



**Note of the meeting of the Somer Valley Forum  
held on Tuesday, 20th March, 2018  
in Somer Centre - Midsomer Norton**

**1. Minutes Somer Valley Forum 20-3-18**

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Final Minutes of the  
**Somer Valley Forum**  
 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 6.00pm  
 The Somer Centre, Gullock Tynning, Midsomer Norton BA3 2UH

**Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation Represented</b>
Lynda Robertson	Chair of Somer Valley Forum
Cllr Karen Walker	Vice Chair of Somer Valley Forum and B&NES Ward Councillor, Peasedown St John
Cllr Tex Clarke	Peasedown Parish Council
Cllr David Collett	Timsbury Parish Council
John Cox	Business Support & Development Manager, B&NES
Cllr Doug Deacon	B&NES Ward Councillor, Timsbury
Maralyn Deacon	Observer, Timsbury
Sara Dixon	Locality Manager, B&NES
Cllr Michael Evans	B&NES Ward Councillor, Midsomer Norton North
Lynn Hardy	DHI Service User
Cllr Mike Hedges	Chair, Farrington Gurney Parish Council
Marc Higgins	Team Leader - Sport and Active Lifestyles, B&NES
Mel Hodgson	People & Communities Communications Coordinator, B&NES
Cllr Deirdre Horstmann	Ward Councillor, Radstock
Cllr Eleanor Jackson	B&NES Ward Councillor Westfield
Ketyn Jepson	Age UK B&NES
Cllr Les Kew	B&NES Ward Councillor High Littleton
Cllr Barry Macrae	B&NES Ward Councillor Midsomer Norton North
Simon Martin	Programme Director - Enterprise Area/Zone Project Delivery, B&NES
Andrew Pate	Strategic Director of Resources, B&NES
Cllr Jonathan Rich	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Cllr Alastair Slade	Midsomer Norton Town Council
Shirley Steel	Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust
Mike Strathdee	Community Resources Manager, DHI
Tina Veater	Chair of Somer Valley Chamber of Commerce
Cllr David Walker	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Alison Wells	Community Engagement Officer, B&NES
Diana White	Camerton Resident

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation Represented</b>
Richard Baldwin	Divisional Director – Children and Young People’s Specialist Services, B&NES
Cllr Sarah Bevan	B&NES Ward Councillor Peasedown St John
Cllr John Bull	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton
PC Mark Graham	Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Somer Valley
Cllr Liz Hardman	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton
Cllr Paul Myers	Ward Councillor for Midsomer Norton Redfield and Cabinet Member for Economic and Community Regeneration
Roger Tollervey	Welton Village Group
Sarah Westell	Radstock and Westfield Big Local

		Action
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome from the Chair of the Forum; introductions and apologies.</b>	
1.1	LR welcomed those present, introduced herself as Chair of the Forum and Cllr Karen Walker as Vice Chair of the Forum. A safety notice was given along with a reminder to sign into the meeting.	
1.2	Apologies were given as above.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Notes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b>	
2.1	An amendment was requested on the notes of the 27 <sup>th</sup> November meeting to note that Richard Robertson had given his apologies.	AW
2.2	LR said that tonight's meeting is slightly unusual in that there are several items for the Community Showcase section, all from organisations that have requested to speak to the Forum to highlight what they do, make connections and share information.	
2.3	LR explained that, running alongside the Connecting Communities Forums are Interagency meetings which are held in the daytime and attended by representatives of local charities and community groups. The meetings are informal and enable organisations to network and share information. LR said she attends these meetings on the Forum's behalf and, has found them extremely valuable. These are supported by regular e-mail bulletins full of helpful information on events, opportunities, funding and training. They also give details of when and where the Interagency Forum meetings are taking place – anyone is welcome to attend them. She said that if anyone wanted to sign up to receive the regular Funding, Training and Interagency Bulletins from the Council's Community Engagement Team, to let Alison or Sara. Also to advise them if your organisation would like to present as part of the Community Showcase element of the Forum meetings.	
2.4	LR advised that there would be no break in the evening's meeting unless members would like one. She read out the apologies (above).	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Update from the Police</b>	
3.1	The Police were unable to attend as PC Mark Graham has been off work. They hope to be available for the next meeting.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Community Showcase</b>	
	<b>1 Big Database Bathnes: Rainbow Resource: Wellbeing Options</b>	
4.1	LR introduced Mel Hodgson - People & Communities Communications Coordinator, Children and Young People's Services for B&NES. She manages the team responsible for the above on-line resources. The team researches information and adds it to the sites to keep them up to date.	
4.2	MHodgson said that if you are a parent, carer or grandparent, there is lots of helpful information on 1 Big Database Bathnes including Ofsted registered childcare, events for children etc. The Rainbow Resource site is aimed at families with children that have a disability. Wellbeing Options is for adults that have a care or support need. They link closely with Age UK, Bath Mind.	
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4.3	The presentation given can be found <a href="#">here</a> and the last slide has contact	

details for the team. Do let them know what you think of the site or if there is anything you would like to promote – it is a free service.

Q1: To what extent this service is statutory?

A1: There is a statutory duty to provide information and advice, although the Council does not need to deliver it directly.

Q2: Is there an address or telephone number? A lot of people in rural communities do not use computers or the internet.

A2: Our helpline had to go due to budget savings as did the Directory of Social Change. However, younger parents prefer to use social media to access information and the Council's message is digital by default so everything is on-line. You can call the Council's switch-board or go to a One Stop Shop.

Q3: The age range for 1 Big Database is up to 18 years but for Rainbow Resource it is 25 years. Why is this?

A3: The statute is different for young people with disabilities.

Q4: Is the e-mail address shown on the presentation the one to use to promote events?

A4: Yes

Q5: Do you place any handouts in places like GP surgeries?

A5: Yes – they can be found at doctors' surgeries, One Stop Shops, Libraries.

### **Fit for Life – Marc Higgins**

4.4 MHiggins said that he is part of the Council's Leisure team. There has been a Fit for Life strategy for four years which is due to be updated and linked with other strategies such as those for transport. There are costs relating to obesity and social care so the service is aimed at encouraging people to simply move more for the sake of their health. The team would like to talk to local communities to find out more about what facilities already exist – particularly free ones such as safe walking and cycling routes and what might encourage people to become more active. Existing examples of community projects are Goodgym where participants go on a run but also do a good deed such as a litter pick or visiting the elderly. There are also park runs and Wellow has created new tennis courts and an outdoor gym.

4.5 MHiggins said the team is keen to hear from the Forum on who they should be speaking with in local areas or about any events the team should attend to engage with local people. They are also keen to encourage people to walk and cycle more and rely less on cars.

Comment 1: I suggest you speak with local schools to find out what young people would like to see – there seems little for them to do.

Comment 2: A culture of competitive sport is useful for boys. The Director of Public Health has promised some objective criteria around what fitness is and how it can be measured.

Comment 3: The Council has been piloting some fitness 'bands' with small groups of staff. These measure activity levels and have worked in encouraging staff to move more. If funding can be found, these could be offered to local communities.

Q1: Is there a way sports centres and charities can work together to reduce the cost for customers? Memberships are expensive for those on low incomes.

A1: There should be concessions available but it is challenging for sports centres as they also need to be successful commercially. However, we are keen to speak to communities on what can be accessed for free locally.

4.6 KW thanked MHiggins and said his details would be circulated after the meeting if anyone had further questions or information for him.

#### **Age UK B&NES – Ketyn Jepson**

4.7 KJ said that Age UK B&NES' activities are on offer to anyone over the age of 55. It dispels the myth that you need to be older to take part in the wide range of services and activities they offer. While they share the name and branding of national Age UK, they are separate and have to raise their own funding and manage activities themselves.

4.8 KJ said that she and her colleague Michelle are out and about in communities putting on a variety of activities such as Tai Chi, Walking Football, gadget busting sessions, crafts – whatever people express an interest in doing. They do have to make a small charge to help with costs but this is usually £3 or £4. They have a hub at the Orchard Hall in Midsomer Norton and work closely with the Midsomer Norton Community Trust on this. Here, they offer a Cook & Eat session on a Tuesday where people can learn to cook a two course meal for £5 and then enjoy eating it together. There is also a day centre at the Orchard Hall on Mondays and Thursdays and day centres in Bath and Keynsham as well. These are aimed at older people who do not get out very much. There are activities to enjoy, a meal and transport provided for £20. The times are 10am – 3pm.

4.9 KJ said Age UK B&NES also offers a free home from hospital service and a home response service to help prevent people from ending up in hospital. They have also recently started an At Home service which offers help with cleaning, dog walking and shopping paid for by the hour. There is also a befriending service which is a social visit to a person's home, rather than trips out.

4.10 They also offer a range of information and advice on benefits, allowances etc from their offices in Kingsmead Square in Bath but can sometimes arrange home visits if people cannot get there.

4.11 Age UK do like to work with other agencies and have good links with City of Bath College which enables them to offer activities such as floristry. This is starting at Midsomer Norton Town Hall on Friday and costs £3 to include all materials.

Q1: I was not aware of the breadth of your provision. How do the public get to know about your activities?

A1: We do use the internet to promote but appreciate that this is not always the best way for older people. We often get good coverage in the local press and do attend local events to promote.

Comment 1: Please come to parish meetings and village days – I shall be going back to my parish to let them know about your services.

Comment 2: Please also leave some information here at the Somer Centre.

Q2: Do you have a price for the At Home Service?

A2: Yes – it is currently £17.50 per hour.

Q3: Do you have information on your home from hospital service at the RUH? I was not told about it when I came out of there.

A3: The nursing team should know about it.

Comment 3: They are promoting Sirona.

Comment 4: I know of someone who was taken home from hospital by Age UK and couldn't praise them enough for the service.

Q4: Where can I put my name down for the floristry?

A4: Let me know at the break.

Q5: Re the cleaning, is it the same as employing someone directly?

A5: Do take a leaflet about it and ring my colleague who will explain how it works.

### **DHI and Support Services – Mike Strathdee, Community Resources Manager**

4.12 MS said that DHI (Developing Health & Independence) cover Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bristol. They have a service in Midsomer Norton in their Hub near Sainsbury's. They support people with drug and alcohol issues but the users may not be how you imagine. They might include parents concerned about a teenager, or someone who thinks their drinking is getting the better of them for a while. To best illustrate this, it is best to hear directly from a service user. MS introduced Lynnette Hardy.

4.13 The Forum heard Lynnette's very moving story directly from her – she is 71 and admitted to being alcohol dependent all her life but has now been sober for 2 months. She spoke about her childhood in Bath, her marriage, which ended and her very successful career which took her all over the world. She also explained how alcohol had affected her at every stage of her life – either her own drinking or that of those around her. It was her local GP who told her about the Hub. Here, she was able to see a counsellor who is helping her. She accepts that recovery is a process but acknowledged the help that she has received from DHI.

4.14 MS thanked Lynnette for her immense courage in sharing her story with the Forum. He said that DHI is there to offer support but few people come directly to them. The Hub in Midsomer Norton is a community resource and full of caring people. A number of services are available - for families, carers or anyone affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use.

4.15 MS said he welcome the opportunity to speak to the area's decision makers and the groups of which they are part. Lynnette is happy to speak to other groups should you wish. He encouraged those present to spread the word about DHI's confidential service.

Q1: Do you also work with people affected by prescription painkillers?

A1: Yes – it is a big issue, especially in America. There was a talk on Radio 4 recently and one of the experts featured is working with us – cocodamol and tramadol are particularly addictive.

	<p>also publish Family Matters and could do a piece for parents of teenagers. I will speak with you after the meeting.</p> <p>Response 1: Thank you – we are going to run a group for parents who have concerns about their teenagers.</p> <p>Q2: Could I have your contact details? A2: Yes – I have some cards and they will be circulated after the meeting.</p> <p>Comment 2: Please would you attend some local community events as well to promote the Hub and its services. Few people know about you. Response 2: We are a small charity, dependent on commissioned funding and have not had a Community Resources Manager until recently but it is a fair point.</p> <p>Comment 3: A lot of parishes have grant funds for which DHI could apply.</p> <p>MS issued an open invitation to anyone who wants to visit the Hub to find out more about their services.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and Broadband – John Cox and Simon Martin, Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b></p> <p>See Appendix 1</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p> <p>6.4</p> <p>6.5</p>	<p><b>Suggested Topics for Future Meetings</b></p> <p>LR said topics suggested by Forum Members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Young People’s Issues (Confirmed for September meeting)</li> <li>- Public/Rural Transport (Confirmed for July meeting)</li> <li>- Joint Spatial and Transport Plan (will be scheduled via discussion with Planning)</li> <li>- Local Plan</li> </ul> <p>We have also had a request from the Carers Centre to participate in the Community Showcase.</p> <p>The Radstock and Westfield Big Local have been in touch to say there are results from a survey with young people to indicate that issues include stress from bullying and exams. We will follow up on how the Forum might be able to assist. EJ said Youth Futures can add to this as they produced the research. Do invite Vanessa Rodgers to attend. EJ said she would also like to invite the Radstock and Westfield Big Local to attend to update the Forum on their activities to date.</p> <p>PM said Off the Record has been running a dial-in service and there has been a huge increase in demand from young people in the Somer Valley. It would be helpful if they could attend and talk about the issues raised with the Forum. They would also like assistance in identifying sources of funding for their work.</p> <p>It was noted that the Peasedown St John Scouts are keen to attend and present to the Forum.</p> <p>LR said the next meeting is not until July but there is difficulty in finding a venue that has not already been booked. If anyone knows of anywhere, do tell us. Also, if anyone has any suggestions for future topics, or wishes to</p>	

	take part in the Community Showcase, do let us know.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
7.1	KW said she was sure the Forum would like to join her in congratulating Andrew Pate on his retirement and thank him for his support.	
7.2	BMc said he attended an event at Farrington Golf Club that day regarding the former Welton Bibby Baron site. Before the Forum meets again, there should be approval on this site and he would like to note the excellent work from Planning.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Dates of Future Forum Meetings</b>	
	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July – Camerton Community Hall (Rural/Public Transport) Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> September – Swallow Café (Young People’s Issues) Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> November – Town Hall, Midsomer Norton (Budget)	

## Actions

	Responsible
Note Cllr Richard Robertson’s absence on the November minutes.	AW

**Presentation:** Update on Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and Broadband

**Presenters:** Simon Martin - Programme Director, Bath Enterprise Area/Zone, B&NES  
John Cox - Business Support & Development Manager, B&NES

The presentation can be found [here](#):

### Somer Valley Enterprise Zone

Slide	Comment
1 – Title Slide	SM said that they had a good discussion with the Somer Valley Forum on their previous visit in September 2017 and said then they would return regularly with updates. He explained that John would give an update on the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and that he would touch on Broadband at national and local level.
2 – Somer Valley Issues	JC ran through this slide citing transport and out-commuting as a major issue for the Somer Valley area.
3 – Somer Valley Enterprise Zone	Slide showing a map of the proposed development site.
4 – Key Next Steps	JC ran through these. The team are in the process of securing the funding required to facilitate the infrastructure - especially transport/road safety/pinch points.
5 – Commercial Delivery Framework and Transport Improvements	Funding has been attracted via WECA and B&NES. A project manager has been appointed and consultants put in place this week. A business case for transport improvements is being submitted to WECA and when this is complete, £2.8m will be available
6 – Stakeholder Consultation, Landowner Liaison and Project Programme.	A group has been established and is chaired by Paul Myers as Cabinet Member. They are starting the next round of landowner liaison.
7 – EZ Programme	The table shows the delivery framework over the next 18-24 months. The next step is to develop a master plan for site with consultants  There is a 2 stage process to apply to WECA so it will be 2019/20 before the scheme is implemented. There will be further consultation and landowner discussion.

### Questions following the presentation

**Q1: How many landowners are involved?**

A1: About 6 but 3 significant.

**Q2: So, it is a case of getting agreement?**

A2: The majority are willing to put the land forward.

- Q3: Are they selling land to the Enterprise Zone or is the Enterprise Zone renting from them?**  
A3: It is too early to say what role the Council will play.
- Q4: So a landowner could scupper the project by refusing to sell?**  
A4: Policy could lead to compulsory purchase. The starting point is to negotiate and encourage the landowners to work together.
- Q5: It does not seem a very strong basis for spending £2.8m on a road.**  
A5: The A362 needs improvement anyway and that can be seen as a stand-alone scheme – one does not depend on the other.
- Q6: Will you do something about the double mini-roundabout in Radstock – the access to this site from there is poor.**  
A6: If we can deliver more local employment opportunities, it will reduce the commuting traffic. The A39/A37 will be the main access, not the A367.
- Comment 1: We need roads that large vehicles can use so that goods can be transported safely.**
- Comment 2: Speak to Stefan Chiffers in Highways for his assessment on the A367.**
- Q7: Will the Enterprise Zone be formalised? Does it need statutory approval? Has planning permission been applied for? Do you know what residents here do?**  
A7: The Enterprise Zone is a formal Government status. It offers financial incentives relating to business rates. No special planning status has been granted. There will need to be further policy process to get planning permission.
- Overall employment is manufacturing and engineering. Sun Chemicals are putting a research and development facility in Westfield. We need to look at how we can start to diversify local employment to include the office/service sector.
- Comment 3: Office space is needed as well as factories.**
- Comment 4: There is not a question of the Council building it. The Government designating it an Enterprise Zone should attract businesses. We as a community know what we need and these views will be taken on board but it will be down to the market at the end of the day.**
- Comment 5: Business could relocate from Bath and Bristol.**
- Q8: What is the target date for the first job?**  
A8: There is a 5 year window to grant the business rate relief so 2022. By then we would expect progress to have been made on developing the site.
- Q9: Are you optimistic?**  
A9: We have to be – some proposals for parts of the site could come forward quickly.

## Broadband

Slide	Comment
1 – Title Slide	
2 – Gigabit Voucher Scheme	We alluded to this last Autumn. It has now run its course with B&NES being the most successful of the five pilots. Word about the scheme was spread very quickly here.
3 – New scheme	On the back of the previous scheme, the Government launched a new scheme which will run until 2021 to address gaps in the service. If communities get together, providers will come in and improve the service. We have a dedicated officer to support it at the Council. The new scheme is more closely linked to residential.
4 – Connecting Devon and Somerset	Phase 1 of this is complete and 3,000 new superfast connections delivered (1,000 MB). There are now 16 cabinets in Somer Valley. Phase 2 is rolling out now – with around 850 new connections to be delivered. This will increase capacity significantly. We understand there are still black holes in area but you need to club together to address.
5 – Contact Information	For more information contact Somer Valley Chamber of Commerce  <a href="http://www.somervalleychamber.co.uk/">http://www.somervalleychamber.co.uk/</a>  or  Rob Dawson - Business Engagement Officer, B&NES <a href="mailto:rob_dawson@bathnes.gov.uk">rob_dawson@bathnes.gov.uk</a>

### Questions following the presentation

**Comment 1:** A proposal for Midsomer Norton High Street and Westfield was put forward at the last Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting. There was promotion to encourage more businesses to get involved. We worked with Duncan Kerr.

**Q1:** There is terrible coverage in parts of Wellow Lane in Peasedown – can residents access this scheme?

**A1:** It may not have been covered by Phase 2. You would need to ask Rob Dawson. Coverage can even come down to individual streets. I will take your details and pass this on to Rob. In Chew Magna, residents got together and all applied for vouchers. They improved the capacity as a result. Duct capacity will also be improved as and when we do roadworks which will help with future proofing.

**Comment 1:** There is little to explain this and what there is, is incomprehensible. No-one understands information relating to the diameter of pipes. Fibre connections to businesses and homeworkers are vital. We need to help get this across as community leaders.

**Comment 2:** We have been trying to push this to businesses as the Chamber of Commerce but many are tied into contracts and don't want to know, even if they will save in the long run.

**Response 2:** 5G is coming but only from a fibre network.