



Bath and North East Somerset Local Involvement Network

Report to B&NES Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel, 18 May 2012

1. Re-election of the LINK's Officers

At its April meeting, the LINK held elections for its Officers. The following were re-elected to their posts for the coming year:

Chair - Diana Hall Hall

Deputy Chairs - Jayne Pye and Jill Tompkins

2. Avon, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire LINKs' Visits to A&E Departments

The B&NES LINK has participated in a programme of informative visits to the A&E Departments at acute hospitals in Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. Each of the seven LINKs visited the A&E Departments in its own area, and submitted their findings for incorporation into an overall report for the AGW area. These findings have been sent for comment on the factual findings to the Trusts. As a part of this, B&NES LINK members visited the RUH A&E Department, and produced a report on this.

The overall Report is being coordinated and produced by the Gloucestershire LINK on behalf of all seven. We will ensure that the Panel receives a copy when the report is finalised.

3. Chew Valley Reservoir - Planning Application

The B&NES LINK joined with the Bristol and North Somerset LINKs in writing to the B&NES Council's Planning Department to express concern over the application for siting of a toxic waste landfill facility at Stowey Quarry. A copy of this letter is included for the Panel's information at Annex 1 to this Report.

4. LINK's Involvement in Procurement Process for Local HealthWatch Organisation

Following representations to Cllr. Simon Allen by the LINK, it has been agreed that, in addition to representation on the Stakeholder Panel for assessing the tenders for provision of a LINK Host and Local HealthWatch organisation, there will be one LINK representative on the decision-making panel, who will receive appropriate training for the role.

5. Service Changes at Paulton Hospital Minor Injuries Unit

Members of the LINK attended the Equality and Impact Assessments relating to changes to overnight opening arrangements for the Minor Injuries Unit. They felt that the effect on patients of the overnight closure would be absolutely minimal for those who needed the services of the MIU. Some of the patients seen at the MIU would be more appropriately treated at a full A&E Department rather than at an MIU, and the very small number remaining would be perfectly safely and appropriately treated at their GP Practice the following day. The conclusion of the Impact Assessment was that the impact on patients of the change would be very small.

Diana Hall Hall
Chair, B&NES Local Involvement Network
8 May 2012



Bath and North East Somerset Local Involvement Network

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David Trigwell
Divisional Director of Planning & Transport Devpt.
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Lewis House, Manvers Street
Bath
BA1 1JG

19 April 2012

Dear Mr Trigwell,

Restoration of Stowey Quarry by landfilling of Stable Non Reactive Hazardous Waste - Planning Application 10/05199/EFUL

We write to express grave concerns over the potential implications of this planning application for the health and wellbeing of the people of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, and North Somerset.

Local Involvement Networks ("LINKs") were set up by Parliament, with statutory responsibility and statutory powers to represent the health and social care interests of the people in their areas. In 2013, LINKs will become Local HealthWatch organisations, and will have formal places on Councils' new Health & Wellbeing Boards. The three LINKs for the areas of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, and North Somerset have expressed the same concerns about this proposal.

We feel that the location proposed for the waste-storage is totally inappropriate for toxic waste - including asbestos. It is close to the Chew Valley Reservoir, and to the water-courses that feed into it. As Bristol Water has pointed out, no commercial operator could realistically give a guarantee that protective measures taken to contain the waste would be effective in perpetuity - or even over finite but long timescales. Failure of such protective measures could result in toxic waste entering this major local source of drinking water.. We also feel that the very strongly expressed professional concerns of a body such as *Bristol Water* should be given conclusive weight in the making of the Council's decision.

In view of B&NES Council's important statutory responsibilities as guardians of public health and wellbeing, we would ask the Council to consider and answer the following questions -

1. Can the Council guarantee to local people -
 - that there will be no contamination of the local water supply by the development - either now, or at any time in the future?

- that there will be no similar contamination of local farmland?
 - that there will never be any risk to people in surrounding villages from windborne waste particles from this development?
2. Will there be an increase in monitoring to identify leaks? Will the results of this be made public?
 3. Who will pay for this? And who will pay for cleaning up any contamination that may result from the development, now and in the future?

In addition to the particular and unique danger from the toxic nature of the waste, the development will bring many other inconveniences and hazards for local people. These include a massive scale of lorry-movements for a rural area with roads inadequate for this, and the inevitable noise that both this and the plant's operation would bring.

The LINKs urge you to reject this application unless the Council can assure itself that the above questions and other issues can be answered in a way that indicates that the public's health can not suffer in any way from the proposed development. We are not convinced that such assurances are even possible.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Hall Hall, Chair, B&NES LINK

John Langley, Chair, Bristol LINK

Georgie Bigg, Chair, North Somerset LINK

cc: Councillor Tim Ball, B&NES, Cabinet Member for Homes & Planning
Councillor Vic Pritchard, Chair, B&NES Wellbeing Policy & Development Scrutiny Panel
Councillor Lesley Alexander, Chair, Bristol Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission
Councillor Reyna Knight, Chair, North Somerset Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Dr Pamela Ackerman, Joint Director of Public Health, B&NES
Dr Hugh Annett, Joint Director of Public Health, Bristol
Becky Pollard, Joint Director of Public Health, North Somerset
Glen Chipp, Strategic Director - Service Delivery, B&NES Council