

Draft Notes of the
Somer Valley Forum
 Wednesday 14th September 2016, 6.00pm
 The Winterfield Suite, Paulton Rovers, Winterfield Road, Paulton BS39 7RF

Present

Name	Organisation Represented
Lynda Robertson	Chair of Somer Valley Forum
Richard Baldwin	Divisional Director Children and Young People's Services, B&NES
Cllr John Bull	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton
Colin Currie	Radstock Action Group
Cllr Doug Deacon	B&NES Ward Councillor, Timsbury
Marilyn Deacon	Observer
Dave Dixon	Community Engagement Manager, B&NES
Sara Dixon	Locality Manager, B&NES
Cllr Deirdre Horstmann	B&NES Ward Councillor, Radstock
Cllr Jeff Humphries	Paulton Parish Council
Cllr Eleanor Jackson	B&NES Ward Councillor, Westfield
Pam Jones	Waste Services Programme Manager, B&NES
Cllr Les Kew	B&NES Ward Councillor, High Littleton
PCSO Carol Lawrence (part)	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Jo Lewitt	PH Development & Commissioning Manager, B&NES
Heidi Limbert	Children Centre Service Manager, B&NES
Cllr Paul Myers	B&NES Councillor, Midsomer Norton Redfield
Andrew Pate (part)	Strategic Director Resources (Strategic Director Sponsor of Forum)
Ian Savigar	Divisional Director for Customer Services, B&NES
Shirley Steel	Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust
Richard Robertson	Welton Village Group
Terry Taylor	Norton Radstock Regeneration
Roger Tollervey	Welton Village Group
Cllr Karen Walker	B&NES Ward Councillor, Peasedown St John; Vice Chair of the Forum (Acting Chair for this meeting)
Phil Walters	Director, Off the Record
Alison Wells	Community Projects Officer, B&NES
Suzanne Wenczek	System Thinking Practitioner, Customer Services Change B&NES

Apologies

Name	Organisation Represented
Cllr Liz Hardman	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton
Caroline Lightfoot	Senior Development Officer, Skills & Regeneration
Cllr Barry Macrae	B&NES Ward Councillor, Midsomer Norton North
Cllr Karen Walker	B&NES Ward Councillor, Peasedown St John
Cllr Hugh Warren	Paulton Parish Council

Informal Open Public Session

		Action
1.	Welcome from the Chair of the Forum and Paulton as host community; introductions and apologies.	
1.1	LR welcomed those present. All introduced themselves. Apologies as above.	
	LR read out the following statement:-	
1.2	<i>We have been fortunate over the past 12 months to have many guest speakers attend the Forum to update us on their projects and consult with us on particular issues. These topics were issues that you have raised as areas of concern or are of particular importance to our local area. This engagement is extremely valuable, it is an opportunity for us to collaborate, explore opportunities to join up services, improve communications and give our feedback.</i>	
1.3	<i>Karen and I are keen to encourage lively discussions at these Forum meetings and we would like to ensure that everyone has the chance to give their views and comments on issues that matter most to them. Sadly at our last Somer Valley meeting we were disappointed that the level of discussion fell below our usual high standards. We understand that we are all very passionate about our communities and we want to ensure that our views are heard, but we must remember to treat each other and our guests with the same level of respect and dignity that we expect for ourselves.</i>	
1.4	<i>As Chair, I will ensure that in the future negative behaviour will not be tolerated and we must give everyone the opportunity to speak and feel they are in a safe environment to give their views. We want to ensure that Somer Valley is known as a positive and proactive area that is willing to collaborate, work together and be a community that is willing to discuss new ideas and initiatives.</i>	
1.5	LR also announced that a series of restructures had taken place within the Council's Strategy and Performance Service. As a result of this, Dave Dixon is now the Community Engagement Manager for a re-named Community Engagement Team with responsibility across the whole of the district. Sara Dixon is now Locality Manager for Somer Valley; Keynsham Area and Chew Valley. Alison Wells is Community Projects Officer supporting Sara in these areas. Sara and Alison will continue to use the Hollies in Midsomer Norton as their main base.	
1.6	LR introduced Cllr Jeff Humphries from Paulton Parish Council. JH welcomed the Forum to the village, Parish and local football club. He said Paulton is a rapidly expanding Parish due to extensive housing development, which is due for completion in 2020-21. As such, the village shares the pressures on resources, services and infrastructure that other communities experience.	
1.7	JH said the quality of life for residents is an important consideration for Paulton Parish Council. The Parish has 17 Councillors at present and there are three main committees – Planning & Highways; Amenities and Events.	
1.8	They have one of the highest precepts in the district but are responsible for a lot of green space and a swimming pool. The pool is very successful and looking to expand its services. The Parish Council also acts as Trustees for four charities for the Memorial Park; Recreation Ground; Village Hall and Swimming Pool. Immediate future plans include a bandstand for the Memorial	

1.9	<p>Park. The Parish Council also administers a local grant fund.</p> <p>JH then handed over to Cllr John Bull as one of the Ward Councillors for Paulton. JB reminded the group about the Somer Valley Walking Festival, outlining the events taking place over the forthcoming weekend and thanked the events' sponsors. Promotional material was circulated.</p>	
2.	<p>Updates including Q&As</p> <p><u>Local Police Matters</u></p> <p>2.1 PCSO Carol Lawrence reported that there had been a number burglaries in the area in recent weeks involving 3 businesses, 6 dwellings and 10 garages. 2 people have now been arrested.</p> <p>2.2 RT asked what could be done re parking on the pavement. CL said it depends on the ownership of the land – it is best to contact the Council. RT said he has and they referred him to the Police. CL said they have a contact in Highways and can check maps/ownership with them.</p> <p>2.3 DD asked where the domestic burglaries had occurred. CL said Midsomer Norton; Radstock; Writhlington and Clandown. JB said crime figures for the Somer Valley area would be helpful.</p> <p>2.4 EJ said she had been approached by a parent concerned about ketamine use. She will follow up with the Police outside the meeting.</p> <p><u>Briefing on Changes to Waste and Recycling Service</u></p> <p>2.5 A presentation was given by Pam Jones, Waste Services Programme Manager followed by a question and answer session. For full details see Appendix 1.</p>	
3.	<p>Any Other Issues</p> <p>3.1 <u>Off the Record</u>: LR welcomed and introduced Phil Walters, the new ? of Off the Record. PW said they have a base in Midsomer Norton doing support work and counselling for young people. He is new to the area so attending the Forums to learn more and make connections. LR asked what age range Off the Record supports? PW said 8 – 24 years but the majority are teenagers. They also work with students. JB asked how young people hear about the service. PW said through schools and social media. Much of their work is by self referral but they do take school, youth club and GP referrals as well.</p> <p>3.2 <u>Rail Link</u>: CC said the North Somerset Railway is actively pursuing a rail link between Radstock and Frome. He would like their manager to give a presentation on this at a future Forum meeting. LR asked the group whether this would be of interest. This was agreed. S&P to arrange. LR said it was good to see a local organisation taking a lead on a future Agenda Item and if any other organisations would like to do this to let her know.</p> <p>3.3 TT said he would like his thanks to the speakers to be minuted. He thanked Paulton Parish Council for retaining the historic elements of the town and their efforts to improve its appearance both buildings and spaces. He also wanted to congratulate Cllr Bull for taking a bold move forward with the Walking Festival. He said the meeting had a very good Agenda this evening.</p> <p>3.4 <u>Welton/Gulls</u>: RT said he would like to inform the Forum that there has been</p>	<p>S&P</p> <p>ALL</p>

	an on-going issue with nesting gulls on the Welton, Bibby, Baron site. The Welton Village group has been speaking with Cathryn Brown at B&NES about this. In July and August, hawks were used – at this stage in the season this is only option. If there is a delay regarding demolition of buildings on the site, the Council will lift the nests and eggs and use the hawks for a longer period. PM said this is the outcome of a trial in Bath and there are issues across Midsomer Norton with gulls.	
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Ordinary Meeting

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4.	Notes of the Previous Meeting (5th July 2016)	
4.1	The notes were agreed as a true record.	
5.	Matters Arising	
5.1	There was none	
6.	To note an update from the Regeneration Team on the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone.	
6.1	An update was circulated to the meeting and by e-mail afterwards.	
7.	Presentation: Early Help Services for Children, Young People and Families – Richard Baldwin, Divisional Director B&NES Safeguarding and Social Care	
7.1	RB gave a presentation. For full details see Appendix 2	
8.	Libraries Future – Ian Savigar and Suzanne Wenczek, B&NES Customer Services.	
8.1	A presentation was given with a question and answer session. For full details, see Appendix 3	
9.	Any Other Business	
9.1	There was none. LR thanked everyone for attending.	
10.	Dates of Next Meetings	
10.1	Monday 21 st November, 5pm, Midsomer Norton Town Hall. Please note the change of time to avoid a clash with Radstock Town Council meeting. The meeting will be an update on the B&NES Budget and the AGM.	

Actions

	Responsible
Presentation by North Somerset Railway on link between Radstock and Frome	S&P
Ideas for Future Agenda Items/Presentations welcome	ALL

Briefing on Changes to Waste and Recycling Service
Pam Jones – Waste Services Programme Manager, B&NES

- The changes will take place from late Autumn 2017. Information is starting to be disseminated now as feedback from local communities is welcome.
- The change will be to refuse collections which will become fortnightly. There will be no change to collections for food waste and recycling (weekly) or garden waste (fortnightly).
- 70% of Councils have made changes to their waste collections and this has resulted in an increase in recycling rates. The main driver for this change is the need to reduce the amount of waste the Council sends to landfill. It cost £1,000 for a truck of refuse but a truck of recycling results in £100 of income.
- Another aim is to improve the cleanliness of streets. Gulls are able to tear open refuse sacks so there is a need to contain this. 80% of households in B&NES will get a wheely bin and the rest will have gull sacks. A letter will be sent to residents early next year outlining which they will receive.
- Some Councils have moved to collections every 3, or even 4 weeks. We think this option is right for Bath and North East Somerset and that residents will care enough to make the change.

Questions and Answers

Q1: What size are the wheely bins – the same as the garden waste bins?

A1: They are smaller and narrower

Q2: Will pensioners be able to manoeuvre the new bins?

A2: They are manoeuvrable and assisted collection is available to those unable to manage.

Q3: Are the sacks also badger proof?

A3: We hope so.

Q4: I thought the aim of this was to save money. If new vehicle are required to tip the bins, this is a cost. It will take longer as well.

A4: The modelling is not showing that collections will take longer. However, there needs to be consistency in a street so collections are done in the most efficient way. The Council needs to invest in new refuse vehicles anyway, so it is not costing more.

Q5: Some houses generate 12 – 15 nappies a day. After 10 to 14 days, this will not be pleasant.

A5: We would encourage the use of re-usable nappies.

Q6: Will the recycling and refuse be collected on the same day?

A6: Yes but your collection day may change.

Q7: **Aren't re-usable sacks going to get tatty and be unhygienic to store indoors?**

A7: We are expecting people to store the bags outside.

Q8: **Is the £1,000 cost you mentioned land-fill tax?**

A8: No it is the total cost of the truck but the majority of it is land-fill tax. This is £100 per tonne. By 2020, the Government will be introducing fines for Councils that exceed limits.

Q9: **The Radstock Recycling Centre does not have long enough opening hours and long tailbacks form at popular times. Is consideration being given to extending opening hours?**

A9: Not at present but we will look into this. The hours have only recently been reduced so increasing them again may not be an option.

Comment 1: **I live in an end terrace with a patch at the end for refuse, shared with other houses. There is already a weekly build up of rubbish**

Response 1: Residents need to do more to recycle. Waste doctors will be available to assess areas and give advice. If they can see there is an issue, a larger bin will be supplied. Similarly those with specific medical needs or families with children in nappies will get a larger bin.

Comment 2: **There are a number of elevated, terraced houses, with narrow steps for access. Storing a bin is likely to be difficult for properties like this as well as manoeuvring them up and down the steps.**

Response 2: A gull proof sack will be provided if need is demonstrated. The refuse crews are providing information about different areas but if you feel the Council has got it wrong, let us know.

Comment 3: **I have more refuse than recycling. My preference would be for the other way around.**

Response 3: The Council needs to encourage more recycling – food waste in particular is not being recycled. We would like residents to try to recycle more and start now to prepare for the change.

Presentation: Early Help Services for Children, Young People and Families – Richard Baldwin, Divisional Director B&NES Safeguarding and Social Care

RB thanked the Forum for showing interest in this topic. A similar presentation had been given to the June Chew Valley Forum meeting.

Presentation

Slide	Comment
1 - Early Help is Provided Through...	<p>There are a number of elements to the service.</p> <p>Children's Centres cater for children aged 0 – 5 and their parents/carers.</p> <p>Parent Support Advisors work through schools on children with behavioural issues providing support to parents/carers on how best to manage these.</p> <p>The Youth Connect Centres in Peasedown St John and Radstock (previously the Youth Service) support young people aged 11 – 19.</p> <p>The Connecting Families Team work with troubled families. They have achieved good results to date.</p> <p>The Early Years Inclusion Team are based in Radstock and focus on pre-school children (0-3). They work with nurseries and childminders to ensure that children are ready to learn when they start school (ie that they know how to sit; listen and take in instruction).</p> <p>The Integrated Support Team work with voluntary organisations schools and health workers on early help assessments</p>
2 - Somer Valley Children's Centre Services (1)	<p>This was re-organised 2-3 years ago. There was a need to move away from a universal approach due to funding issues.</p>
3 – Somer Valley Children's Centre Services	<p>For targeted work, access to the services is by referral</p> <p>'Flying Start' is home based 1-1 support</p> <p>'Theraplay' is designed to improve attachment and to use play as a method of learning and bonding.</p> <p>Portage is respite for children with disabilities.</p> <p>There is also support for parents/carers on employability, getting back into work, education/training.</p>
4 – Somer Valley Children's Centre Services (2)	<p>The slide shows the target groups for the services. SEND means special educational needs and disabilities. We work with parents to advocate and get the support needed. CP refers to Child Protection.</p>
5 – Somer Valley Children's Centre Services (3)	<p>This shows statistics relating to the Somer Valley area of 72 families that have 1:1 support and targeted group work with 169 families.</p>
6 – Connecting Families Team	<p>Have worked directly with 23 families since April 2015.</p>

	62 families have received support from partner agencies and schools. The approach is whole family based, not just child-adult.
7 – Connecting Families Criteria	This slide shows the national criteria for the programme.
8 – Common Assessments (CAF)	This is early intervention and has a multi-agency approach.
9 – Common Assessments	This slide shows the statistics relating to the Somer Valley. There are more referrals for ages 0 – 11 but this is positive as we aim to resolve issues early. A number of referrals come via local schools.
10 – Youth Connect	<p>This slide highlights the support provided to young people via the Youth Hubs in Peasedown and Radstock. NEET means not in education, employment or training. There is a focus on these young people.</p> <p>The Youth Hubs provide open access for 11 – 19 year olds 2 evenings per week. A third evening is used for specific work by invitation.</p>
11 – Future Developments and Pressures	<p>The role of schools is important as well – they spend longer with young people than their parents/carers do in some instances. The relationship between the Council and schools changes if they become academies/MATs.</p> <p>We need to consider how we expand the work of Children’s Centres and whether they should be working with a broader range of families and ages/</p> <p>We are looking at increasing co-location with other services</p> <p>We currently get paid by the Government on results but this scheme will end in 2020. We need to look at how we can mainstream this work into existing services.</p> <p>We provide strong building blocks for our young people and there are close links with Health & Wellbeing providers to ensure they also have a healthy start in life, which reduces later interventions. More information will be available in the Director of Public Health’s Report, ‘Get Fresh’, which can be found here.</p>

Questions and Answers

Q1: How do you see Parish Councils supporting this work in future?

A1: Early intervention and employability are important. Section 106 funds are being used in Westfield to build on existing work and create a youth hub.

Libraries Future – Ian Savigar and Suzanne Wenczek, B&NES Customer Services

Ian Savigar said he appreciates that Libraries can be an emotive subject and there has been national publicity around cuts and changes in different parts of the UK.

Presentation

Slide	Comment
1 – Facing the Challenge, Shaping the Future.	<p>In terms of B&NES, there are challenges to face and a radical approach is required rather than ‘tinkering around the edges’.</p> <p>While there are challenges, there are also opportunities to work with local communities.</p> <p>There have been no library closures in B&NES to date but there have been some reductions in opening hours and staffing cuts. The Council is committed to developing library services but these need to meet modern demands.</p> <p>The way library services are delivered is changing. Fewer books are being borrowed but a host of other services are being delivered. The number of users is static or increasing.</p>
2 – Digital Society, Volunteers	<p>Free wi-fi is drawing people into libraries. In Keynsham, where the One Stop Shop and Library are co-located, we have seen people coming for help and support with welfare support then joining the Library.</p> <p>Volunteers have a role to play in supporting improved access to Library and related services. The Paulton Hub is a good example of this.</p>
3 – Where We Are Now	<p>There are four community libraries in B&NES – we do not provide books for these but help them to set up. Larkhall welcomed this support and approach which works for this community.</p> <p>The mobile library service is expensive to run given the volume of users. There are other ways of delivery the services being accessed. This could be via electronic self service – the Council is a member of Libraries West which gives access to a range of books and other media/resources.</p> <p>Some only attend the library to print things – they have a computer or tablet but no printer.</p>
4 – Where we are now in the Somer Valley	<p>The table shows 6 months of data and identifies Midsomer Norton’s Library as having the highest usage in this area. The data also showed that even where there is a mobile library service, people still visit the main Libraries.</p>
5, 6, 7 – Mobile Library Routes – Somer Valley; Radstock and Peasedown St John	<p>There were copies of these maps on tables at the meeting. The Children’s Centres are also identified on these maps. Is there merit in exploring the use of spaces such as these to set up community libraries as an alternative to a mobile service?</p> <p>Peasedown St John has expressed interest in having a more permanent</p>

	Library – there are ways in which groups can help raise and bid for funds that Councils cannot.
8, 9 – What Next and What are we Already Doing in B&NES	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide a Library Service but there are different ways of doing this.</p> <p>The biggest user group is 6 – 10 year olds, followed by older people.</p> <p>There is a need to improve skills, provide access and support for welfare issues.</p> <p>There is also potential for growth and we might use community hubs to provide the right skills and training.</p>
10 – What are other communities doing?	<p>There are lots of examples across the country. Cornwall voted on whether to privatise libraries or work with Parishes. The officer recommended privatisation, members decided the opposite. Truro City Council now runs that Library and raised the precept to do so.</p> <p>In Warwickshire 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>
11 – What could we do in the Somer Valley?	<p>This is the start of a consultation process. We want to know about the services you need and balance this with what we can afford.</p> <p>We want to work with partners and look at what might be delivered jointly. If you are interested in exploring this further, get in touch.</p> <p>We are also:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doing work to gain greater understanding of our costs Up-skilling our workforce to make the services they can provide more flexible Exploring emerging technologies

Questions and Answers

Q1: Are you also consulting your workforce, including library volunteers?

A1: Yes – this is genuine consultation. We have some ideas but want yours too.