



**Note of the meeting of the Somer Valley Forum
held on Tuesday, 6th October, 2015
in Beacon Hall - Peasedown St John**

Name	Organisation Represented
Terry Taylor	Chair of the Forum
Richard Baldwin	Divisional Director, B&NES
Cllr Mike Boulton	Radstock Town Council
Cllr Doug Deacon	B&NES – Timsbury Ward
Maralyn Deacon	Observer
Dave Dixon	Stronger Communities Manager, B&NES
Sara Dixon	Stronger Communities Manager, B&NES
Cllr Edward Drewe	Mendip District Council
Kirstie Green	Clerk – Timsbury Parish Council
Dr Elizabeth Hersch	GP – St Chad's Surgery (part)
Sarah James	Director of Finance, CCG (part)
Cllr David Lorrigan	Timsbury Parish Council
Mike MacCallam	Joint Commissioning Manager, CCG (part)
Cllr Barry Macrae	B&NES – Midsomer Norton North Ward
Cllr Lesley Mansell	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Cllr Paul Myers	B&NES – Midsomer Norton Redfield Ward
Andrew Pate	Strategic Director, B&NES
Brian Perrett	Radstock Residents' Association
Cllr Jonathan Rich	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Lynda Robertson	Midsomer Norton Society
Cllr Richard Robertson	Midsomer Norton Town Council
Anne-Marie Sas	Observer
Shirley Steel	Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust
Roger Tollervey	Welton Village Group
Cllr Martin Veal	Cabinet Member for Community Services, B&NES
Cllr Karen Walker	B&NES – Peasedown St John Ward
Alison Wells	Community Projects Officer, B&NES
2 x Members of the Public	

Apologies

Name	Organisation Represented
Cllr John Bull	B&NES – Paulton Ward
Dom Chambers	Somer Valley FM
Cllr Chris Dando	B&NES – Radstock Ward
Cllr Janet Durk	Timsbury Parish Council

Jilly Edwards	Quartet Community Foundation
Cllr Michael Evans	B&NES – Midsomer Norton North Ward
Cllr Liz Hardman	B&NES – Paulton Ward
Cllr Eleanor Jackson	B&NES - Westfield Ward
Cllr Robin Moss	B&NES – Westfield Ward
Cllr Veronica Packham	Timsbury Parish Council
Cllr John Whittock	Radstock Town Council

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 TT welcomed those present. All introduced themselves. Apologies as above.

2. Updates from the Police and other public sector bodies

2.1 The Police were unable to attend the meeting due to a road traffic accident locally. DD asked if anyone had any questions for them that we could pass on. There was none. DD reminded the meeting that it is possible to obtain and pass on local information to the Police via their website: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/>

3. Question and Answer sessions

3.1 SD introduced the website (www.roadworks.org) which gives details of highway maintenance works taking place across the UK and the organisation responsible. She said the Council also produces a weekly e-mail list of roadworks in the B&NES area linked to this website. All Parish Councils should now be receiving this and if anyone else would like to be added to the mailing list, let us know. It is also possible to set alerts on the 'roadworks' website for a particular area. Parishes were encouraged to promote the information via their own websites and newsletters.

3.2 BMc said he remains concerned that the Council is setting the Agenda rather than the Forum. DD said both health and transport are issues that have been raised as priorities at Forum workshop sessions. The Forum's knowledge and experience are valued, meaning organisations are keen to talk with members and listen to their views.

3.3 MV said that if anyone had anything they wish to see added to the Agenda, this could be raised.

Annual General Meeting

4. Notes of the Inaugural Meeting (31st July 2014) and Matters Arising

4.1 These were proposed as a correct record by SS and seconded by LR. All in agreement. There were no matters arising.

5. Chair and Vice Chairs' Annual Review Including Update and Report from July Workshop

5.1 TT gave his Chair's Report which will be sent with the minutes.

6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair Positions

6.1 TT stood down as Chair. DD thanked him for his time and commitment to the role. BMc also thanked TT on behalf of the Councillors. TT thanked the Council's Officers for their support in the role. He said it is up to the members of the Forum to help shape it and take it forward.

6.2 There were three nominations for the position of Chair: Lynda Robertson; Cllr Lesley Mansell and Cllr Karen Walker. The candidates were invited to speak before the votes were cast. Lynda Robertson was elected the new Chair.

6.3 There were three nominations for the position of Vice-Chair: Terry Taylor; Cllr Lesley Mansell and Cllr Karen Walker. TT said he did not intend to stand for the position. The vote was cast and Cllr Karen Walker was elected Vice-Chair. They were congratulated on their new appointments.

7. Partnership Meetings - Nominated Representatives from each Forum Required

7.1 SD said that all the Forums have been asked to put forward representatives to sit on two groups. The first is a Natural Environment Partnership being set up to cover the Chew; Somer Valley and Keynsham Area to add to an existing group covering Bath and Bathavon. MB and RR said they would be interested in this.

7.2 The second is the CCG's 'your health, your voice' meetings which take place every two months. No representative came forward. DD said further information would be sent with the minutes and if there was any interest following this, to let him know. LR suggested that in the absence of a volunteer, the Chair or Vice Chair attend.

8. Terms of Reference

8.1 The following amendments were proposed:-

Point 1.3 Holcombe Parish Council no longer wishes to be corresponding members of the Forum or receive its papers.

Point 5.4 requires change to numbering from 5.6 to 5.5 or removed if 5.5 is deleted see below.

Point 5.5 propose to remove this. "Members that do not attend....."

Amend Point 10.1 to read 'The Forum will hold an Annual General Meeting each year.'

Note change of name Midsomer Norton & Radstock Chamber of Commerce to Somer Valley Chamber of Commerce

Welton Village Group and Midsomer Community Trust request to join

8.2 PM said he is not keen on seeing point 5.5 removed as it is important meetings are quorate. It was agreed to keep this in.

8.3 It was agreed to shorten point 10.1

8.4 RR asked whether there should be a nominated month for the AGM. DD suggested wording could be added to say that the AGM will take place after May to take account of election years. BMc said it is helpful to have the same month each year. He proposed this and KW seconded. MV suggested October.

8.5 It was noted that 10.2 and 10.3 should have 'inaugural meeting' removed.

8.6 It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce has changed its name.

8.7 BMc proposed that the Welton Village Group and Midsomer Norton Community Trust be welcomed as members. RR seconded. All were in agreement.

8.8 It was noted that point 5.4 of the Terms of Reference needs to be amended as it refers to point 5.6 but this point is not related.

8.9 LM proposed that the Big Local Trust become a member. MB seconded. All were in agreement.

8.10 It was also agreed that liaison with Mendip District Council and the Mendip Parishes remains important, particularly in relation to development.

8.11 LM asked whether the quorum referred to in Point 7.2 also applies to the AGM. PM said it does but this needs to be made clear.

8.12 KW asked we ensure new members of the Forum receive the papers.

9. Adopt Action plan and agree future priority discussions

9.1 AP said that following the July workshops, draft action plans had been prepared around the priorities raised and sent out with the Agenda. He also advised the meeting that there are now Connecting Communities Forums for the whole District, with the Bath Forum due to meet for the first time on 13th October.

9.2 He asked whether the Forum is happy to adopt its draft Action Plan, adding that the Chair and Vice-Chair would agree when each topic might come forward and how.

9.3 AP said the November meeting is a special one, with the Forum having been asked to host the Council's annual Budget consultation. He hoped the Forum would support and promote this as an opportunity to have influence on it.

9.4 KW proposed the Forum accept the Action Plan and LM seconded. All in favour.

10. Notes of the Previous Meeting 19th February 2015

10.1 These were agreed as a true record.

11. Matters arising

11.1 There was none.

12. Consultation items

Somer Valley Transport Strategy – Peter Dawson Group Manager, Planning Policy & Transport

12.1 PD said that the Council has appointed Mott McDonald to undertake this. The presentation and Terms of Reference for the appointment will be circulated with the minutes.

12.2 The Transport Strategy will link to the Core Strategy and Placemaking, with the consultants looking at sites such as South Road in Midsomer Norton. They will also look at supply and demand parking; cycle routes and highway usage by pedestrians – particularly those with mobility difficulties. The study will include public transport, links from the Somer Valley to other parts of Somerset, particularly Frome and a review of speed limits.

12.3 JR said in terms of highway safety, there has been no mention of the A367, despite a number of serious accidents. It is a vital road link between the Somer Valley and Bath. A petition was submitted in February but nothing has happened. PR said the Council and Police regularly review issues and there is a good road safety record in the district. The issues can be included as part of the consultation and looked at by officers.

12.4 BMc asked why Midsomer Norton Town Council and Ward Councillors were not consulted about South Road? He also questioned the value of improved links with Frome and said there will soon be highways issues relating to the number of houses given planning permission in the White Post area of Mendip. PD said the Council and its consultants are here to listen and there will be a programme of consultation prior to the strategy.

12.5 PM said 70% of the working population in the Somer Valley are out-commuting but it takes 1.5 hours to travel to Bath. He asked whether this type of gridlock is covered? PD said this will be looked at, as well as the impact of future development.

12.6 AP said in summary, the feedback has been that the route in and out of Bath is a priority and the Council must ensure it is included in this strategy.

12.7 AMS said she had addressed the Council last year asking for a strategy. Public transport is important and while it is good at taking people in and out of Bath and Bristol, there is little within local communities to aid people to get to doctors' appointments and similar. PD said the Chew Valley is also being included in this commission, where a similar point has been raised.

Consideration is being given on how to address this - transport commissions, particularly for accessing health services, are being examined to see whether there is a more efficient and effective way of doing things.

12.8 RT asked what is happening to address issues arising from current development as well as future. PD said the consultants will also be looking at this.

12.9 MB said there are 200 extra houses in Radstock with one parking space per residential unit. There is not much in the way of employment in the town. The Park and Ride is no good because the roads get jammed trying to access it. There needs to be more sites based further from Bath but with the same fare - this would reduce traffic. The Park and Ride is of little use to shift workers. 92 parking spaces have been lost in Radstock which has halved the takings of shops but officers insist there is no problem. Consultation needs to be meaningful this time.

12.10 PD said there is a need to improve bus services and encourage their use. However, they are private companies and run for profit. The Council is unable to challenge fare prices. AMS said the Council can subsidise fares though. PD said they can't as this would be deemed to be interfering in a commercial business. The Council can intervene if a commercial company no longer wishes to run a service and it does work with them in this way. There are also discussions taking place around real time information systems and smart cards for travel but the Council cannot force bus companies to use these. MB said he has plans that he would like to advance and would like the consultants to speak with him.

12.11 PD showed a slide detailing the commuting journeys from the Somer Valley, which are largely towards Bath and Bristol. He said that the draft strategy will be shared when complete and go to Cabinet next year. He is happy to discuss it in more detail with local organisations. AP asked the Forum to assist in promoting the consultation to local Parishes and organisations.

12.12 BMc said he would like to request that the consultants visit the Somer Valley area before the strategy is written.

12.13 A member of the public asked whether there are any plans to look at road surfaces, gullies and manholes. PD said this would not form part of this strategy but if there are issues, to let the Council know. Norton Hill and Paulton were given as examples.

12.14 JR asked what will happen in relation to the A367. PD said Highways will look at the accident levels here, if this has not been done. AP said that if there is an update on this, to feedback to the Forum via DD.

12.15 KW said a feasibility study will be starting in January to look at the A367 junction with Bath Road. JR said this will not rectify the problem and it can't wait another 2 – 3 years to be addressed.

12.16 BMc said the Somer Valley has had a number of road improvements implemented in recent years, which is appreciated, but further information about planned works would be welcome. MB said it is also important to phase works as there has been too much going on at once, which has caused a lot of issues for Radstock and Midsomer Norton.

CCG – 'your care, your way'

12.17 LR introduced Mike MacCallam from the CCG. MM said he was joined this evening by Sarah James, their Director of Finance and local GP Dr Liz Hersch.

12.18 MM said they are in Phase 2 of their consultation and will be outlining different, potential models for the delivery of community health services. These have been produced following feedback received so far and he thanked all those that had contributed to date. There will be 4 phases to the review with Phase 2 concluding at the end of October. Following this, a business case will be written.

12.19 The reason for the review of services is an ageing population; increased demand; high expectations and lack of finance. The review looks at both health and social care. The aim is to give people more choice, control and a say.

12.20 The CCG spends around £70m per year with 60 providers delivering almost 400 services. The review will look at how these might be streamlined as there are opportunities to make better use of the resources available. There is also a need for people to take more responsibility for managing their conditions.

12.21 Four different models have been proposed and the CCG would like feedback on these from local people. The first two are 'Pathway Models' – services that focus on a particular condition. This is fine if there is only one condition to treat but some people have more than one. Also, some people have short term issues but others, longer term and both need to be considered.

12.22 The CCG have noted that in B&NES, people have to travel around the area to access specialists/receive services and this needs to be addressed. The second two are 'Structure Models', with local GP Hubs overseeing care. Such 'Wellbeing Hubs' provide opportunities for people to receive the care they need locally. There is also potential to devolve funding to local areas. Model 4 has been based around the Connecting Communities Forum areas. A 'key worker' would help co-ordinate an individual's health and care.

12.23 LM asked how many hubs there would be and where they would be located. MM said they may be designed around four GP clusters. These comprise populations of 30 – 50k people in key areas. So, there may possibly be two in Bath; one in Keynsham and one in Midsomer Norton.

12.24 BMc said the public want 24/7 care – how will this be delivered? MM said this is not the first time this point has been raised – part of the solution is how to develop ways that prevent people from having to return to GPs/hospital as some issues can be resolved in other ways.

12.25 MM said this is a review of community services but is part of a wider review including other aspects of health care. Some of the comments and feedback received to date has been challenging but this is welcome.

12.26 MV asked whether the feedback had been broken down into urban and rural. MM said they can look at this as postcodes have been requested.

12.27 A workshop session then took place, following which MM outlined his skills and experience having been asked to do so by MB.

12.287 MM said this phase of the consultation will close on 30th October. He urged those present to complete the questionnaires and return them. Also to promote the consultation, which is available on the CCG website:

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

13. Dates of Next Meeting

13.1 LR thanked everyone for coming and said the next meeting would be 30th November, 6pm at the Conygre Hall, Timsbury. This would be a special meeting about the Council's Budget Proposals 2016-2020.