

CHEW VALLEY AREA PARTNERSHIP/ KEYNSHAM AND CHEW VALLEY AREA FORUM

Notes of the meeting held on **Thursday 24th July 2014, Whitchurch Village Hall, Whitchurch**

Present: Cllr T Crouch (Chair), Keynsham TC; Cllr R Curry (Vice Chair), Compton Martin PC; Cllr John Twist, Corston PC; Cllr Richard Ireland, West Harptree PC; Cllr Gill Hellier, Keynsham TC; Cllr Clive Fricker, Keynsham TC; Adrian Inker, Community@67; Cllr Martin Carter, Farmborough PC; Cllr Rosemary Naish, Clutton PC; Helen Richardson, Clutton PC; Cllr Trudie Mitchell, Compton Dando PC; Cllr John Harvey, Stanton Drew PC; Cllr Tony Hooper, Cameley PC; Cllr Clive Welsford, Cameley PC; Mark Thompson, Chew Valley Chamber of Commerce; Cllr Alyson Lampard, Whitchurch PC; Cllr Marie Wilkinson, Whitchurch PC; Cllr Rodney Andrews, Chew Magna PC; Cllr Duncan Hounsell, Saltford PC; Peter Duppa-Miller, ALCA; Roger Busby, Keynsham Civic Society; Cllr Brian Simmons, B&NES; Cllr Tony Heaford, Publow with Pensford PC; Cllr Tim Warren, B&NES; Philippa Paget, Compton Dando PC; Cllr Pat Harrison, Chelwood PC; Cllr Vic Pritchard, B&NES; Sara Dixon, B&NES; Cllr Paul Crossley, B&NES; Louise Fradd, B&NES, Alison Wells, B&NES

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting, which he said would consist of two parts - the first to highlight the achievements of the CVAP; hold an 'Ask the Leader' session and disband the Partnership and the second to formally establish the new Connecting Communities Forum.
- 1.2 All introduced themselves.
- 1.3 Apologies were received from Jo Swift, Keynsham Town Council; Cllr Mathew Blakely, Saltford PC; Cllr Sally Davis, B&NES; Rev Charles Roberts, Chew Valley Parish Churches; Cllr Charles Gerrish, B&NES; Rod Podger, Chew Valley Chamber of Commerce; Cllr Liz Richardson, B&NES and Cllr Philip Durbin, Compton Martin PC, Inspector Will Stephens, Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

2. Notes of the last meeting – 12th February 2014

- 2.1 The notes of the last meeting were agreed and there were no matters arising.

3. Presentation: Highlighting our achievements and looking forward

- 3.1 Cllr Tony Crouch; Chris Head and Sara Dixon presented to the group and a hard copy of the presentation was circulated to those present.
- 3.2 Sara thanked everyone who had attended the Partnership meetings over the years and the Steering Group that had worked on the new Forums. Cllr Paul Crossley also extended his thanks and presented Tony and Richard with a gift each. Sara and Joyce were also thanked for their work. Sara asked that thanks also be passed on to Reg Williams.

4. Ask the Leader – Cllr Paul Crossley, Leader of Bath & North East Somerset Council

- 4.1 The Chair said that two questions had been submitted and key themes identified as priority areas for the Forum going forward.

4.2 Q1- Roger Busby

What's happening to the retail shops on the east side of Temple Street? I'm aware that the retailers are not B&NES tenants but would like to have some idea of the Council's longer term plans to redevelop Riverside. Some of the tenants are negotiating for slots in the new development but others are tied into long leases. Does this mean that no redevelopment can proceed until all the tenancies have gone to full term, or the Council considering compulsory purchase?

A: The Council has appointed and paid for Alistair Colston from Colston & Colston in Bath to provide support and advice to the traders in negotiating their existing contracts with the new owners of Riverside. He is meeting each individually and helping them to come up with an appropriate strategy for their futures including, if appropriate, negotiating out of long term leases. The large retail unit has been let to Sainsbury's Local. Negotiations continue with potential traders on the other retail units, some being local traders and others new to the Town. Riverside is currently on the open market and as soon as the new owners are known the Council will contact them about their plans as soon as possible.

4.3 Q2 – Cllr John Twist, Corston Parish Council

The Corston Parish Council requests that B&NES makes a statement to confirm that the road safety improvements at the junction of the A39 and Corston Lane will be included in the 2015/2016 Capital Works Programme and that the work will be completed early in that period.

A: This has been included in the draft 3 year programme. Unfortunately the scheme did not make the programme list for this financial year, it may make it onto next year's programme dependent upon availability of funding. A list of the projects that are included in year 1 will be sent to all Parish Councils for information. The Council is currently monitoring traffic and obtaining data across the district in three phases: Bath; Keynsham and Chew; Somer Valley.

A comment was made that one purpose of the new Forum meetings is to look at these issues on a strategic level and for parishes to work together. Other parishes may have similar issues and working together lends more weight than working in isolation.

4.4 Q3 – Cllr Tony Hooper, Cameley PC

We welcome that the Core Strategy has been passed. However, it identifies 50 new homes in our parish over 15 years. There is already outline planning permission in place for 79 homes but this has not been signed off. Is there a chance this application can go back to be re-appraised? This is also a social issue as local builders in the area may build small numbers of homes at a time, sensitively and employ local trades-people to work on them.

A: We are currently obtaining legal advice on this issue. It was not easy to get the Core Strategy through and uncomfortable decisions had to be made. The Strategy can still be challenged, so there is five weeks to go until it is fully in place. We will get a specific answer back to the whole Forum on the question. As a Council, if we can influence, we do look for local employment and training opportunities.

4.5 Q4 – Adrian Inker, Community @ 67

In Keynsham, where major development is taking place, locals feel that the Council has a 'knee-jerk' reaction to traffic movement. What is the timescale for the traffic reviews in respect of Keynsham and with what regard to developments in neighbouring areas such as Bristol?

A: Bath Transport plan is in the final stages of the consultation process and will be presented to Cabinet in September and data is currently being gathered on Keynsham Transport Strategy. The Council is trying to move more quickly on solutions. We work closely with the West of England partners and are also in regular discussion with the Department for Transport and Highways Agency.

- 4.6 Q5 – Cllr Trudi Mitchell, Compton Dando PC
We have had an illegal gypsy and travellers' camp for four years. Now there is a DPD, will there be powers to move them? It is noted that the proposed site in Twerton is an issue due to the costs involved, which is higher than other authorities.

A: North Somerset's costs are probably not realistic. There is only one landlord that will deal with the gypsy and travelling community and they work to Government Standards, so the B&NES sites will be built accordingly. There will be a large site at Twerton and 2-3 smaller ones. We were one of three Authorities in the UK that did not have provision – we now have it, which should assist as there have been expensive eviction processes in the past. The policy will involve joint working with our West of England partners and it does strengthen our hand when dealing with illegal settlements.

5. Proposal: dissolution of Chew Valley Area Partnership

- 5.1 The Chair proposed the dissolution of the Partnership and the Vice Chair seconded. This was agreed by majority.

6. Establishment of New Area Forums

a. Agreement of the Terms of Reference

- 6.1 These were circulated previously and there will be separate documents for each of the two, new Forums.

- 6.2 Sara said that a question had been put forward by Cllr Francine Haeberling:-

Please can you tell me where Newton St. Loe Parish Council fits in? It clearly ought to be in the same group as Corston, as although the entrance to Bath Spa University is in Corston village, the campus is in Newton St. Loe and the residents are on the Newton St. Loe electoral list. In response, Cllr Haeberling has been informed that Newton St Loe has been included in the Bath Avon Cluster group and the Council is discussing how this might be rolled out as part of the second phase. We would encourage parishes to attend any of the Forums to participate in discussions which affect them. If Newton St Loe wishes to join the Keynsham Forum, this can be discussed with them.

- 6.3 Peter Duppa Miller added that the reason they had not been included to date is because they are part of the Bathavon West Ward and other communities in this Ward would be attending a different Forum. It would mean their Ward Councillor, David Veale, attending two different Forum meetings.
- 6.4 A comment was made regarding 7.5 of the Terms of Reference. General headings should not be given to Agenda Items as those attending meetings should be clear on what is being discussed. Also that if controversial issues are discussed, those that wish to make representation may not attend if they are not clear on the detail. Sara explained this largely relates to items that might previously have been discussed at Parish Cluster meetings. It will still be possible to highlight such issues and submit questions in advance. The Agendas will be prepared by the Chair, Vice Chair and Sponsor and a work plan will be developed. The Forum is not a decision making body.
- 6.5 A vote was taken on the Terms of Reference for the two Forum areas and agreed by majority.

b. Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair

- 6.6 Sara asked if there were any further nominations. There was none. Sara explained that these are non-political roles that require those appointed to be independent and work on behalf of the Forum as a whole. The term will last for one year until the next Annual General Meeting.
- 6.7 For the Chew Valley Forum, 2 nominations had been received for Richard Curry as Chair and 1 for Tony Heaford as Vice-Chair. A vote was taken and these posts agreed by majority.
- 6.8 For the Keynsham Forum, a nomination had been received for Tony Crouch as Chair and Adrian Inker as Vice-Chair. A vote was taken and these posts agreed by majority.

c. Agreement of future work plan

- 6.9 Sara said that work plans and priorities would be developed at the next meeting and asked that relevant documents, parish plans etc be brought to facilitate this. She added that there will be consultations taking place in the near future to include on Agendas, with Planning coming to the next meeting to discuss the Core Strategy and Placemaking. Children's Services also wish to participate in the near future.
- 6.10 It was noted that other Public Services were not present. SD said she will follow up and encourage them to attend future meetings.
- 6.11 Sara confirmed that both the Keynsham and Chew Valley Forums would be kept aware of the work of the other as well as link with the other Forums. There are plans for a North East Somerset Conference for all the Forums outside Bath, to take place in the Summer/Autumn of 2015.
- 6.12 It was noted that the Cluster meetings had ended and a question was raised about PACT meetings. Sara said that in the Radstock policing area these had already ceased. It was noted that the decision often rested with the Inspector and that a new one, Inspector Sarah Treweek, had been recently appointed to cover the whole district. It was also noted that the Forum boundary did not align with the Police boundary, with six parishes present that are in the Radstock Policing area.

d. Working arrangements

- 6.13 Sara said that these will need to be defined by each Forum and suggested discussing this at their separate meetings. The new Chairs and Vice Chairs will be brought together with the Sponsor in the near future to discuss future work plans and the way forward for the Forums.

e. Dates of future meetings

- Thursday 9th October – Chew Valley Forum
- Wednesday 15th October – Keynsham Area Forum
- Thursday 20th November – Chew Valley Forum
- Thursday 27th November – Keynsham Area Forum
- Thursday 12th February – Chew Valley Forum
- Wednesday 18th February – Keynsham Area Forum