



**Note of the meeting of the Keynsham Area Forum
held on Tuesday, 24th November, 2015
in Community Space, Keynsham - Market Walk, Keynsham**

Meeting Attendance

Cllr Alan Hale, B&NES Ward Councillor (Chair)
Adrian Inker, Community @ 67 (Vice Chair)
Gill Hellier, Keynsham Civic Society
Clive Fricker, Keynsham Town Council
Terry Edwards, Local resident
Duncan Hounsell, Saltford Parish Council
John Twist, Corston Parish Council
Tricia Golinski, Saltford Parish Council
Fiona Bell, Volunteer Centre Bath & Beyond
Keith Baker, Keynsham Town Council
Philippa Paget, Compton Dando Parish Council
Kathleen Hovland, Local residents
Dick Ollin, Chewton Keynsham
Pam Rose, Chewton Keynsham
Roger Bushy, Keynsham Civic Society
J Davy, Local resident
Derek McCaig, Local resident
Andrew Wait, Keynsham Music Festival
Peter Morgan, Local resident
Dawn Drury, Compton Dando Parish Council
Dave Biddleston, Keynsham Town Council
David Leach, Local resident
Sally Davis, Farmborough Parish Council
Mervyn Davies, Local resident
Roland Blors, Corston Parish Council
Cllr Andrew Furse, B&NES Ward Councillor
Martin and Gill Palmer, Chewton Keynsham Local residents
William House, Keynsham Action Network
Margaret Wilson, Keynsham and Salford Churches Together
Brian Wilson, Ramblers Association
Cllr Martin Veal, Cabinet Member for Community Services
Cllr Brian Simmons, B&NES Ward Councillor
Cllr Charles Gerrish, B&NES Cabinet Member and Ward Councillor
Cllr Andrew Furse, B&NES Ward Councillor

Officers: Louise Fradd, Sara Dixon, Alison Wells, Dave Dixon, Mark Hayward, Derek Quilter, Richard Morgan, Tim Richens, Bruce Lawrence, Mark Hayward, Richard Daone, Becky Reynolds

1. B&NES Budget Fair including Question and Answer session

Question 1 – The Metro West rail project does not appear in the budget figures. This project would help with the implementation of a station in Salford. Also there is no

Mention of Salford primary school expansion. Does this mean this will not happen?

Answer – There are over 120 projects within the capital programme and the presentation includes a snapshot of some of the projects planned. Salford primary school expansion is included in the 2016/17 financial year. Feasibility work is required.

Question 2 – Does the river corridor fund extend to Keynsham? Will you be liaising with South Glos as the river goes into the authority area?

Answer – The fund is specifically identified for river safety improvements in the City. The River Corridor Group does look at the Avon and will take account of the impact on South Glos.

Question 3 – As Bath Community Academy share the sports facilities on their site will they be making a contribution towards the £200k improvements works?

Answer – The Academy does contribute revenue funds towards the use of the facilities. The Council will take this up further with them.

Question 4 – As part of the new property company, will the Council offer some affordable houses?

Answer – The initial aim will be to ensure the 60 units above the shops in Bath will be available for private renting as soon as possible. The Council will consider a business case that addresses a range of housing needs.

Question 5 – Currently the Council provides a weekly recycling collection. Will the protection of front line services include protection of this weekly service?

Answer – Government funding has allowed the Council to offer weekly collections. This funding expires in 2017. There is political support to continue to offer this service however a review will need to be carried out.

A further comment was made that if recycling collections are reduced to fortnightly collections, there will be an increase in fly tipping in the villages.

Question 6 – Is there still a commitment to ensure Somerdale delivers the

employment opportunities?

Answer – Yes, the Council is still committed to deliver the economic growth and jobs.

Comment 7 – I welcome the proposals in the budget to improve junctions across the area. The recent traffic improvements to Bath Hill in Keynsham are poor. The road has been narrowed which causes traffic congestion. Please stop narrowing the roads we need the traffic to flow freely.

Question 8 – The area will see significant housing growth, what improvements have been planned for to increase school numbers?

Answer – There will be improvements to Castle Primary and a new school build on the Somerdale site as part of the development.

Question 9 – Will the Council have more autonomy on its spending once the government grant has been withdrawn?

Answer – No, the grant is not ring-fenced, however more funding can be raised locally.

Question 10 – Bath does not have an additional precept, but Keynsham does, how did this happen?

Answer – When Bath City Council existed, residents did not pay a city tax due to the rental income from its properties. When B&NES Council was created there was no parish council and therefore no precept was added to residents' council tax who lived in the city. The whole area benefits from the income generated in the city. It is up to the community to decide if they want to have a parish council for Bath City centre.

Question 11 – How much is the Cabinet pushing Bath Tourism plus to promote the whole area and not just Bath?

Answer – The Council are discussing this with them to ensure they broaden their focus across the whole area.

Question 12 – We need to ensure that the one way system proposed in Keynsham high street stops people using the town as a rat run. We need to ensure the flow of traffic is right.

Answer – The proposal is a trial. No final decisions have been made. It is important

that the community are consulted and buy-in on the proposals.
<p>Question 13 – Will there be a Tourism Levy introduced in Bath?</p> <p>Answer – A Tourism Levy is only voluntary ‘opt in’ at the moment. The Government is reviewing this.</p>
<p>Question 14 – The Volunteer Centre have been talking to the BID in Bath about ‘Volunteer Ambassadors’ for the city centre, is this something that the BID will support?</p> <p>Answer – The BID is a separate organisation. Our aim is to ensure we obtain financial efficiencies to reduce Council subsidies.</p>

2. West of England Joint Spatial Plan including Question and Answer session

<p>Question 1 - Why are we talking about voluntary input from B&NES?</p> <p>Answer - 85,000 is the total amount across the four local authority areas, 56,000 is already committed within the existing housing allocations, 17,000 will need to be accommodated and B&NES will be required to take a proportion of these homes</p>
<p>Question 2 – What proportion will be affordable housing?</p> <p>Answer – Approximately 35%.</p>
<p>Question 3 – How many houses will actually be built, is there a way we can force them to build the homes?</p> <p>Answer – The Government is paying close attention to the Joint Spatial Plan. The Council will go back and ask how much affordable housing can be delivered across the region.</p> <p><i>A further comment was made - we need to ensure we have sufficient social housing that is new and affordable. The current part-owned housing scheme is not acceptable.</i></p>
<p>Question 4 – <i>(Reference to the slides showing the different options)</i> What are the white areas shown on the options map?</p> <p>Answer – These areas are not so restricted, however they are away from employment growth.</p>

Comment 5 – One of the options looks like Keynsham be developed into Bristol.

Answer – All the options presented show theoretical scenarios that could be implemented. The consultation is aiming to seek the views from the community.

Question 6 – (*Reference to the slides showing the different options*) The white areas could be quite sustainable in relation to transport and possibly to create a new town.

Answer – The consultation is seeking these ideas particularly for areas that can support housing and employment growth.

Question 8 – The conservation area for Keynsham does not include Manor Road Woodland and Abbots Wood. Can these areas be incorporated?

Answer – *Richard Daone to provide more details.*

Question 9 – Four years ago the public were consulted on a number of sites in Keynsham. They weren't listened to regarding their concerns about the traffic flow and increased traffic from the new houses, impacting on the road network. Keynsham has seen a lot of development but no infrastructure improvements have been made.

Answer – The JSP is bringing together housing, employment and transport to ensure a more holistic approach is taken and the right investment for infrastructure is made.

Question 10 – Once the final outcome of the democratic process is completed will the JSP have to be approved by each council and can B&NES veto the plan?

Answer – The Adoption of the plan will have to be agreed by each council.

Question 11 – Will the Hicks Gate urban extension include a new road?

Answer – These are just indicative options, nothing has been decided.

Question 12 – Keynsham needs more parking for businesses and people to travel to work. A customer survey was carried out by TESCOs which highlighted that customers came from Shepton Mallet. Do we know where people are coming from and where they travel to?

Answer – Along with the Keynsham Transport Strategy, the Council is carrying out a study in the Chew Valley and Somer Valley. As part of this process a survey of these

trips has been carried out.

Question 13 – Do you intend to survey people who use the swimming pool?

Answer – The request will be taken back to officers involved in the consultation.

Comment 14 – One of the problems with the strategy is that there is an emphasis on cycling and walking, most cyclists get back into the car when it rains. None here tonight came by bus.