

Draft Notes of the
Somer Valley Forum

Wednesday 22nd February 2017, 7.00pm

The Catherine Room, The Centurion Hotel, Charlton Lane, Midsomer Norton BA3 4BD

Present

Name	Organisation Represented
Lynda Robertson	Chair of Somer Valley Forum
Richard Baldwin	Divisional Director - Safeguarding & Social Care, B&NES (Divisional Director Sponsor of the Somer Valley Forum)
Cllr Sarah Bevan	B&NES Ward Councillor, Peasedown St John (from 7.45pm)
Cllr Mike Boulton	Radstock Town Council
Cllr John Bull	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton (until 8.15pm)
Dom Chambers	Somer Valley FM
Gary Dando	Radstock Action Group
Cllr Doug Deacon	B&NES Ward Councillor, Timsbury
Marilyn Deacon	Observer
Cllr Elizabeth Derl-Davis	Radstock Town Council
Sara Dixon	Locality Manager, B&NES
Cllr Michael Evans	B&NES Ward Councillor, Midsomer Norton North
Chris Gittins	Clerk – Timsbury Parish Council
Nick Hall	Chair – Radstock Museum
Cllr Mike Hedges	Farrington Gurney Parish Council
Cllr Ron Hopkins	Westfield Parish Council
Cllr Deirdre Horstmann	B&NES Ward Councillor, Radstock
Cllr Eleanor Jackson	B&NES Ward Councillor, Westfield
David James	Chief Executive, Bath Tourism Plus
Cathy McMahon	PH Development & Commissioning Manager, B&NES (until 8pm)
Cllr Barry Macrae	B&NES Ward Councillor, Midsomer Norton North
Cllr Paul Myers	B&NES Councillor, Midsomer Norton Redfield
Cllr Veronica Packham	Timsbury Parish Council
Andrew Pate	Strategic Director Resources (Director Sponsor of Forum)
Brian Perrett	Radstock Residents Association
Cllr Jonathan Rich	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Richard Robertson	Welton Village Group
Cllr Alastair Slade	Midsomer Norton Town Council
Shirley Steel	Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust
Terry Taylor	Norton Radstock Regeneration
Roger Tollervey	Welton Village Group
Tina Veater	Owner/Director Ignyte Ltd
Cllr David Walker	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Cllr Karen Walker	B&NES Ward Councillor, Peasedown St John
Alison Wells	Community Projects Officer, B&NES

Apologies

Name	Organisation Represented
Cllr Chris Dando	B&NES Ward Councillor, Radstock
Cllr Liz Hardman	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton

		Action
1.	Welcome from the Chair of the Forum; introductions and apologies.	
1.1	LR welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Cllr Liz Hardman and Cllr Chris Dando.	
1.2	LR congratulated the local winners of this year's Chair's Community Awards (further details in Appendix 1 below).	
1.3	LR also congratulated Brian Perrett on his 80 th Birthday.	
2.	'Our Heritage and Local Tourism' – Presentations and Q&A	
2.1	KW explained that, as we had to reschedule the AGM, we took the opportunity to theme the meeting 'Our Heritage and Local Tourism'. This is a topic that has been raised by the Forum as being of interest and importance to the local area. The previous, Somer Valley Partnership oversaw a successful working group managing an externally funded project using the popular Colliers Way Cycle Route as a way of promoting the attractions; accommodation providers; pubs; cafes and restaurants in this area as well as highlighting the beauty of its countryside and importance of its industrial heritage.	
2.2	It has been some time since the project ended and there are new opportunities to explore. The Colliers Way route running through this area between Bath and Frome increases in popularity; Frome is becoming an increasingly popular destination with accommodation and hospitality businesses in and around it thriving. Celebrity visits have attracted national publicity, with David Beckham seen at Wellow Trekking Centre last year. A new Somer Valley Walking Festival was started last year and is planned to continue.	
2.3	KW introduced three local speakers to talk about their role in tourism: Nick Hall who is the Chair of Radstock Museum on their exciting future plans; David James, the Chief Executive of Bath Tourism Plus, to speak about the importance of tourism to the district's economy, which includes providing employment and training opportunities for Somer Valley residents and his organisation's plans to promote the areas beyond the City to encourage longer stays and Tina Veater who runs a successful publication and marketing business in the Somer Valley and is Chair of the Somer Valley Chamber of Commerce. She will speak about her work on the tourism and marketing strategies of notable organisations across the South and South West. Full details of their presentations are contained in Appendices 2, 3 and 4 below.	
3.	Proposal for a Somer Valley Tourism Workshop	
3.1	LR asked if anyone would be interested in taking part in a tourism workshop. Those indicating interest were: Barry Macrae; Terry Taylor; John Bull; Elizabeth Derl-Davis; Shirley Steel.	
3.2	LR said an invitation would go out to the whole Forum following the meeting.	AW
4.	To announce nominations for Chair and Vice Chair position and hand out voting slips	
	SD asked whether there were any further nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. There was none.	

Break

Annual General Meeting

		Action
5.	Notes of the Previous AGM Meeting and Matters Arising	
5.1	The notes of the AGM held on 6 th October 2015 were circulated prior to the meeting. LR asked if anyone had any amendments or matters arising. There was none.	
6.	Chair and Vice Chair's Annual Review	
6.1	This was circulated prior to the meeting. KW read out some of the highlights. The full report can be found here .	
7.	Proposal for Additional Members of the Forum	
7.1	LR said no requests for additional members have been received. However, there are ten places available on the Forum at present, so if anyone has any suggestions, contact Sara Dixon or Alison Wells.	ALL
8.	Review and amend the Terms of Reference	
8.1	SD said that there is a proposal to make some amendments to the Terms of Reference to bring them more in line with the other Connecting Communities Forums. These are as follows:- 5.5 – Remove 7.2 – Amend to 'A minimum number of ten voting members should be in attendance at any meeting, where a vote is required' 10.6 – Amend to The quorum for the AGM is ten voting members as in 7.2 above 10.7 - 'The Election of the Chair and Vice Chair will be made available only to those existing members of the Forum, notification of which will be made in advance' 13.1 Propose changing this to 'A proposal for dissolution of the Forum will require the approval of the minimum number of voting members as set out in 7.2' This was agreed by majority with no abstentions or votes against.	
9.	Election of the Chair and Vice Chair Positions	
9.1	SD said 6 nominations for Lynda Robertson as Chair had been received and 4 for Karen Walker as Vice Chair.	
9.2	Their re-appointments were agreed by majority with no votes against or abstentions.	
10.	Partnership Meetings – Nominated Representatives from each Forum required	

	This item was discussed at the previous meeting with Richard Robertson giving an update on his role with the CCG's 'Your Health Your Voice' group.	
11.	Any Other Business	
11.1	<p>KW said she would like to thank Sara Dixon; Dave Dixon; Alison Wells and Andrew Pate for the support that they give to the Forum.</p> <p>TT thanked all those concerned for a good evening.</p> <p>LR thanked KW for providing refreshments.</p>	
12.	Dates of Next Meetings	
	<p>Monday 27th March (changed from 9th March)</p> <p>Tuesday 11th July</p> <p>Tuesday 19th September</p> <p>Wednesday 29th November</p> <p><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></p>	

Actions

	Responsible
Workshop on tourism to be arranged and invitation to wider Forum issued.	AW/SD
Any proposals for additional members of the Forum to be sent to SD or AW	ALL

Local Winners of the Chairman's Community Awards, 9th February 2017

Swan Transport Volunteer Drivers won the Volunteer Team of the Year Category. SWAN are based in Radstock and their team of 24 volunteer drivers work tirelessly to ensure that members of the community are able to get to health appointments; events and day care facilities. One of their drivers, Barbara Merrett, also won the Peter Duppa-Miller Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution as a volunteer driver for many years. Barbara was more than just a driver, helping people with shopping and encouraging them to get involved in social events. Barbara retired from her role last year and this was a fitting tribute to her many years of devoted service.

The Business in the Community Award went to BMT Performance Asset Ltd for the work they did to improve the Swallow Community Café at the Church Rooms in Radstock. The team painted the building inside and out; erected new security fencing; built a barbecue; painted the courtyard and replaced fire doors. They were nominated by Swallow not only for the practical work they did but the boost they gave to those that work in the café by giving such care and attention to a place they love.

The Volunteer of the Year award went to Pat Flagg of Midsomer Norton for the sheer amount of time she devotes to volunteering across a wide range of community groups in the town – the British Legion Poppy Appeal; Midsomer Norton Carnival; In Bloom; the Sarah Ann Trust and Midsomer Norton Community Trust to name but a few.

For a full list of winners and photos click [here](#).

Presentation by Nick Hall, Chair of Radstock Museum

Slide	Comment
Title Slide – Radstock Museum... changes afoot in 2017	NH thanked the Forum for their invitation. He said there will be changes at the Museum and he welcomes the opportunity to talk about their plans.
Slide 2 – Background:Radstock Museum	NH ran through the points on this slide. He explained that the Council had put the Museum in touch with Business Connector Julie Poll and she, in turn, had put them in touch with a Marketing expert.
Slide 3 – Rebranding: Brand Image	As a result, the Museum will be changing its brand name and image. They have used a letterhead from the Beauchamp owned collieries to inspire this and will be changing the name of the Museum to ‘Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum’ as this more fully describes the Museum’s contents. The photo on the slide features John Paget when he worked as a miner. John will be known to many people as he has an allotment at Midsomer Norton.
Slides 4 and 5	Shows a front page from the Somerset Guardian announcing that the Museum had been successful in obtaining £12k of funding. This is from the Association of Independent Museums who were very impressed with how much the Museum has achieved with the resources available.
Slide 6	This shows a photograph of Miranda Litchfield, a student at Bath Spa University. The funding will be used to support her work with the Museum on their future plans.
Slide 7 – as 2017 progresses	The Museum will improve its street scene with the sights, sounds and smells of Victorian Radstock. The blacksmith’s forge has been remodelled with help from a blacksmith from Glasonbury. They are in the process of improving the Co-op shop and sourcing smells to enhance the experience of the coal mine. They are also building a Victorian Parlour upstairs and have a model of James McMurtie, the Scottish manager of the Waldegrave mines. The café will be remodelled as a 1930’s railway buffet reminiscent of ‘Brief Encounter’. There will also be a public access research room and more stock in the shop.
Slide 8 – Your Museum Needs You!	NH thanked Midsomer Norton; Radstock and Westfield Councils for their financial support but said that more funding and more visitors are needed. They will be continuing to pursue sources of funding and encouraged everyone to support them in promoting and visiting the Museum.

Questions following the presentation

Q: DC thanked NH for his presentation and for such positive news – the Museum is an undersung asset for this area. He also congratulated the Museum on attracting 100 volunteers as this is never easy. He asked whether there was a strategy to twin or link the Museum with similar ones in the UK. He recently visited one in Jarrow and there is much interest around the 1984 miners’ strike.

A: NH said there are no formal links but they are trying to reach out and build positive links with local attractions such as the Somerset and Dorset Railway. The railway is still a huge draw for this area and a talk about it held by the Museum attracted 80 people. 60 had to be turned away. A second talk was held and this attracted further visitors.

Q: EJ asked if there is still a relationship with Bath Museums as the Museum had hosted a Roman hoard.

A: NH said Stephen Clews, Curator of the Roman Baths, is the Museum's mentor and always on hand to give advice. The Roman Baths also lent a display cabinet and further artefacts from the Council's Museums will be available for Radstock Museum to display.

Q: EJ asked whether there would be another quilt exhibition.

A: NH said none are planned at present as the volunteers organising this have chosen not to do another. They were very well attended but the quilt society spent a lot of advertising.

Q: EDD asked whether TV/video effects would be used.

A: NH said they do intend to develop more interactive displays in future. The M-Shed is advising on this and the use of multi-media. Cost is a factor but further funding will be sought. The Museum has recently received £1,000 from the Miners' Welfare Fund.

A link to the full presentation can be found here: [Radstock Museum, presentation](#)

