

Parish Liaison Meeting 16th October 2013 – Parish Ranger Service

1. Aims of this briefing

This briefing note (and presentation to the meeting) aims to brief the Parishes on the Parish Ranger Service. This is an entirely new programme set up by the Council to deliver existing services more efficiently and effectively by better use of existing resources.

2. Background

Bath & North East Somerset Council has over the years developed a number of different ways of delivering highways, cleansing and park functions in the towns and rural areas of the authority.

There are already in place some effective working practises between individual parishes and the Council backed up by the Parish Charter, Parish Cluster meetings and the Parish Liaison meeting.

The Parish Ranger service is aimed at building on the existing good practice and will look to deliver increased outcomes from better co-ordination with all the Parish and Town Councils in B&NES.

The Parish ranger service will be part of the councils “Connecting Communities” programme. We have an ambition for public services to become “excellent” at local engagement by:

- Listening- responding quickly and positively to new ideas
- Prioritising- being flexible to local circumstances
- Joining Up- public services co-ordinating how they engage locally and not “re-inventing the wheel”
- Working with you- helping communities find solutions to local Problems
- Sharing ideas - encourages joint working and sharing “what works”

The wider benefits of this Service will show that we are a listening Council with active citizens that reaches every community and culture. Building on the one-council approach and developing locality based thinking. These have been identified in the following arenas and this is what the Parish Ranger Service is intended to deliver the following.

Creating neighborhoods where people are proud to live by:

- Developing pride in parish communities

- Ad-hoc & routine tasks
- Recruiting rangers that bridge the gap between community and council
- More effective use of resources
- Timely responses
- Increased Public Satisfaction
- Cleaner Community, road signs, hedges, etc.
- Visible & recognizable presence in the community
- Enabling Shared ownership and links between the council and community
- Face of the Council – The eyes and ears for the area

3. Parish Ranger Service – The next steps

Following the Parish Liaison meeting this evening we will be contacting all 11 Parish Councils in the Chew Valley cluster area.

A workshop has been arranged on the 20th November 2013 at Compton Martin Village Hall to develop a more comprehensive programme of activity with the Parishes.

Methods of communications between Parish contacts and Parish Rangers will need to be developed at the workshop as well as the activities that will need to be undertaken.

The trial of the Parish Ranger Service will start on Monday the 2nd of December 2013 in the Chew Valley Parish Cluster area.

The Parish Ranger Service will then roll out to the other four Parish Cluster areas. An additional four Parish Rangers will be appointed and the full scheme will start on Tuesday the 1st of April 2014.

Prior to the roll-out of the four additional Rangers there will be another workshop. This will be held at some point in March 2014 in order to allow all the Parishes to have an input into the aims and objectives of the scheme. In particular how they can work in partnership with Bath & North East Somerset Council to deliver better outcomes for our communities.