

Come along to the Somer Valley Forum on 25 November

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Members of the public are being encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Somer Valley Forum on Tuesday 25 November.

The meeting will be held at Beacon Hall, Peasedown St John; the main meeting will take place between 7pm – 9pm but members of the public are being invited to attend an informal session in advance, between 6pm and 6.45pm, to raise any issues they may have about local public services. The forum meeting is also open to the public, who may attend as observers.

The Forum has been set up by Bath & North East Somerset Council and its partners as part of the Connecting Communities initiative. The aim is to develop a more joined-up approach to tackling concerns raised by local people and improve efficiency by reducing the number of separate engagement meetings being held. The Forum meetings are designed to look at ways in which organisations can work together to help address local issues and to aid the Council and its partners consult locally on a range of topics.

The Somer Valley Forum covers the towns and parishes of Farrington Gurney; High Littleton; Midsomer Norton; Paulton; Peasedown St John; Radstock; Timsbury and Westfield.

If you live in one of these communities and wish to raise an issue with Bath & North East Somerset Council; Avon & Somerset Police; Curo; the Health Service; Avon Fire & Rescue; your local Parish Council or any other public service please come along at 6pm. If you are unable to attend, email your questions in advance to **Strategy_Performance@bathnes.gov.uk** or call 01225 396975.

Members of the Somer Valley Forum include Bath & North East Somerset Council's Ward Councillors; representatives from local town and parish councils and a range of community and voluntary organisations. The Chair of the Forum is community representative Terry Taylor and the Vice Chairs are Cllr Lesley Mansell of Radstock Town Council and Cllr Lynda Robertson of Midsomer Norton Town Council.

Terry Taylor said: "The Forum creates an opportunity for us to build on previous partnership working through the former Somer Valley Partnership and will help us focus on what really matters to local people. The informal sessions will give members of the public a chance to meet with representatives from our public services and talk to them about concerns they may have about their local community."

Leader of Bath & North East Somerset Council, Cllr Paul Crossley, said: "This is a really good opportunity for members of the public to come along to an informal session to ask about issues that matter to them."

The Somer Valley Forum will meet four times per year in different locations within its catchment area. As well as Somer Valley, Connecting Communities Forums have been established in Keynsham and the Chew Valley. Another is planned for Bathavon and meetings are being held to determine the best approach to take in Bath.