

Draft Notes of the
Keynsham Area Forum
 17th February 2016, 6.00pm
 The Civic Centre, Keynsham BS31 1FS

Present

Name	Organisation Represented
Cllr Alan Hale	B&NES Ward Councillor (Keynsham South) and Chair of the Forum
Cllr Keith Baker	Keynsham Town Council
Roger Busby	Keynsham Civic Society
Dave Dixon	Stronger Communities Manager, B&NES
Cllr Emma Dixon	B&NES Ward Councillor, Saltford
Sara Dixon	Stronger Communities Manager, B&NES
Cllr Matt Donovan	Whitchurch Parish Council
Cllr Dawn Drury	Chair - Compton Dando Parish Council
Cllr Clive Fricker	Keynsham Town Council
Louise Fradd	Strategic Director – Place, B&NES (Forum Director Sponsor)
Cllr Charles Gerrish	B&NES Ward Councillor, Keynsham North and Cabinet Member Finance and Efficiency
Tricia Golinski	Clerk - Saltford Parish Council
Gill Hellier	Keynsham Civic Society
Kathleen Hovland	Local Resident
Chris Hounsell (until 7.25pm)	Saltford Business Network
Cllr Duncan Hounsell	Saltford Parish Council
Adrian Inker	Community@67 (Vice Chair of Forum)
Samantha Jones (from 6.35pm)	Inclusive Communities Manager, B&NES
PCSO Rebecca Knocker	Avon and Somerset Police
Peter Morgan	Local Resident and Businessman
Cllr Lisa O'Brien (from 6.35pm)	B&NES Ward Councillor, Keynsham South
Cllr Philippa Paget	Compton Dando Parish Council/Keynsham Chamber of Commerce
Paul Pearce (part)	Parks Project Manager, B&NES
Cllr Brian Simmons	B&NES Ward Councillor, Keynsham North
Chief Inspector Kevin Thatcher	Avon and Somerset Police
Cllr John Twist	Corston Parish Council
Cllr Martin Veal	B&NES Ward Councillor and Cabinet Member for Community Services
Andrew Wait	Local Resident, Keynsham Music Festival and Keynsham Youth Parliament
Alison Wells	Community Projects Officer, B&NES
Brian Wilson	Ramblers/Area Footpath Society
Margaret Wilson	Keynsham and Saltford Churches Together

Informal Open Public Session (6pm – 7pm)

		Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
1.1	AH welcomed those present and asked that they encourage others to attend meetings going forward.	ALL

1.2	<p>AH read out the following statement regarding the pre-election period in respect of the forthcoming referendum on the future governance of Bath and North East Somerset:</p> <p>'The Referendum on the future Governance of the Council will be conducted in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections. In the lead up to a referendum there is a 6 week pre-referendum period (commonly known as "purdah)". During this time, pre-referendum restrictions apply and Councils are required to take particular care over publicity to ensure that communications are balanced and without bias – that there is no appearance of support for one side or the other in the referendum. Therefore this Forum will not be able to take any questions or comments regarding the campaigns for or against.'</p>	
2.	<p>Updates Including Q&As</p> <p><u>2a Police</u></p> <p>2.1 KT introduced himself and said he would give a fuller presentation later in the meeting. He gave some crime statistics, comparing those from January 2015, with those of January 16. Figures for some crimes were down but overall, crime levels were up from 80 in Jan 15 to 102 in Jan 16.</p> <p>2.2 MD asked whether the statistics covered the whole Forum area. KT said the figures are from the Keynsham Beat but it is possible to go wider. RK will e-mail SD with further information.</p> <p>Crime stats for the Keynsham Area – monthly crime stats https://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/CS219/crime/+ALxgqT/</p> <p>2.3 BS asked whether individuals are responsible for more than one crime. KT said yes – the numbers of crimes will be higher than the number of individuals causing them.</p> <p>2.4 CF said it would be helpful to have more detail – perhaps a monthly breakdown over a year. KT said the information is freely available and can be provided.</p> <p><u>2b Council Budget</u></p> <p>2.5 CG said since his presentation to the Forum in November, the position has changed. The Council found itself with a £12m shortfall following the Autumn Statement. Further savings have had to be identified, some of which will not take effect until this Autumn. Reserves will be used in the interim.</p> <p>2.6 CG said the Council has been awarded £900k transition funds per year for two years by the Government. However, this cannot be added to the base budget. The Council is also having to bear the costs of the forthcoming referendum and, potentially, a Mayoral election.</p> <p>2.7 There will be a 2% rise nationally to cover adult social care costs and this will be coupled with a proposed 1.25% increase in Council Tax. This is the first rise in Council Tax for a number of years but this is because increases were previously frozen. It is also the smallest rise of any Local Authority in the region.</p>	

2.8	Locally, a number of initiatives will be supported including the Keynsham Duke of Edinburgh scheme; the Keynsham transport strategy, a number of highway improvements and upgrading of street lighting.	
2.9	AI asked whether Sirona's commissioning budget had been reduced. CG said there have been some reductions but the 2% increase in Council Tax for adult social care is ring-fenced.	
2.10	JT said that road repairs in Corston would be very welcome and thanked Cllr Gerrish.	
2.11	DH said that no roads in Saltford have been mentioned despite the Parish Council requesting re-surfacing at Claverton Road outside the school. CG said that there is £500,000 yet to be released – he recommended approaching Highways again with this request.	
2.12	GH asked about a feasibility study at the Two Headed Man junction. CG said there is potential for a new scheme here with an associated study.	
2.13	TG asked for information about the shared use path. CG said this relates to a link enabling children to cycle to schools. LF to provide further information (see below response). <i>Response: In 2015/16 the Council started to build a dual use path leading from Broadmead Roundabout towards Saltford. The scheme in the 2016/17 programme is to continue with widening and surfacing of the existing path alongside the A4 to continue the shared use path. The scheme is effectively the next phase of the project.</i>	
2.14	AWait asked about funding for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. CG said there were concerns about cuts relating to the DoE award, so funds have been put in place for open award centres. He doesn't have the precise figures with him but these can be obtained. <u>2c Joint Spatial Plan</u>	
2.15	SD said that following the presentations at the November Forums, the Chairs of the Forums gave a joint response to the consultation, see response below). <i>Sent to 'comment@jointplanningwofe.org.uk'</i> Comments on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan <i>Our local engagement for the Public Services within Bath and North East Somerset is a programme known as Connecting Communities. The programme is made up of five Forums that cover:- Bath City, Bathavon, Chew Valley, Keynsham Area, and Somer Valley. The Forums are made up of Bath & North East Somerset Council elected members, parish councils (where applicable) and local representatives from the private, public, voluntary and community sector. All meetings are open to members of the public to attend.</i> <i>In November, the Forums hosted a series of special public meetings which included presentations on the consultation on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and the Council's Budget plans. A total of 195</i>	ALL/SD

	<p><i>people attended these meetings.</i></p> <p><i>The questions and comments on the West of England JSP made at each Forum meeting have been noted and are provided in the attached document. Below is a summary of the shared views raised across the Forum areas. These were:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Ensure sufficient infrastructure improvements, particularly transport, are realised where future growth is planned.</i> <i>• Consider innovative ideas and new technologies to help solve transport problems.</i> <i>• Protect the villages from further growth to avoid over development.</i> <i>• Consider developments within existing local centres that have the infrastructure to support future growth.</i> <i>• Ensure that there is enough affordable housing to meet current and future needs.</i> <i>• Bring forward more brownfield development.</i> <p><i>All those present at the meeting have also been encouraged to respond to the consultation separately.</i></p> <p><i>Sent on behalf of the Forum Chairs, Cllr Bob Goodman (Bath), Chris Head (Chew Valley), Lynda Robertson (Somer Valley), Alan Hale (Keynsham Area)</i></p>	
2.16	<p>SD said there will be further consultation – Planning Policy is setting up a series of working parties with Town, Parish and Ward Councillors from communities most likely to be affected. These will start tomorrow. Planning Policy will also come back to the Forums in April with a further update.</p> <p><u>2d Parish Clerks' Working Group Update</u></p>	
2.17	<p>SD said that at the Forum workshops held in July, a number of issues were raised around communications with, and support for, Town and Parish Councils/Clerks. A working group was set up to look at the issues in more detail, involving Clerks that had expressed an interest. A survey of all Parish and Town Clerks has now been undertaken, which has had a 70% response rate. Those that have not yet responded will be contacted. We will share the information when it is complete and if anyone wishes to be involved with the group, let us know.</p>	
2.18	<p>MV said a further issue raised is how much notice the Council is taking of the Parish Charter. This will be updated. LF said work is on-going to ensure it is fit for purpose. SD said the matter will be raised at the forthcoming Parish Liaison meeting. MV requested that all Forums receive feedback on progress with this.</p> <p><u>2e Representatives of Other Partnership Groups</u></p>	ALL
2.19	<p>SD said the CCG's 'Your Health, Your Voice' group met in early February. Their next meeting is in April and the theme is Children and Adolescents Mental Health. If you have any comments you wish to make, speak to SD or to AI who is the Forum's representative on this group.</p>	ALL

2.20	<p>SD said that at the AGM, there was a request for a representative from the Forum for a New Natural Environment Partnership. We will obtain more information on this and come back to the Forum.</p> <p><u>2f – Q&A</u></p>	
2.21	<p>TG said that the toilets in Keynsham Memorial Park are being closed early due to vandalism – she thought they were meant to be vandal proof? One is out of order in Saltford too. The opening hours on the Council's website have not been updated either. LD said she will ask the relevant officers to look into the points raised (see below response).</p> <p>Response: - <i>The public toilets in Memorial Park, Keynsham and Saltford were subject to targeted break-in incidents with cash stolen between the 4th and 13th of January. As a result Healthmatic, our contractor responsible for the maintenance of the public toilets, opted to vary the closing times of these two facilities to disrupt the cycle of visits by the vandals. Whilst we appreciate this is not always convenient, a temporary short change in the closing times, tends to work in such circumstances. Healthmatic also liaise closely with the Police on this. Unfortunately the toilets are not completely vandal proof when targeted in such a deliberate manner. The facilities are put out of service if locks have been broken etc. to reduce risk to the public. Healthmatic are currently increasing security measures at the facilities in a bid to reduce the number of such incidents. To confirm the toilets in Saltford and Memorial Park, Keynsham are now open as normal and the website has been updated.</i></p>	
2.22	<p>AWait asked about the empty shops at the Civic Centre in Keynsham. CG said two units have now been let. The large one is still available but new agents have been appointed. AH said he understands the units let have been taken by a hairdresser and employment agency. CG said high business rates were an issue but these were set by Customs and Excise, not the Council. There has been a reduction in them following an appeal.</p>	
2.23	<p>PPaget said Temple Street still looks like the back entrance to the Library/Civic Centre – it doesn't look 'alive'. She asked whether there are any plans to improve this? AH said there are meeting rooms here, so it may be difficult but can be looked at. PPaget said there is nothing to indicate that it is a library either.</p> <p>Response - <i>Sara Dixon has raised this query with Customer Services and awaiting a response.</i></p>	
2.24	<p>DH said the Vice Chair of Saltford Parish Council will be attending the JSP meeting tomorrow. He has been told there are no Terms of Reference for these working groups – they are purely for information sharing. However, he believes a liaison group would be better – the implication is that they will have input into the process. SD said this can be discussed in more detail at the JSP meeting – it is intended to be a two-way process. Planning Policy will be setting out the purpose at the meeting but there is a short time frame for the process.</p>	
2.25	<p>RB asked what is happening to the Fire Station – a representative from the Fire Service at these meetings would be helpful. AH said the preferred option is to share the Police Headquarters. The other option is</p>	

	<p>locating to a (yet to be built) unit at Emerson's Green. It is unlikely that the headquarters would be here. KB said they would like the building to join with the Civic Centre in appearance.</p>	
2.26	<p>PPaget asked about the Leisure Centre. MV said no decision had been made as yet but the Forum would be kept informed. The contract with GLL has yet to be signed. LF said the Council is working with them on the options and looking at other sites as well. Further information should be available in March.</p>	
2.27	<p>KB said the contract should have been signed last May and questioned the Council's commitment. MV said there have been legal issues relating to the Recreation Ground in Bath which is causing the delay, not any lack of commitment. AH said a variety of options are being considered but the intention is for Keynsham to have better facilities in future. CG said there is £2.5m over and above the original plan in this year's budget.</p>	
2.28	<p>JT said he is concerned about the vandalism at Newbridge P&R, with fences and wooden railings damaged. Also a safety issue regarding a route to the bus stop which has no path, with users required to walk across a muddy island or in the road. LF to look into (see below response).</p> <p>Response: <i>The damage to the height barrier at this site is being addressed by Parking Services for repair to ensure the site is again secure. Repairs to tree damage will be undertaken through the site contractor, Four Seasons, to be funded by Parking Services to ensure compliance within the current maintenance agreement for landscaping.</i></p> <p><i>The concerns regarding the condition of the 'mud track' have been referred to Massimo Polacco, as Project Manager, for the development to address with ER Hemmings, the site contractor.</i></p>	
2.29	<p>PPaget said residents in Compton Dando are concerned about lack of parking in Keynsham. CG said there is £80k in the budget to look at this issue.</p>	
3.	<p>Green Spaces Strategy 2015-2029 – Paul Pearce - Parks Project Manager, B&NES</p>	
3.1	<p>PPearce explained that this is a new Green Spaces Strategy – the previous one was prepared in 2007. The new one links to the Placemaking Plan. It has been prepared by consultants who assessed the quantity and quality of green spaces across the district and the levels of access to them. This includes spaces managed by Town and Parish Councils. A series of area action plans has now been prepared, broken down in the five Connecting Communities Forum areas.</p>	
3.2	<p>The strategy looks at spaces that need improvement and areas of under or over supply. It also looks at green routes, which are the cycle-paths and canal paths being used by community. The usage of these is high, so work to improve these needs to be considered.</p>	
3.3.	<p>KH said the Government has made a commitment to the UN relating to endangered butterflies and insects. Does the strategy include grassland? PPearce said he would speak directly with KH in the break.</p>	

3.4	DDrury said Holmonoak should be Holmoak. PPearce noted.	
3.5	PPearce was asked whether zero in the table means provision is okay. He confirmed that it does.	
3.6	PPearce said the action plan is being development but needs to take into account what local Neighbourhood Plans are saying and the aspirations of local communities.	
3.7	PPearce said the document is useful for working with developers. S106 monies have been accruing but allocation of funds has not been strategic. Going forward, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds can be used to deliver what the strategy is telling us.	
3.8	LO'B asked whether allotments can be sited in the Green Belt? PPearce said his understanding is yes but LF added that they would still have to go through the Green Belt test.	
3.9	Abbott's Wood is covenanted, so an outdoor gym should not be sited there. Also, pathways here need to be natural, not tarmac. This and Manor Road are very special areas for Keynsham. PPearce said this is the first stage of the consultation with outline suggestions. The aim is to work with stakeholders on the detail.	
3.10	KH said the first step would be to look at conservation areas as these are important to people's mental well-being.	
3.11	PPearce said the Area Action Plans are all on the Council's website. SD will send the link, details of the deadline and PPearce's contact details. Comments are to go back to him.	
3.12	PPaget asked about opportunities for Forest Schools. PPearce said sites like Abbott's Wood could be used for Forest School activities.	SD/ALL
3.13	AH said that if members consider that there is too much on the Agendas for Forum meetings to let SD know.	
3.14	AH said congratulations to Keynsham Wombles on their Chairman's Community Award. MD suggested that Keynsham Wombles be invited to a future meeting so that they can share good practice with other areas. Sara agreed to contact them.	ALL/SD

Break

Ordinary Meeting (7.15pm – 8.00pm)

		Action
4.	Notes of Previous Meeting (30th September and 24th November 2015)	
4.1	Notes were agreed as an accurate record.	
5.	Matters Arising	
5.1	MD asked for some information on what the Forum is and does, so that	

	Parishes can help to promote it. PPaget said that Compton Dando Parish Council is in touch with all their residents by e-mail. An invitation to residents and what is in it for them would be helpful. It was easier for them to do this if e-mails are addressed 'Dear All' instead of 'Dear Colleague'.	
5.2	LF said that the budget meeting in November had been helpful because it had a clear theme. Perhaps a Green Spaces Workshop would have been more participatory than a presentation.	
5.3	AH said he would like to see representatives of the right level from Sirona and Curo at meetings. AI said the CCG Forum meetings had been well attended.	
5.4	PM asked where the Forums are advertised as he had never seen any promotion. SD said that ads have been put in the press in the past. The dates are also on the Council's website (main Council meeting diary). However, we would look again at communications and publicity for the Forums. PM said there are various Facebook pages in local villages.	
5.5	MV said that those currently attending Forum meetings also have a role to play in going back to their communities and contacts to tell them that the meetings are useful.	ALL
5.6	AH said that MW could help promote among the Churches Together.	MW
6.	Policing and Community Safety Matters	
6.1	<p>SJ introduced herself as the lead for Equality Policy and the Council link for the Voluntary and Community Sector and Community Safety. She said the Council does not have a budget for Community Safety - the funding comes from the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC). The priorities for the B&NES area are currently:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) - Domestic Violence - Victims at the heart of the criminal justice system - National Agendas of Prevent (extremism); modern slavery; people trafficking; Isis; animal rights and far right/left extremists 	
6.2	MV said there are examples of modern slavery in B&NES, particularly in nail bars. SJ said 'action days' are held in conjunction with the Police and Public Protection Team. Those concerned may have been trafficked and promised a job and home. However, they receive very little money and the accommodation is usually unsuitable. Their passports are usually taken so they cannot escape. The situation can apply to car washes and some takeaways/food outlets as well. There may also be links to gang crime and drugs.	
6.3	In Keynsham, agencies are aware of 'hot spots' for ASB, especially since Christmas. Other issues include retail crime and street drinking/begging. The ASB of speeding in motor vehicles is also of concern to local residents.	
6.4	There is probable under-reporting of domestic violence but a new victim programme is in place (IDVA). This is a 'gold service' that not many Councils have. The bases are at Southside and the RUH.	

6.5	AI said that domestic violence is often hidden but that people in local communities can help. Community@67 is well placed to offer support and he would welcome any opportunities to link up. SJ said she would follow this up with AI after the meeting.	AI/SJ
6.6	SJ said hate crime is another issue but the Equality Act adds some protection for this. There are safe zones in Keynsham – these started in the US and were initially aimed at people with learning difficulties to provide them with a safe place to wait or seek help with contacting a carer/relative. There will be stickers in places such as shops that take part in the scheme. Cards are given to vulnerable people showing their name and address. The scheme is also starting to be used to help children who are being bullied. PPaget asked how many places in Keynsham participate. SJ said she believe there are around 15 at present.	
6.7	SJ said there is a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) in Midsomer Norton, set up to combat issues relating to excess alcohol consumption and the associated issues of ASB; littering etc. This is something that could potentially be rolled out in Keynsham as well if there is interest.	
6.8	SJ said lack of funding to support their work is an issue but there are opportunities to co-produce solutions to help address this.	
6.9	MV said meetings are held with the PCC, with the whole constabulary area represented, every two months at Portishead.	
6.10	MB asked whether the issues in B&NES are mirrored elsewhere. SJ said B&NES is a bit of an anomaly – it has a different demographic to other areas with low levels of migrant and Black and Other Minority Ethnic (BOME) populations. There is little street crime but there are examples of other types of crime. In terms of violent extremism, Bath in an attractive place for an ‘incident’.	
	SJ handed over to Kevin Thatcher, Chief Inspector for B&NES.	
6.11	KT said he appreciates that there has been some inconsistency in terms of leadership in Avon and Somerset but that Andy Marsh has now been appointed as the new Chief Constable, so there should be some improvement going forward.	
6.12	The Police budgets are not being cut but they are having to direct existing resources to emerging issues such as terrorism; cyber crime and child protection which equates to a saving of £16m - £20m.	
6.13	The Police are currently looking at a strategic alliance with Wiltshire – this could save £30m by pooling ‘back-room’ resources such as HR. They are doing their utmost to protect front-line services. The new Commander, Ian Smith, is keen to ensure the Police remain visible and accessible.	
6.14	In Keynsham, there has been ASB in the park recently. However, teams have responded to this quickly. They often get intelligence via social media. It is not possible to put a brigade in Keynsham but it is possible to access further resources when required.	
6.15	MD clarified that the Police need to make efficiencies rather than savings.	

	KT said yes – they are looking to pool resources and specialist operations. Portishead will now service the whole of the South West.	
6.16	CG said there has been some frustration around activities in Keynsham's park and the park behind St John's Church. There are nightly gatherings and a suspicion of drug dealing. This has been reported but there is an impression that no action is being taken. KT said they have put officers in this area but nothing has been seen recently. It doesn't mean there is no activity when the Police are not present but the area is regularly patrolled. RB said he had witnessed such activity the previous week. KT said they will have another look at it. They also focus on the Park and if a call is received, he would expect the Police to attend.	
6.17	DH said it is important not to lose sight of priorities – internet crime is a priority and vulnerable, older people can easily be duped. KT said cyber crime is important as is child exploitation and slavery – these are big areas of risk and the highest risks always come first.	
6.18	KB asked whether 'phishing' e-mails should be sent to the Police. KT said potentially yes from an intelligence point of view.	
6.19	MB asked whether there are only uniformed officers in the park, or undercover. KT said there is a mix of both – drug dealing would usually involve plain clothes.	
6.20	A question was asked whether officers all have phones with cameras to record evidence and whether further investment in CCTV is needed. KT said yes and the mobile data Police can access will be improved. He added that CCTV it is not the answer to all the problems but can help in certain situations – in Bath is useful in monitoring crowds. What is helpful, is people phoning in and providing the Police with information.	
6.21	BS said to send 'phishing' e-mails to the Council's Trading Standards team. KT said there have been a number of cold callers in the Combe Down area of Bath and news of these spread quickly on social media – this is a good way of alerting the public to scams like this and the Police regularly use Twitter and Facebook.	
7.	Any Other Business	
7.1	There was none.	
8.	Dates of Next Meetings Thursday 7 th April, 6pm, The Cadbury Room, Somerdale Pavilion Thursday 30 th June, 6pm – Venue TBC Wednesday 28 th September (AGM), 6pm – Venue TBC Tuesday 22 nd November, 6pm (Budget Update) – Venue TBC	