

Draft Notes of the
Keynsham Area Forum
 Tuesday 22nd November 2016 at 6pm
 Community Space, Civic Centre, Market Walk, Keynsham

Present

Name	Organisation Represented
Cllr Alan Hale	B&NES Ward Councillor, Chair of the Forum
Cllr Keith Baker	Keynsham Town Council
Cllr Dave Biddleston	Keynsham Town Council
Cllr Ashton Broad	Whitchurch Village Council
Sheila Crocombe	Keynsham Action Network
Richard Daone	Team Manager – Planning Policy, B&NES
Peter Dawson	Group Manager - Plan Policy Transport, B&NES
Cllr Dawn Drury	Chair, Compton Dando Parish Council
Sara Dixon	Locality Manager, B&NES
James Evans	Beat Manager Keynsham, Avon and Somerset Police
Louise Fradd	Strategic Director – Place, B&NES
Cllr Clive Fricker	Keynsham Town Council
Cllr Charles Gerrish	B&NES Ward Councillor, Keynsham North and Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency
Michael Hammond	Resident
Duncan Hounsell	Saltford Parish Council
Kathleen Hovland	Resident
Hazel Mitchell	Resident
Tony Mitchell	Transition Keynsham
Cllr Paul Myers	Cabinet Member for Policy, Localism and Partnerships
Cllr Bryan Organ	B&NES Ward Councillor, Keynsham East
Cllr Philippa Paget	Compton Dando Parish Council
Becky Reynolds	Consultant in Public Health, B&NES
Tim Richens	Divisional Director - Business Support – Resources, B&NES
Rhian Roberts	Keynsham Neighbourhood Development Plan
J. Serman	Resident
Cllr Brian Simmons	B&NES Ward Councillor, Keynsham North
Chief Inspector Kevin Thatcher	Avon and Somerset Police
Andy Wait	Keynsham Now
Kevin Ward	Resident?
Alison Wells	Community Projects Officer, B&NES
Dannii	Keynsham Now
3 x personnel	Avon Fire and Rescue

Apologies (check all this – thought Louise was there)

Name	Organisation Represented
Roger Busby	
Louise Fradd	Strategic Director - Place, B&NES
Christine Hounsell	Saltford Business Network
Margaret Wilson	Keynsham and Saltford Churches Together

Ordinary Meeting

		Action
1.	Welcome from the Chair of the Forum	
1.1	AH welcomed those present and gave a safety notice. Apologies as above.	
2.	Notes of the Previous Meeting (28th September) and Matters Arising	
2.1	The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.	
3.	Update from the Police	
	This was given by PC James Evans and Chief Inspector Kevin Thatcher	
3.1	JE reported that in September, according to the.gov.uk website, which is how the Police obtain their statistics, there were 100 crimes in the area in September. He is sure this is not the case, so will review and come back to the next meeting with an update.	JE
3.2	There were several big events in the area which the Police attended, including firework displays. There were traffic issues in relation to the fireworks at the Riverside Pub. There was no plan in place to manage this so the Police are following up with the organisers.	
3.3	There have been a number of complaints re speeding, so checks are being undertaken in each location at different times of the day. On the whole, people adhere to the limit. However, the Police welcome information from Councillors and residents on this. They will also be doing a purge on the use of mobile phones while driving at the end of the year as this causes a lot of accidents.	
3.4	There were two fatal collisions on the A37. The Police are working with the Council's Highways team on layout and markings but these accidents were mainly due to driver error.	
3.5	There has been some anti-social behaviour in parks and estates in Keynsham.	
3.6	Q: The on-line crime stats are not helpful. Cycle thefts are included as a separate item but sexual and violent crimes are amalgamated when there is a clear difference between a fight and rape. A: We agree they are not clear or easy to understand and don't give a clear picture. They are Government statistics. There are not many sexual assaults in Keynsham. The website is changing so this should help.	
3.7	Q: There has been some interest from young people using the skate park in having lights there. Young females say they feel safer if the area is lit but we would be interested to know if you think the area is safe. A: Keynsham is generally a safe place but personal safety cannot be guaranteed. There was spate of attacks in Bath for a couple of months.	
3.8	Q: Could we have an update on the arson attack at Tintagel? A: This is still under investigation. A family had 3 vehicles set on fire. It is being treated as a hate crime. We are making progress but that is all we can say at present.	

4.	Update Item – West of England Joint Spatial Plan	
4.1	This was presented by Richard Daone and Peter Dawson. For full details, see Appendix 1	
5.	Any Other Business	
5.1	There was an update from the Fire Service. They have been dealing with issues of flooding recently. They are also working with more schools and undertaking promotional activities in local communities. If there is anything they can assist with in your community, contact them at Hick's Gate.	
5.2	AH said that as Chairman he has been raising funds for his three chosen charities this year (RICE ; Designability Wizzybugs and Butterflies Haven). They have been chosen as they touch a number of lives. He said he gave a talk about them at Parish Liaison and as a result, the Charlcombe Association sent a cheque for £900, for which he is very grateful. He has decided not to hold an expensive, ticketed, ball this year but is holding a number of smaller events. He is inviting local communities to come forward with activities and ideas. Also, if there are any events or activities you would like him to visit as Chair, please get in touch.	

Annual General Meeting

		Action
6.	Notes of the previous AGM and Matters Arising	
6.1	Agreed as a true record aside from a correction to the spelling of Cllr Simmonds name. There were no matters arising.	
7.	Chair's Annual Review	
7.1	Hard copies of this were circulated and will be sent electronically after the meeting.	
8.	Review and Amend, if required, Terms of Reference	
8.1	There were no requests to amend this.	
9.	Proposal for Additional Members	
9.1	It was proposed that Keynsham Action Network; Keynsham Youth Council (Keynsham Now) and Transition Keynsham become members. This was agreed.	
10.	Election of the Chair and Vice Chair Positions	
10.1	AH handed over to SD for this part of the meeting. SD said he has received one nomination form proposing that Cllr Alan Hale be re-elected Chair and Adrian Inker Vice Chair. She asked if there were any more. There was none. SD asked for a show of hands (members only) in favour of this proposal. Cllr Hale and Adrian Inker were re-elected to their respective posts. AH thanked those present.	

11.	Partnership Meetings	
11.1	??	
12.	Any Other Business	
12.1	There was none.	

Break

13.	Bath & North East Somerset Council 'Our Budget Challenge' Presentation	
13.1	AH welcomed Tim Richens and Cllr Charles Gerrish to give this presentation. Full details are contained in Appendix 2.	
	Dates of Next Meetings Monday 6 th March Thursday 20 th July Monday 25 th September Thursday 30 th November All starting at 6pm at Keynsham Community Space <i>There is a gap in meetings in Spring to allow for Parish AGM and APM meetings in April and the Metro Mayor election in May.</i>	

Actions

	Responsible
Police to review statistics and report back at a future meeting	Police

Presentation: West of England Joint Spatial Plan, Richard Daone and Peter Dawson.

RD said this is short update on progress. The JSP and Transport are being developed together.

Slide	Comment
Slides 1 and 2 (Title; Critical Issues)	This slide shows the critical issues facing this part of the UK. There is a national housing crisis to address; the economic prosperity of the region, which contributes significantly to the Treasury; congestion and pressure on transport infrastructure and the need to maintain, enhance and protect the world class environment.
Slide 3 (Working Together)	The JSP will be a statutory development plan so planning applications will be determined by it. Key locations have been identified but it's not just about numbers but about high quality development as well. The JTS will ensure we can identify and plan the associated transport infrastructure.
Slide 4 (JSP Strategic Priorities)	These are to ensure the necessary jobs and houses. There has been a tendency to focus on Bristol City Centre so it's about redirecting development to the south of Bristol.
Slide 5 (Transport Vision – Key Principles)	This is joint piece of work to understand how transport investment links to development and to ensure that it works for the future. There is an emphasis on public transport, walking and cycling. It is also about how development can bring forward investment in transport such as corridor packages in Bristol. Two thirds of people drive to work in the sub-region each day. There is a need to move towards more sustainable development to unlock congestion.
Slide 6 (Transport Vision – Corridor Key Features)	It is an ambitious strategy. Proposals include light rapid transit, metro buses and more cycling. We have been successful with our investment to date and bus patronage is growing. There will need to be new network schemes. Bristol Port is of national importance and the main port for the industries of the West Midlands. There is support for Bristol airport to grow. A link for the east of Bath is in discussion. The whole plan will be integrated with the JSP strategic locations.
Slide 7 (Housing Target)	There is a need for 105k dwellings. 66k of this is on sites already committed for development. However, there is a gap of 39k. 25k of these will be on new, Greenfield sites.
Slide 8 (Affordable Housing)	A further 15k of affordable housing is needed.
Slide 9 (Spatial Scenario)	We are currently consulting on the emerging spatial strategy. Some of you may have already commented on the previous consultation as these are the points raised as important.
Slide 10 (Emerging Spatial Strategy)	It is important to emphasize that this is an emerging strategy. Most of the development is proposed for urban areas (yellow lines). The orange are sites of strategic development. There will also be some development on the green belt in Keynsham and Whitchurch. The purple triangles indicate strategic employment development.
Slide 11 (Transport Vision)	Modelling has taken place to test some of the strategic sites. The focus is on transport corridors. If there was development between Hick's Gate and Whitchurch, this would help to address traffic coming through Keynsham. There would be public transport improvements between Bath and Bristol and a possible Saltford bypass. In Bath, Park and Ride developments have been successful. Something to the East of the City would assist in addressing through traffic. We continue to work cross boundary with Wiltshire as development here is likely to have an impact on Bath.

Slide 12 (Transport Vision SE Quadrant)	This highlights improvements to the orbital system around Bristol.
Slide 13 (Keynsham Evidence)	There is more detailed information on the West of England website . Blue is the flood plain. Number 6 is Stockwood Vale and we are trying to keep development away from this. Number 12 is the landscape setting between Keynsham and Salford. The red line is a major gas pipeline that is not moveable. The constraints analysis has helped to shape the strategy. For Keynsham, K1; K2 and K3 are the parcels of land that were assessed. K1 has not been put forward due to the proximity to Stockwood Vale and the conservation area of Queen Charlton.
Slide 14 (Deliverability)	The cost of the transport vision has been put at £7.5bn. A quarter of this is to mitigate the impact of existing development. The strategy needs to address both current and future issues. It is important to demonstrate to agencies that this is a deliverable plan they can invest in. There is emphasis on the vulnerability of development if investment in infrastructure is not made.
Slide 15 (New Local Plan)	We are also reviewing the Local Plan for B&NES to set out in detail the new green belt if necessary; the design principles and identify smaller sites for development.
Slide 16 (Consultation Arrangements)	This gives a reminder of the consultation dates. We would encourage communities to get involved. It is preferable to respond on-line via the link that will be sent. There will also be a range of public exhibitions and stakeholder workshops, including one in Keynsham next week with the Town and Parish Councils.
Slides 17 and 18 (Next Steps and Thank you)	We will consider the comments received and come back next year with the proposed Draft Plan for consultation

Questions and Answers

Q: What is the meaning of the word resilience in the context of the environment?

A: It means a transport network that works effectively and efficiently and doesn't get too clogged with congestion. Also, an environment that is resilient to climate change.

Q: With an increase in transport comes a rise in emissions and reduced air quality. There is no mention of electric car charging. Will you be doing this?

A: Yes

Q: In Bath and Bristol, residential properties are being used as offices. Can they be asked to move the outskirts of towns to purpose built offices?

A: Yes – the re-use of offices will be encouraged.

Q: There is no detail on green spaces. Land is being taken – what is being done to put something back?

A: It is a good point. Work has started on this and will be progressed. It is key.

Q: Is this plan fixed or could it be pushed through by the Metro Mayor, or changed by a future administration?

A: The combined authorities are responsible for planning, not the Mayor. The strategy has to be agreed unanimously in that Forum. It will be statutory when it is adopted.

Q: Keynsham has been hit with development and is not comfortable with it. The road improvements have not been forthcoming to date. We can't get affordable housing in rural communities. What do you mean by affordable?

A: Keynsham is a good strategic site. It is important to ensure that infrastructure is in place going forward. Affordable housing is needed across the district and means subsidised rent.

Q: What if we simply move traffic jams down the road?

A: We need to ensure it's done in an integrated way to avoid this. Growth in public transport is the aspiration.

Q: Is congestion charging being considered?

A: Yes – it could be an option. Innovation is needed.

Q: I'm assuming the route of the Saltford by-pass is behind Wellsway.

A: There has been no work undertaken on a detailed route as yet. It is a suggestion that we want views on.

Q: When will there be changes to the rail network so there is space for people to get on the trains?

A: The metro rail will double the number of spaces to Keynsham and Oldfield Park. Regional rail services between Bristol, Bath and London will also improve. The London trains will go via Parkway in future.

Presentation and Workshop: Bath and North East Somerset Council: ‘Our Budget Challenge’ – Tim Richens, Divisional Director - Business Support – Resources, B&NES and Cllr Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency

Presenter: Tim Richens

Slide	Comment
Slides 1, 2 and 3 (Title Slide: Welcome and Aims: Key Messages)	The slide outlines what we are seeking to achieve. There will be presentations to all the Forums so they can get an understanding and also to hear their views. We will also speak with you about timescales. This process has not just started and for the public sector has been going on for several years. The Chancellor will be giving his Autumn Statement tomorrow.
Slides 4 and 5 (Update on Position: National LA Funding and Expenditure)	This is a national graph produced by the Local Government Association. It shows the net expenditure of all Councils who are facing pay increase, inflation and demographic challenges. The blue line shows the projections of the previous Chancellor, George Osborne. The gap between income and expenditure is huge - £66bn nationally.
Slide 6	This gives examples of £66bn looks like.
Slide 7 (Reduction in B&NES Govt Funding)	The main source of funding from the Government is the Council's Revenue Support Grant. This was about £22m last year of a £115m budget. It has already reduced by half over the last four years and will be virtually gone by 2020.
Slide 8 (Scale of Challenge)	This shows the picture in B&NES. We thought the savings equated to £43m but now believe it to be closer to £49m. In this financial year (16-17) we proposed savings of £12m and are on track to deliver this. However, this still leaves £37m to find over the next 3 years. We have identified £14m of this, so there is £23m still to identify.
Slide 9 (Headlines from other LAs)	As you may have seen, all Councils are facing these issues and B&NES is in a good position compared with some others.

Presenter: Cllr Charles Gerrish

Slides 10 and 11 (What are we doing: Bridge the Gap)	Our approach is efficiency together with new sources of income. The Property Company mentioned last year is already generating funds beyond its projected figures. We are also looking at new ways of delivering services but may have to reduce or stop doing some things. We have been going through the Portfolios of each Cabinet Member. For clarification, the examples from other authorities on the coming slides are not ideas we are asking you to consider.
Slide 12 (Finance and Efficiency)	The new offices in Keynsham are 40% smaller than the previous ones, so delivering savings. A move to some digital services will also be more efficient. We are not imposing this but it will be therefore those that find it more effective. We are now taking part in the Government's Business Retention pilot, which could bring £1m - £2m income. Devolution will bring investment in infrastructure The new Council Tax support system will be easier to use.
Slide 13 (Policy, Localism and Partnerships)	The aim is to encourage communities to do more for themselves, increase volunteering and improve links with Parishes. Also to provide a greater voice for local communities and these Forums are an example of how we do this. We do not intend to close community buildings but encourage

	organisations to develop their use.
Slide 14 (Adult Social Care and Health)	This is a key, major expense. The 'your care, your way' approach arose as a result of consultation with residents. People want to be treated as people, not symptoms and improvements to services have been sought as part of the recent tendering exercise. There will be improvements to access of medical records and a more joined up approach, with a focus on preventative services.
Slide 15 (Economic Development)	The business rate retention is key. We are pressing for the Government to include Keynsham as part of the Enterprise area (the Somerdale site and land identified in the Core Strategy). We are trying to reduce the need for out-community. There are no plans to cut capital investment.
Slide 16 (Homes and Planning)	Consultation on the JSP is taking place at present. CIL will help provide funds for infrastructure. We are one of the leading Councils on the speed of processing planning applications.
Slide 17 (Transport)	Infrastructure improvements are out to consultation as part of the JSP. Through Devolution, there could be bus franchising opportunities and more control over bus companies. We are working with the Government on an A36/A46 link to reduce traffic coming through Bath. A Park and Ride to the East of Bath would also assist. The Police touched on issues with the A37 and we are working on a range of measure to improve safety. The introduction of LED street lighting has helped reduce costs.
Slide 18 (Community Services)	Income is being achieved through events – the increase in wedding venues has been a success. The Libraries Review is taking place – we do not want to lose facilities but move to a more modern approach and work with local communities. Leisure improvements are being made line with people's modern aspirations. The Planning Application is now on the Council's website. There will be a revised collection pattern for refuse as the Forum were advised at their last meeting, which should reduce the amount going to landfill.
Slide 19 (Children's Services)	Connecting Families has been successful. There has been a focus on prevention. There has been a review of home to school transport and personalised budgets have led to significant savings. More schools have opted to become Academies than expected. This is a challenge as they can choose to go elsewhere for their services. We are very grateful to the teachers in B&NES as we have very successful schools.
Slide 20 (Big Picture)	This outlines the key issues.

Presenter: Tim Richens

Slide 21 (Key Messages)	This is a resume of what you have heard.
Slides 22 and 23 (Working in Groups: What do you think)	We welcome views from local residents on new ways of working. Working in groups, we would like you to discuss what you have heard and feedback suggestions. The three points on slide 22 will help guide discussions.

Feedback following the presentation

- We are concerned about the budget reductions affecting vulnerable adults; affordable housing; passing on costs to Parishes. Education standards need to be maintained and the wealth gap closed.

- Locally, B&NES should apply cuts fairly, taking advantage of income opportunities. Big society – the Keynsham Wombles are a good example and this could be applied in other areas to instil pride in local communities.
- The fact that B&NES has not yet applied the same cuts as other authorities provides them with an opportunity to learn from others' mistakes.
- Communities are happy to help but B&NEs need to be responsible for their assets eg fingerposts.
- The opportunities for Parishes and B&NES to work together are limited.
- You could increase Council Tax – it is quite low and those that can afford it should pay more.
- Passing expenditure on to Parishes will not help.
- Comment: Community Transport could be done differently with smaller buses serving estates. CIL money will be spent with national bus companies who are not investing in their buses and in a few years the service will be gone.
Response: CIL is not being given to bus companies. The Council will decide how it will be spent and it is more likely to go to infrastructure. S106 funds are going to bus companies but in some instances, the subsidies work out at £11 per head when there are other ways of doing things.
- £1m on a Park and Ride – is this deliverable? There will be extra work looking at the planning aspects.
- There are concerns about volunteers delivering front line services. They are not accountable in the same way as an employee.
- People should weed the pavements in front of their homes.
- There should be vigorous enforcement of parking violations. This should be easier with digital methods.
- Comment: Having 65 Councillors is too many – this should reduce.
Response: The number of Councillors is likely to reduce.
- Area devolution will give more scope to charge for motoring offences.
- I did not participate in the workshop. I think Officers and Councillors have done the best that they can but this sad commentary tonight is because this country is continually cutting back on public services. I worked in Local Government between 1985 and 2005 and experienced cut after cut. In the 6th wealthiest nation in the world, can we not find a better way? (Forum to consider writing to MP/Government at next meeting).

Questions following the presentation

Q1: How much is the money received via CIL influencing planning permission for development?

A1: The consideration of CIL is not part of the planning process – applications are judged on the policies of National and Local Government.

Q2: Why does the Council not insist on infrastructure from developers before development takes place?

A2: Not all planning applications are determined by the Council – some are decided by the Inspector at Appeal. Sometimes infrastructure is triggered when development reaches a certain point.

Q3: Is it statutory to provide home to school transport?

A3: It depends on the distance and nature of the child's needs. If they have special educational needs then yes.

Q4: £25k a year on a child's transport would pay for a teacher. Would it not be better to support them within B&NES?

A4: Yes and we are in talks with a local educational establishment about this.

Q5: What are the Council's plans for arts funding?

A5: This has seen a significant reduction in budget to date and is likely to see further cuts in its grants funding to other organisations.

Q6: What is the percentage reduction in arts funding?

A6: The figures are not to hand but can be obtained.

Q7: What about Parks and Open Spaces? Will this be handed to volunteers?

A7: It varies – some green spaces will be created as part of new development but there will be a service charge to the occupiers to cover maintenance costs. There are no plans to change the way in which the main parks are managed.

Q8: Are contracted services value for money?

A8: All procurement is subject to regulation, we try to let locally where possible and generally look to ensure best value.

Q9: Moving to a digital platform is an impersonal service. What are the costs?

A9: There is a capital cost to introduce it but it will have a revenue benefit. There is full intent to enable people to engage in other ways if they prefer but some want the option of digital.

Q10: Will the devolution deal cushion the harshness of the cuts?

A10: B&NES is the delivery lead for devolution. Officers have the skills to deal with the change. The infrastructure deficit will be addressed by devolution. Phase 2 of devolution will provide further opportunities including affordable housing.

Q11: People burn coal and wood then put the ash in their waste. They could put this into the compost instead. Would it be possible to have a vessel for this and could food waste be composted locally?

A11: There will be a new waste contract from 2017

Q12 Over 65s now are going to be carrying a lot of the nation's wealth. Should access to free bus passes increase as the pensionable age increases?

A12: The free bus pass is a National Government scheme but the eligibility age is increasing.

Flipchart Notes

Flipchart 1

Concerns:

- Business Rate Retention – not huge scope for small businesses but central government offering support schemes.
- Enterprise Zone – rates reduction – looking to get Keynsham designated site(s)
- Bio Diversity – classification of areas/issues in Keynsham
- Your Care Your Way – what will happen to Sirona?
- Savings so far £14m – how have these been achieved? Overheads cut/etc £23m more to go.

Flipchart 2

- Affordance housing
- Fair application of cuts
- Pick up best practice from others' 'austerity' measures
- Vulnerable adults
- Additional revenue opportunities
- Big Society – the 'Wombles' model
- Education
- Pass the cost to Keynsham Council
- Maintain/close the wealth gap

Flipchart 3

- How much is the money given by developers for infrastructure and from Government influencing the Council in giving planning permission. Also the potential income from rates?
- Why does the Council not insist on the placement of new infrastructure by developers BEFORE any house building is permitted. Proper supervision and stronger contract terms.
- Is it statutory to transport children to school?
- What is the position in relation to 'Arts' funding?
- Is there any protection of environmental facilities and parks and green spaces or will they be handed over to volunteers etc?
- What about contracted out services – are they value for money?

Flipchart 4

Question 1

- Communities happy to help but B&NES need to be responsible for their assets
- Opportunities for Parishes and local authority working together are limited.
- Putting up precept and rates
- Transferring expenditure from B&NES to Parish does not help.
- Look at community transport in a different way – smaller buses, regular services – around the estates.
- 900k CIL currently unallocated propped to be given over a time to national bus companies.
- Changes to education – red line risk assessments – children with anxiety and depression
- In terms of refuse – a new bin – house fires, ashes, Tesco bag. Cold ashes into green composing (new tin bin)

- Food waste – Resourceful Earth Reorganics – local
- £1m on Park and Ride (Meadows) is this deliverable (Bath East). Extra work looking at all the planning aspects
- Levy for people who have diamond card – over 60s travel card. Fee towards this or increase age of issue.

Question 2

- Volunteering – delivering front line services which are not accountable
- Old and infirm – half hours job – helping
- Wombles/litter picking/bring community together
- Weed pavements in front of your home
- More vigorous enforcement of parking regulations. Increasing the penalties. More digital enabling methods (photographic system that issues automatic tickets).
- Reducing the number of councillors – 65 too many for the population
- Volunteers day community networking day to become a volunteers' day.