

Draft Notes of the  
**Chew Valley Forum**  
 Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 6pm  
 The Library, Chew Valley Secondary School

**Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation Represented</b>
Chris Head	Chair of Forum and Chief Executive, WERN
Cllr Rodney Andrews	Chew Magna Parish Council
Cllr Nick Baker	Chew Stoke Parish Council
Mike Bowden	Divisional Director, People and Communities, B&NES
Cllr Chris Brookes	Stowey Sutton Parish Council
Heather Clewett	Stowey Sutton Parish Council
Cllr Chris Craig	Compton Martin Parish Council
Sara Dixon	Locality Manager, B&NES
Cllr Mark Dury	Whitchurch Parish Council
Cllr Wesley Hallam	Ubley Parish Council
PC Gemma Hill (part)	Avon and Somerset Police, Pensford and Chew Valley
Cllr Richard Ireland	Chew Magna Parish Council
Cllr Ray Jenkins	Whitchurch Parish Council
Cllr Chris Lane	Norton Malward Parish Council
Dr Chris Lewis	Local resident and GP
Heidi Limbert	Childrens' Centre Service Manager, B&NES
Tracey Long (part)	Group Manager - Strategy & Change, Customer Services, B&NES
John Myers?	
Cllr Rosemary Naish	Clutton Parish Council
PC Stuard Peard (part)	Avon and Somerset Police, Beat Manager, North Mendip
Denise Perrin	Village Agents, West of England Rural Network
Cllr Vic Pritchard	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health and B&NES Ward Councillor, Chew Valley South
Cllr Liz Richardson	Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning and B&NES Ward Councillor, Chew Valley North
Ian Savigar (part)	Divisional Director for Customer Services, B&NES
Janette Stephenson	Publow & Pensford Parish Council
Cllr Tim Warren	Leader, B&NES Council and B&NES Ward Councillor for Mendip
Cllr John Weiss	Ubley Parish Council
Alison Wells	Community Projects Officer, B&NES
Anna Wheeler	City of Bath College Adult and Community Learning

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation Represented</b>
Kate Atkins	City of Bath College Adult and Community Learning
Cllr Liz Brimmall	Hinton Blewett Parish Council
Cllr Tony Heaford	Publow with Pensford Parish Council

**Informal Open Public Session**

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome from the Chair of the Forum</b>	
1.1	CH welcomed those present. Apologies as above.	

	<p>CH said there have been some changes to report. Ashley Ayre has now been appointed Chief Executive so Mike Bowden, the Council's Strategic Director for People and Communities is now the Director Sponsor for the Chew Valley Forum. Sara Dixon is now Locality Manager for Chew Valley; Keynsham Area and Somer Valley. Alison Wells will be assisting her. He thanked the team for their support to date.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Updates including Q&amp;As</b></p> <p><u>Local Police Matters</u></p> <p>2.1 PC Stuart Peard gave an update. There have been 13 dwelling thefts in the area over the summer - some were distraction burglaries. There have also been 12 car thefts – usually items left on view in the vehicle. There has also been 12 sudden deaths including 2 suicides. SP said there is likely to be further changes to local Policing in future as more savings need to be found.</p> <p>2.2 Q1: One of our villagers has reported a problem with getting through on the 101 service. A1: It can be difficult – there are some staffing issues Comment: It is also not free to call from a mobile and the charge can be high.</p> <p>2.3 PC Gemma Hill said three youths have been given ASB contracts in respect of anti-social behaviour in Bishop Sutton. They have also had to pay back money following incidents in the summer. There are some speeding issues outside the school but the speed limit is going to be reduced. She is now back following her maternity leave if people want to get in touch.</p> <p><u>Briefing on Changes to Waste and Recycling Service</u></p> <p>2.4 A presentation was given by Tim Rawlings, Waste Campaigns Officer, followed by a question and answer session. For full details see Appendix 1.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Issues</b></p> <p>3.1 CH said the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all the Connecting Communities Forums (there are five), meet regularly to discuss shared issues and plan Forum meetings. The Cabinet Member for Connecting Communities, Cllr Paul Myers, also attends. Sheep and animal worrying has been discussed at more than one Forum and seems to have been on the increase in rural areas this year.</p> <p>3.2 CH said he also raised the issues with cycling sportifs at this meeting, particularly the fact that organisers do not need to register these events with the police and other authorities.</p> <p>3.3 CH said the group also discussed how the Forums might be supported in future. He will be reporting back to the next Joint Chairs meeting but is keen to ensure that Sara and Alison continue to support the Forum and its activities.</p> <p><u>Funding Bulletin</u></p> <p>3.4 AW said that she would be working on this e-newsletter going forward. If anyone is not receiving it and would like to, let her or Sara know. AW will also be contacting Town and Parish Councils shortly for information on their own grants programmes so that these can be promoted. CH said the Funding Bulletin; Interagency Newsletter and Interagency Meetings are very useful.</p>	ALL

## Ordinary Meeting

		Action
<b>4.</b>	<b>Notes of the Previous Meeting (7<sup>th</sup> July 2016)</b>	
4.1	These were agreed as a true record. CH said we may change how we record minutes in the future.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
5.1	There was none.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>To note an update from Peter Dawson, B&amp;NES Planning and Transportation on the Chew Valley Transport Strategy</b>	
6.1	This is a standing item of interest to the Forum and an update will be provided at a future meeting.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Verbal Reports from Working Groups</b>	
	CH said two working groups have now been set up – one to look at future uses of the Children’s Centre and the other on ‘Working with Water’.	
	<u>Chew Valley Children’s Centre – future uses</u>	
7.1	The Children’s Centre group had their first meeting on Monday. This involved Heidi Limbert and colleagues; Anna Wheeler from City of Bath College; Denise Perrin and Cllrs Vic Pritchard and Liz Richardson. They discussed ideas for activities that might be held in the space which has been underused since the Magna Miners moved out. Heidi is preparing a report for Cabinet regarding all the Children’s Centres – the ideas will be fed into this report.	
7.2	The new Headteacher of Chew Valley School, Gareth Beynon, introduced himself to the meeting. He said the school is part of the community so it is important to him that this meeting is held here – all are very welcome. He would like to get to know the local community better and is looking forward to working closely with it in future.	
7.3	CH said the school is a critical part of the Children’s Centre project. A slightly wider group will be meeting again in November.	
	<u>‘Working with Water’ – opportunities to develop local initiatives</u>	
7.4	CH reminded the Forum of the presentation from Chris Uttley of Stroud District Council. Since then, a meeting has been held with Bristol Water to scope out a pilot project for the Chew Valley catchment. This does not quite follow the Forum area but there is a wish to work with local Parish Councils. Natural England and the Environment Agency are involved as well.	
7.5	CH said a similar project is already underway on the River Parratt. There will be three phases to it:  Phase 1: scoping; ground sourcing; visits to existing schemes Phase 2: project officer recruitment; volunteer labour; small, achievable projects Phase 3: monitoring; baseline indicators; research	

7.6	This group will also meet again in November and are aiming to apply for funding.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Proposal for Assets of Community Value workshop/training session</b>	
8.1	CH said there has been interest in a workshop on this. It does involve a process and the provision of evidence. The Community Engagement Team will explore possibilities and feed back. Neighbourhood Plans present a good opportunity to register Assets of Community Value.	SD
<b>9.</b>	<b>Libraries Future</b>	
9.1	A presentation was given with a question and answer session. For full details, see Appendix 2	
9.2	In summary, CH said a library now needs to be more than a place to borrow a book – computers and IT are key as is space where vulnerable people can meet. He asked that all reflect back to Parishes and consider what is needed in this area.	ALL
<b>10.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
10.1	CH said the Chairmans' Community Awards are still open for nominations until 25 <sup>th</sup> November. Further information can be found on the Council's website: <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/neighbourhoods-and-community-safety/local-awards/chairmans-community-business-awards">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/neighbourhoods-and-community-safety/local-awards/chairmans-community-business-awards</a>	
10.2	If you have any ideas for future Agenda Items, speakers etc, let him or the Community Engagement Team know.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	Tuesday 29th November, The Library, Chew Valley Secondary School	
11.1	CH reminded the meeting that the main item is the Council's Budget. Cllr Gerrish will attend and values the feedback of the Forums.	

## Actions

	Responsible
Anyone not receiving the Funding Bulletin and Interagency Newsletter to let AW or SD know	ALL
Workshop on Assets of Community Value explored	SD/AW
All to consider what type of library and related services might be needed/possible in their communities	ALL
Figures for Library usage in Chew Valley to be provided	B&NES
Customer Services to contact Clutton Parish Council	B&NES

**Briefing on Changes to Waste and Recycling Service**  
**Tim Rawlings – Waste Campaigns Officer, B&NES**

TR introduced himself and said he works on various campaigns relating to waste and recycling. At present, he is working closely with the Universities as the students start their new term.

- The changes will take place in late Autumn 2017. Most residents will receive a black wheeled, 140 litre bin. This holds 3 full bags of rubbish.
- The refuse will be collected every other week but recycling will be weekly. If residents want a larger bin or a gull proof sack they can request this.
- There could be a potential change to existing collection days as vehicles may need to be re-routed.
- The aim is to help keep the streets cleaner by reducing the opportunity for gulls/foxes/badgers to rip open bags. It is also about encouraging people to recycle more. 50% of what people are throwing away could be recycled.
- The Council has determined that about 80% of properties in its area are suitable for wheeled bins.
- The Council also needs to save money. It costs £1,000 per lorry load of rubbish.
- In terms of timescale, the Council will write to households in January/February 2017 to let them know whether they will receive a bin or a sack. The Council can also visit properties to assess the best approach if a resident requests this.
- Roadshows will be held in the Spring and Summer. There will also be updates on facebook and the Council's website.
- The Council is keen to encourage people to start recycling more now to get ready for the change. More food waste could be recycled and this can now be put into ordinary carrier bags or in newspaper. (The compostable bags are not rotting down quickly enough and are having to be picked out anyway).
- If there are any events or meetings you would like the Waste Team to attend, let us know.

**Questions and Answers**

**Q1: Please explain how negotiable it is to get a bin or a bag.**

A1: There will not be a lot of choice as 80% of homes should be suitable for bins. It will largely depend on access issues. There is also a need for some consistency in streets to aid operations. There will be assisted collections for those that need it.

**Q2: Are the bin and bag the only two options? Does this mean if you already have a bin it is redundant?**

A2: If you have the right type, let us know but they do need to be kind that can be lifted by the lorries.

Comment 1: **Please make it clear in the publicity that assisted collections are available. A sticker for the bins that receive this service would be helpful.**

Response 1: Residents need to request this service themselves but yes, this can be promoted.

Comment 2: **Every one of my recycling receptacles has been broken by the bin men.**

Comment 3: **It would help if we could recycle black plastic and plastic bags.**

Response 3: These and nappies are items we need to address when the market allows.

Comment 4: **The Council needs to be prepared for a lot of questions and issues – particularly where there are steps to a property.**

Comment 5: **There are already fortnightly collections in Mendip. It is not an issue and we do recycle more as a result.**

Response 5: This initiative has been looked at carefully. Some Councils have gone to collections every 3 or even 4 weeks.

**Libraries Future – Ian Savigar and Tracey Long, B&NES Customer Services**

IS thanked the Forum for the opportunity of presenting to them, particularly in the apt setting of the School's Library. He said this is the fourth Forum meeting he has attended to start a dialogue around Libraries Future.

**Presentation**

<b>Slide</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1 – Facing the Challenge, Shaping the Future.	<p>Libraries Future will be looking at the change in the way people use libraries. The combined One Stop Shop and Library in Keynsham is now used for a variety of purposes. This is the first stage of the consultation.</p> <p>Of the Council's £1.9m budget for libraries, £1.2m is staffing costs. There is a need to make savings but this is not about cuts – it could provide opportunities in some locations.</p>
2 – Digital Society, Volunteers	<p>The number of library books being issued has fallen nationally, although the use of e-books is up. The number of people coming into libraries remains relatively stable but they are now using them to access computers; obtain advice; use free wi-fi etc. In Bath Library, staff spend most of their time assisting the public with printing e-documents.</p> <p>There is also a need to consider the Government's own desire to deliver more services digitally and how we support the most vulnerable with this.</p> <p>A Peer Review of B&amp;NES determined that the Council was trying to 'do it all' and needs to focus on priorities.</p> <p>The greatest traditional use of the library to borrow books is by those aged 6 – 11.</p> <p>The local economy is also important and the development of digital skills. This is linked to how community hub facilities might be developed.</p> <p>The browsing experience is changing - it is expensive to have a lot of books in one place but the Council is part of Libraries West and has access to millions of books via this. Volunteers may be able to do more around this. Local examples include Paulton and Salford where opening hours have increased due to volunteer support.</p>
3 – Where We Are Now	<p>There are currently eight libraries in B&amp;NES, four of which are community led. There is one mobile library vehicle which operates in this Forum area. However, this is a relatively expensive service. Could we make better use of this by working with partners?</p>
4 – Where we are now in Chew Valley	<p>There is a community library at the Hub in the Pub. While there is also relatively high use of the mobile service, a number of residents also use Midsomer Norton's library.</p>
5, 6 – Mobile Library Routes – Chew Valley	<p>There are maps on tables showing the route of the mobile library and where there are community buildings. Could there be opportunities to deliver a library from these?</p>

(North); Chew Valley (South)	The stars on the maps show the mobile stops and they are already close to community spaces. The mobile stops are also very brief – it would not be possible for young people to do homework on them for example.
7 – What Next?	<p>People – what do people want and need from a library service?</p> <p>Places – where do we want to do this (within resources)? The Council has a statutory duty to provide libraries. Changes like this have been presented as a ‘done deal’ in other areas. We want to work with you to shape them.</p>
8, 9 – What are we already doing in B&NES and What are other communities doing?	<p>There are good examples of community libraries in B&amp;NES – Paulton Hub is very successful and has seen an increase in usage. Having the café there assists. Larkhall is another good example.</p> <p>Other examples from around the UK include Cornwall, where the Council voted on whether to privatise libraries or work with Parishes. The officer recommended privatisation, members decided the opposite. Truro City Council now runs their Library and raised the precept to do so.</p> <p>In Warwickshire, substantial savings were made but no libraries were closed. They even created more - delivered differently, in the right places. There is a main One Stop Shop and Library as in Keynsham but in a smaller, rural location there is a community run hub. They have access to the Council’s books and systems and applied for funding to help set up a café, which now helps to fund the service. They also keep any fines or fees to help with running costs.</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council is looking at Open Plus, which is an unstaffed library monitored by CCTV.</p>
10 – What could we do in the Chew Valley?	<p>The Council is keen to work with partners. It is in touch with the Universities re potentially running the Library in Moorland Road, Bath.</p> <p>We are working to gain greater understanding of the cost of moving a book around community facilities.</p> <p>At the One Stop Shop, welfare enquiries used to take up to 40 minutes but Universal Credit needs to be done on-line. The conversations with our customers here are changing as is the length of time we spend with them. Library Staff are being trained to deal with One Stop Shop enquiries to create a more flexible workforce.</p>

CH thanked IS and TL. He said the fact that the largest user group are aged 6 – 11 years ties in well with future use of the Children’s Centre. He appreciates changes in technology but vulnerable people still need to have interactions. He wondered whether this could be an opportunity to develop other services that are missing in this area. He noted that there is no decent broadband in parts of the Chew Valley and that bus services to Bath and Keynsham are poor.

### Questions and Answers

**Q1: Could we have the usage figures for the Chew Valley?**

**Q2: What level of stock do mobile libraries carry, or is it all ordered books?**

A1: Most of the stock is pre-ordered but there is a small selection as well that gets regularly refreshed based on local knowledge of what customers like. There is access to IT on them and it is possible to browse through an on-line catalogue to choose in a different way. The library element of the vehicle does not need to take up all the space.

Comment: **If you speak to residents, it is clear they care about the library service. Please come to Clutton Parish Council. When looking at usage statistics, also consider that bus services to Midsomer Norton have recently changed, making it more difficult to get there. There are other ways in which this can be done and we are keen to talk to you.**

Comment: **We are sitting in a library now – there may be scope to use schools and other facilities at evenings and weekends.**

Comment: **Don't waste a crisis. This can be positive. All inclusive Hubs can be a cure for loneliness**

Comment: **There is support to help keep older people, safe and independent in their own homes. However, they are lonely. There are lots of village halls in the area that are underused. There is also huge potential with Children's Centres.**

Comment: **IT is key – many people use their mobile phones to access the internet but there are limitations with these.**