Next Meetings</p> <p>28th April 2016</p> <p>There will be two key topics:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West of England JSP (incl Transport) - Sustainable Rural Drainage (equivalent to SUDS) – an opportunity to look at flood prevention. The speaker will not be from B&NES Area <p>7th July 2016</p> <p>Agenda items will be:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Assets • Children’s Centres • Community Halls <p>All meetings start at 6pm and take place at the Library, Chew Valley Secondary School, Chew Magna</p>	