

Draft Notes of the  
**Bathavon Forum**  
 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 6.00pm  
 St Gregory's Sixth Form Building

**Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation Represented</b>
Hugh Baker (Chair)	Bathford Parish Council
Cllr David Veale	B&NES Ward Councillor
Cllr Neil Butters	B&NES Ward Councillor
Cllr Martin Veal	B&NES Ward Councillor & Cabinet Member for Community Services
Cllr Paul Myers	B&NES Council - Cabinet Member for Devolution, Localism & Partnerships
Cllr Charles Gerrish	B&NES Council - Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency
Andrew Pate	Strategic Director - Resources (B&NES)
David Trethewey	Divisional Director - Strategy & Performance (B&NES)
Des Wighton	Monkton Combe Parish Council
Lyn Alvis	Monkton Combe Parish Council
John Adler	Freshford Parish Council
Louise Callan	Priston Parish Clerk
Robin Campbell	Combe Hay and Wellow Parish Clerk
Dave Dixon	Community Engagement Manager (B&NES)
Mark Hayward	Business Support Manager - Communities (B&NES)
Peter Dawson	Group Manager - Plan Policy Transport (B&NES)
Richard Daone	Planning & Strategic/Spatial Planning & Transport Manager Planning Policy (B&NES)

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation Represented</b>
Martin Robertson	Dunkerton and Tunley Parish Council
Jean Fossaceco	Shoscombe Parish Clerk
Gareth Lloyd	Station Manager – Bath Fire Station

**Ordinary Meeting**

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome from the Chair of the Forum and Introductions</b>  The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting 05 October 2016 and matters arising (actions recorded at end of minutes)</b>  The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.  Des Wighton agreed that he would represent the Bathavon Forum at the “Your Care, Your Way” meetings.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>West of England Joint Spatial Plan</b>  A presentation was given by Peter Dawson - Group Manager - Planning Policy Transport (B&NES) and Richard Daone - Planning & Strategic/Spatial Planning Manager (B&NES)	

	<p>A discussion followed and the following points were raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was asked if there would be a review of the issues around the green belt land, there is interest regarding compensating where land has been taken out of the green belt. It was explained that there needs to be exceptional circumstances to make a case for changing the green belt coverage.</li> <li>• Could there be consideration for use of old Midland Railway route for a light rail style options rather than the A4 corridor, which could see difficulties. It was explained that the success of any light rail solution in Bristol would need to be seen before additional routes would be considered. The M32 in Bristol has requirements for businesses as well as the residents this could be an early route that could see some form of light rail introduced.</li> <li>• It was asked that cycle routes are considered when looking at solutions for routes such as old railways. There have been issues in the past with the cycle lobby in Bristol.</li> <li>• The Park and Ride sites in Bath are relatively close to the City. Are all of the existing sites able to be expanded in the future? It was explained that the Newbridge site has possible difficulties in expanding but there are options that could be looked at to build extra capacity on all sides of the City. The point was also made that if sites are located further away from the centre the routes become less cost effective due to more buses being required to maintain the frequency requirements.</li> <li>• It was explained that Bristol Airport and Avonmouth Port are both of national infrastructure importance. This is important because of the funding that can be attracted from central government agencies and the links that come from the West of England devolution deal.</li> </ul>	
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**Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

<p>4.</p>	<p>The AGM could not be held due to there not being the required number of members being present. (Ten).</p> <p>If was requested that a discussion was had with those members that were present.</p> <p>The discussion and suggestions that were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location for meetings is important, it was felt that holding meetings at a central Bath location may prove favourable.</li> <li>• The 21 parishes covered by the Forum area are seen as being too many. The option to redefine the areas and allow parishes to choose to link up with an alternative forum could be considered.</li> <li>• It was felt low attendance could be down to the total number of commitments that Parishes already have to attend.</li> <li>• It was felt that the agendas need to look at the commonalities for parishes that are being invited to attend, the need to find ‘the glue’ to bring everybody together needs to be found.</li> <li>• It was commented that Parishes don’t find it easy to create a sense of working together. The suggestion of finding new ways to work together outside of the Forum meetings could help.</li> <li>• It was felt the that there are still too many presentations and not enough opportunities for people to spend time working through ideas and getting</li> </ul>	
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	<p>to know what each other are doing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A suggestion was made that the Forums might want to rebrand to include the word Parish in the title. It was explained that the forums need to maintain an openness that allows the duty to consult to be carried out, this needs to allow community organisations to be able to take part in the conversations.</li> <li>• It was explained that there are five forums which will have five different ways of thinking. We need to remain local and have perspective and rather than just having one way of working there needs to be a mixture of methods of engaging. It was the forums that delivered the idea of hubs when “your care, your way” worked with us.</li> </ul> <p>It was concluded that there needs to be a structure that works and a purpose for attending meetings, if this is not working now then a change is required.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Bath Avon AGM will be scheduled for The Guildhall in central Bath in the second week of January 2017.</p> <p><b>Following the meeting these additional ideas were received:</b></p> <p>Giving the Forum a clear definition with a strap line such as - Meet, learn, share and collaborate. For me it would be more useful if the meetings had a slightly different timetable, e.g. 20 mins active networking and the remainder equally divided between presentations and discussions. It would also be good to try to establish some action points as a result of the information and input.</p> <p>Meetings should have a defined end time, say 8 pm? Each meeting seems to tackle one or two enormous strategic topics, so it is hard to suddenly have lots of ideas about the subjects on the spur of the moment, but the issues then don't appear to be re-visited. This tends to add to the feeling that parishes are just being told what will happen rather than having any real impact with input.</p> <p>We also need an opportunity to get together as small parishes to work together afterwards (e.g. those on the same bus route or who could share library services) to work together going forward. Certainly since I have been involved with Priston PC we don't seem to have anything to do with neighbouring parishes, although we must share similar concerns.</p> <p>Name labels or introductions might also help.</p> <p>A central meeting point would make more sense – if schools are available for use, perhaps the meetings could alternate between the more centrally based schools. Alternatively a central meeting point in a council building could also work to attract more people from the outskirts of Bath.</p>	
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**Bath and North East Somerset ‘Our Budget Challenge’**

5.	A presentation was given by Cllr Charles Gerrish B&NES Council - Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency and Andrew Pate Strategic Director - Resources (B&NES)	
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A number of points were raised:

1. In Swindon it has been agreed that there will be three large parish areas created, this will allow additional precepts to be collected that could not be achieved through Council Tax which is capped.  
It was explained that Central Government are considering imposing limits on the increases to Parish Precepts in the near future.
2. Are new homes a net benefit to the Council?  
It was explained that the new homes bonus used to deliver positive funding; this is no longer the case. Each additional home adds to the requirements in the delivery of services.  
Business rates retention will be of benefit but only when the grant from central government reaches zero.
3. What will be the impact of the West of England Devolution Deal?  
Benefits will be seen through the investments to infrastructure.
4. What is the truth around other Councils struggling or possibly facing bankruptcy?  
There are real issues for some smaller Councils and consolidation has had to take place. There are also some larger Councils that are having to deal with difficulties such as credit ratings which are effecting the cost of borrowing.
5. What is the impact of Tourism?  
There has been a further increase to the admissions at The Roman Baths which has seen revenues increase. It is seen as an impact of the weaker pound and increase in foreign visitors that has brought this in.  
We do need to be mindful that there is a limit to the capacity that existing attractions can bring in.  
  
A tourism levy cannot be imposed on visitors to the UK, there is a discretionary levy that visitors need to opt into if they want to pay.
6. What is the impact of Students and Student Accommodation?  
Where houses are turned into Student HMO's the net result is a loss in income as no Council Tax is then collected from these properties.
7. What is the impact of the vote to leave the EU had?  
It is too early to be able to make a true assessment. There is uncertainty around the level of impact on borrowing costs and our investments. The area has previously benefited from EU grants. The impact on sterling has been seen to have helped with the tourist economy.
8. Could cutting infrastructure projects help?  
Where funding comes from external sources to be used on specific projects then the answer would be no. If projects require local funding from ourselves then if it is not cost neutral a saving could be considered.

**Following the meeting the additional ideas were received:**

- A local authority lottery
- Making more use of school building facilities (paid)
- Congestion charges
- Delay people's requirement for Social Care through

	<p>a) Targeting people in mid-life (50+) to maintain their health and delay their need for care intervention. How? Nutrition advice – following NHS guidelines. Nutrition ambassadors (use older people to inspire, not fit young 20 somethings!) Exercise advice – target older people to take more exercise offering specific classes + promoting groups like The Ramblers, promote Leisure Centres, and speak to some successful commercial operations e.g. Baskervilles and This Mum Runs about their approach.</p> <p>Run later life planning sessions. How do people think they will live healthily until they are 80 or 90 years old? Suggest ideas and ways for people to take control of their own health.</p> <p>b) Tackling obesity Enormous question, I know. Turn Bath into the Healthiest City in the UK (?) Make sure everyone knows about public sports facilities and how they could use them. We are a couple of miles from the Odd Down cycle track and sports fields but one of my neighbours who has lived in Bath all his life had no idea it existed.</p>	
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<b>6.</b>	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b>	
	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 (6-7pm) The Kaposvar Room, The Guildhall, Bath	

### **Actions**

	<b>Responsible</b>
Set a date for the AGM in January 2017 – distribute information to the Forum.	MH
Circulate JSP and Budget Presentations to Forum Members.	MH
Mark Hayward to provide details of “Your Care, Your Way” meetings to Des Wighton.	MH