



**Note of the meeting of the Chew Valley Area Forum  
held on Thursday, 28th April, 2016  
in Chew Valley Secondary School - Chew Magna**

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Minute Item 1

**Draft Notes of the Chew Valley Forum**  
28th April 2016 at 6pm  
The Library, Chew Valley Secondary School

**Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation Represented</b>
Chris Head	Chair of Forum and Chief Executive, WERN
Cllr Tony Heaford	Vice Chair of Forum and Publow with Pensford Parish Council
Cllr Rosemary Naish	Clutton Parish Council
Cllr Weiss	Ubley Parish Council
Cllr Wesley Hallam	Chairman Ubley Parish Council
Jane Griffiths	Parish Clerk, Compton Martin Parish Council
Cllr Tim Warren	Leader of Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Charlie Bishop	Publow with Pensford Parish Council
Cllr Liz Richardson	Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning and Chew Valley North Ward Councillor
Cllr Liz Brimmell	Hinton Blewett Parish Council
Cllr Richard Ireland	West Harptree Parish Council
Cllr Ashton Broad	Whitchurch Parish Council
Cllr John Swift	Stanton Drew PC & Neighbourhood Plan
Mike Curtis	Chew Valley Flood Forum
Paul Bryan	Mendip Hills AONB
Cllr Holger Loux	Dundry Parish Council
Cllr Martin Veal	Cabinet Member for Community Services
Cllr Nick Baker	Chew Stoke Parish Council
Cllr Nick Scholefield	Chew Magna Parish Council
PC Sarah Hewlett	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
PC Mike Bolwell	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
PC Nigel Penny	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Anna Wheeler	Bath College Adult Community Learning

**B&NES Officers**

Ashley Ayre	Strategic Director for People and Communities and Forum Sponsor
Bruce Laurence	Director of Public Health
Julie O'Rourke	Planning Policy - Place
Jim Collings	Environmental Services - Place
Simon Morrissey	Environmental Services - Place
Jim McEwen	Environmental Services - Place
Sara Dixon	Strategy & Performance

**Apologies**

Cllr Chris Craig	Compton Martin Parish Council
Cllr Vic Pritchard	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health and Chew Valley South Ward Councillor
Cllr Lynne Easton	Chew Magna Parish Council
Chris Brookes	Local resident
Cllr Tony Hooper	Cameley Parish Council

**Informal Open Public Session**

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
1.1	Chris Head the Chair of the Forum welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.2	Chris read out a statement regarding the Police and Crime Commissioners	

	<p>Elections.</p> <p><i>In the lead up to the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) Elections there is a 6 week pre-election period (commonly known as “purdah”). During this time, pre-election restrictions apply and Councils are required to take particular care over publicity to ensure that communications are balanced and without bias. Therefore this Forum will not be able to take any questions or comments regarding the PCC.</i></p>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Update on Local Policing</b>	
2.1	Chris Hand welcomed PC Mike Bolwell, PC Sarah Hewlett and PCSO Nigel Penny from Avon and Somerset Constabulary. He referred to the monthly crime stats for Forum area which can be viewed on the following link: <a href="https://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/CS219/crime/+sIRX6W/">https://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/CS219/crime/+sIRX6W/</a> .	
2.2	Chris Hand over to Mike Bolwell to update the group on police matters.	
2.3	Mike said he was standing in for PC Stuart Beard. He circulated a written update which highlighted local crime and policing issues.	
2.4	Jane Griffiths the Clerk from Compton Martin Parish Council asked whether there could be any measures in place to help the flow of traffic in the village on the day of their event. She added that it was an excellent event however the on-street parking had in the past caused some problems. Mike asked Jane to provide information about the event so that the Police could have some presence on the day.	MB
2.5	Liz Brimmell commented on the use of mobile phones and speed of tractor drivers in the village, which she felt was dangerous and disrespectful. Mike suggested that Parish Councils should report these issues either directly to the police or to Sara Dixon who would pass on the information.	ALL
2.6	Chris Head mentioned that there had been a number of cycle races that took place in the area during March and April which had no traffic management in place. One of the events was a cycle route of 10 laps cutting through many villages in the Chew Valley. The pre-warning and event signage had been poor. This is a growing problem in the area in addition to the regular cycling groups that use the Chew Valley. Chris said that he had raised this with Council officers and was awaiting feedback.	CH
2.7	Chris referred to the list of Highway Capital programme that was distributed to members at the meeting. He commended that it was useful to see the programme for the whole area.	
2.8	Chris reminded the group that there were a series of consultation events on the Transport Strategy being held, Chew Valley, 26th April and the Somer Valley, 5 <sup>th</sup> May. Deadline for comment was the 9 <sup>th</sup> May. He added that alongside this work was the Total Transport bid to find local solutions to transport issues in the Chew Valley. An update on the Transport issues would be brought back to a future meeting.	
2.9	Tony Heaford mentioned the planned closure of the A37 in Pensford for 2 weeks for road improvements. He was concerned about the impact of closure on traffic travelling through Pensford and the other villages. He sought clarification on the details of the closure particularly the timing and requested that the villages surrounding Pensford should also be notified. Sara agreed to follow this up.	SD
<b>3.</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plans in the Chew Valley</b>	
3.1	Chris introduced the next agenda item – ‘Update on Neighbourhood Plans in	

	the Chew Valley'. He said that within the Forum area there were 14 Parishes, 11 of which were going through or had gone through the Neighbourhood plan process. He was delighted to invite five groups along to the meeting to update on their progress.	
3.2	<b>Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan</b> – Liz Richardson provided an update on the plan. The plan includes 7 Parishes that surround the Chew Valley Lake. The NP is pro-development, it is not designed to stop growth. The plan will help preserve the things that are most important to the area. There is a steering group overseeing the process with four sub committees. The CVNP will be launched at the weekend, the final version will be available on the website and a number of events will take place.	
3.3	For more information: Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan <a href="http://www.cvnnp.co.uk/">http://www.cvnnp.co.uk/</a>	
3.4	<b>Clutton Neighbourhood Plan</b> – Rosemary Naish provided an update. The process began in August 2013. Clutton NP passed a referendum in September 2015, 95.8% in favour of the plan. It has made a significant improvement to the area as it is increased the interest in local democracy, volunteering and interest in local planning applications. Local residents are now quoting the policies from the plan.	
3.5	To view Clutton NP which was made in September 2015 : <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/NPP/clutton_np_draft_2015-2035.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/NPP/clutton_np_draft_2015-2035.pdf</a>	
3.6	<b>Stowey Sutton Neighbourhood Plan</b> – Unfortunately no one was able to attend the meeting however Heather Clewett from the Parish Council provided a written update which was circulated to the group (attached as an appendix to the notes).	
3.7	To view Stowey Sutton NP which was made in September 2015: <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/NPP/stowey_sutton_ndp.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/NPP/stowey_sutton_ndp.pdf</a>	
3.8	<b>Publow and Pensford Neighbourhood Plan</b> – Charlie Bishop provided an update. The NP is currently underway. There are 14 active members on the steering group with 4 sub groups. The biggest issues for the village is the traffic along A37. A draft version of the NP is being produced for consultation in May and referendum in Nov/Dec.	
3.9	For more information: Publow and Pensford Neighbourhood Plan <a href="http://www.publow-with-pensford-pc.gov.uk/pc/background/">http://www.publow-with-pensford-pc.gov.uk/pc/background/</a>	
3.10	<b>Stanton Drew Neighbourhood Plan</b> – John Swift provided an update. The NP was designated in October 2013. Currently the steering group are producing their questionnaire and gathering evidence. A housing needs survey is currently being prepared. It is hoped that the plan will be completed early 2017.	
3.11	For more information: Stanton Drew Neighbourhood Plan <a href="http://www.stantondrewpnp.co.uk/category/neighbourhood_plan/">http://www.stantondrewpnp.co.uk/category/neighbourhood_plan/</a>	
3.12	Julie O'Rourke from the B&NES Planning Policy team congratulated all the NP groups for their hard work. She recognised the amount of work that was required to produce a plan and added that the plans in B&NES are really good, distinctive and different. She said that she was delighted that Rosemary Naish was now a National champion on NP and was visiting other areas to share experience and knowledge. This was very important.	
3.13	All the representatives from the NP groups commented that Julie had been a great supporter and had provided invaluable advice and guidance.	

3.14	Bruce Lawrence, from B&NES Public Health commented that he had not heard any of the groups mention health. Julie said that this was highlighted under sustainability. Health & wellbeing was built into some of the elements around play facilities, traffic, good quality housing, etc.	
4.	<b>Briefing note on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan</b>	
4.1	Chris referred to the briefing note circulated to the group at the meeting.	
5 & 6	<b>Notes of the Previous Meetings 22<sup>nd</sup> February and matters arising</b>	
5.1	The notes of the meeting were agreed. There were no matters arising.	
7.	<b>'Working with Water'</b>	
7.1	Chris welcomed the key speakers to the meeting and round table introductions were made.	
7.2	Chris Sherrington gave a presentation on the <b>Winford Brook Payment for Ecosystem Services</b> . See link for copy of presentation: <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/winford_brooks_project.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/winford_brooks_project.pdf</a>	
7.3	The project was centred around the Winford Brook catchment area. The issues: Bristol Water who owns the Chew Magna Reservoir was required to occasionally remove silt to avoid erosion. The silt has been stored on site, however there are a number of constraints that will require the silt to be removed off the site in the future. Bristol Water was keen to explore cost-effective measures to reduce the amount of silt entering the reservoir. In addition they were keen to reduce the nutrient levels in Chew Valley Lake and Wessex Water was also keen to reduce the nutrients from their local wastewater treatment works.	
7.4	Bristol Water commissioned a detailed survey identifying specific issues and proposing measures to address them. The survey identified a greater level of sediment in the reservoir than the models showed, the reason - road surfaces were very efficient. It was also important that local landowners were engaged to explore land and livestock management.	
7.5	For more information about the project visit: <a href="http://www.eunomia.co.uk/reports-tools/payments-for-ecosystem-services/">http://www.eunomia.co.uk/reports-tools/payments-for-ecosystem-services/</a>	
7.7	David Cliffe, from Bristol Water gave a presentation on the <b>Mendip Lakes Project</b> . See link for copy of presentation: <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/bristol_water_mendip_project.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/bristol_water_mendip_project.pdf</a>	
7.8	The Mendip Lakes Project started in 2014 aimed at improving the quality of the natural environment across the catchment areas of the Chew Valley, Blagdon and Chew Magna reservoirs. The main issues of concern were the water quality, flood risk management and habitat provision/enhancement.	
7.9	The project brings together key agencies including Wessex Water, Environment Agency and landowners. Working with landowners has been keen to identify local solutions for land management to improve; soil permeability; attenuation measures of flow pathways; clean and dirty water separation and; strategic woodland planting.	
7.10	For more information about the project visit: <a href="https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/Bristol-Avon-projects/">https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/Bristol-Avon-projects/</a>	
7.11	Chris Uttley from Stroud District Council gave a presentation on the <b>Stroud Rural SuDs project</b> . See link for copy of presentation:	

	<a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/stroud_rural_suds.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/stroud_rural_suds.pdf</a>	
7.12	The Stroud Rural SuDs project was set up in 2007 as a result of properties flooding in the area every two to three years. The catchment covered an area of 205 sqms of the River Frome and all its tributaries.	
7.13	Community buy-in was essential. Working with landowners and residents to identify and implement a range of measures to reduce flood risk but also to improve water quality and enhance the biodiversity of the streams, brooks and the wider River Frome catchment.	
7.14	The interventions included: large woody debris in channels to alleviate water, slow peak flow and divert flow; informal storage and attenuation and increasing infiltration.	
7.15	For more information about the project visit: <a href="http://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/flooding-and-drainage/stroud-rural-sustainable-drainage-rsuds-project">http://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/flooding-and-drainage/stroud-rural-sustainable-drainage-rsuds-project</a>	
7.16	Chris thanked all the speakers for a very interesting and informative session.	
7.17	Jim Collings from the B&NES Flooding team thanked Chris for inviting the team to the meeting. He said was keen to continue the discussion and look at local solutions. Liz Richardson commented that it was important to bring this to the attention of the Strategic Flood Board to ensure the right people were around the round table.	JC/LR
7.18	For information B&NES Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2015 – 2025. <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/lfrms_december_2015_web_sp.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/lfrms_december_2015_web_sp.pdf</a>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Any other Business</b>	
8.1	There was none.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
9.1	The next meeting will take place on Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July at 6pm. The focus will be on Children & Young People. The September meeting will include transport.	
9.2	Chris thanked everyone for their attendance and input into the meeting.	

## **Chew Valley Forum – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

### **Stowey Sutton Parish Council - update**

#### Neighbourhood Development Plan

Stowey Sutton Parish residents completed a high level questionnaire identifying themes of importance to the community in 2012. Following the change in regulations in Oct 13 which allowed Neighbourhood Plans to be 'made' in the absence of a Core Strategy, the Parish Council held a community event and quickly established a steering group to progress NP with the working groups based on the earlier themes. The Steering group comprised residents and 3 Parish Cllrs including the Chairman who chaired the Steering Group. Stowey Sutton includes Bishop Sutton which is identified as RA1 village by the Council and as such should receive 'around 50 houses'. At the time of starting the NP a development of 38 houses had already been approved and a further development of 38 were in the process of a successful appeal, all of which were outside the Housing Development Boundary and placing pressure on the infrastructure of the community.

With the exception of the housing questionnaire, which was facilitated through an external organisation, all of the work of the NP was completed by the Steering Group with support from the link council officer. Community engagement was a key feature of the process as well as open events, representatives of the Steering Group attended existing groups including those for young people and school parents and children. The NP contains 5 housing policies plus a number of action policies which were identified as important by parishioners through the initial consultation process. These fall within the categories of Business and Employment, Transport and Communications and Community and Recreation. The NP was considered by the external examiner in March 2015, minor amendments were made and the NP went to referendum in August in August 2015 with a 36% (404 parishioners) turn out and 95% in favour. The NP was 'made' by the Council in September 2015.

#### Village Play Project/Recreation Ground

Parents of young children identified significant shortfalls in the play area located on the Recreation Ground in Bishop Sutton to the extent that it was rarely used and families chose to drive to adjacent village play facilities. The recreation ground is located to the rear of the village hall which has sporadically become a focus for young people's anti-social behaviour..

Meetings took place with officers from the council, funding through S106 identified and a tender process completed by the PC. This appointed the external organisation Jane's Pond, to complete more detailed gathering of views alongside suggestions as to which facilities and possible design options might meet current and future play and community activity options.

Following a well presented and attended and consultation in January 2016, four design proposals will have been further considered by residents at a second consultation event today. The outcome of this will be discussed and presented at Stowey Sutton Parish Council meeting in June. The whole project has encouraged 'blue sky' thinking with many very exciting opportunities for an underused recreation ground. Development will need to be phased and initially concentrating on play provision. It is anticipated that additional funding will be needed as the preferred design proposal progresses.