

Draft Notes of the
Chew Valley Forum
Monday 27th February 2017 at 6pm
The Library, Chew Valley Secondary School

Present

Name	Organisation Represented
Chris Head	Chair of Forum and Chief Executive, WERN
Cllr Rodney Andrews	Chew Magna Parish Council
Micaela Basford	Corporate Sustainability Officer, B&NES
Gareth Beynon	Headteacher – Chew Valley School
Julie Bragg	Clerk to Publow with Pensford and Norton Malreward Parish Councils
Judith Chubb-Whittle	Stanton Drew Parish Council
Heather Clewett	Stowey Sutton Parish Council
Hilary Collins	Clerk to Ubley Parish Council
Cllr Chris Craig	Compton Martin Parish Council
Sara Dixon	Locality Manager, B&NES
Lynne Easton	Chew Magna Parish Council
Nick Goldsmith	WERN/Hidden Valley Bushcraft
John Harvey	Clerk to Stanton Drew Parish Council
Tony Hooper	Clutton Parish Council
Cllr Richard Ireland	West Harptree Parish Council
Cllr Ray Jenkins	Whitchurch Village Council
Dr Chris Lewis	Local resident and GP
Heidi Limbert	Children Centre Service Manager, B&NES
Cllr Paul Myers	Cabinet Member for Policy, Localism & Partnerships
Cllr Rosemary Naish	Clutton Parish Council
Cllr Vic Pritchard	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health and B&NES Ward Councillor, Chew Valley South (from 6.20pm)
Cllr Liz Richardson	Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning and B&NES Ward Councillor, Chew Valley North
Lynda Robertson	Chair of Somer Valley Forum
Andy Thomas	Strategic Manager Communities, B&NES
Ticki Toogood	Organisational Development Manager, B&NES
Cllr Tim Warren	Leader, B&NES Council and B&NES Ward Councillor for Mendip
Cllr Karen Walker	Peasedown St John Ward – Vice Chair of Somer Valley Forum
Cllr Karen Warrington	Clutton Ward
Cllr John Weiss	Ubley Parish Council
Alison Wells	Community Projects Officer, B&NES
Don Weston	Chelwood Community Energy
Jane Wildblood	Corporate & Community Sustainability Manager, B&NES

Apologies

Mike Bowden	Divisional Director, People and Communities, B&NES
Anna Wheeler	City of Bath College Adult and Community Learning

Informal Open Public Session

		Action
1.	Welcome from the Chair of the Forum	
1.1	Chris Head welcomed those present. Apologies as above. He reminded those present of the need to sign in to ensure their names are on the minutes.	
1.2	CH said the next meeting would not take place until 3 rd July. This is due to purdah for the Mayoral Election and the number of Annual Parish meetings taking place in April and May. The proposed theme of the next meeting will be housing, particularly the needs in rural communities. This will involve the Council's Housing Team but is also an opportunity to hear from an external speaker on the subject.	
1.3	CH said Virgin Care also wishes to come to a Forum meeting this year, which is also an important topic. He asked the Forum whether they are happy to take Housing and Health as separate Forum meeting items. This was agreed.	
1.4	RN commented that it would be good to see Curo at Forum meetings.	
1.5	LR said an overview of CIL as part of the meeting with the housing theme would be helpful as parishes often ask for clarification on this.	
1.6	RN suggested the Forum meeting on housing take place in the Autumn when there should be further detail on the JSP. LR said there should be confirmation of numbers by July.	
1.7	CH congratulated the nominees and winners of this year's Chair's Community Awards, which took place on 9 th February. The nominees from the Chew Valley were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Community Farm nominated for Business in the Community. - Claire Griffen resident from Chew Stoke who volunteers at Leonard Cheshire. - Edwina Morris resident from Clutton for her involvement with various community groups and support for her neighbours. - Melanie Pitt resident from Clutton for directing, producing, writing Clutton PTA Panto. - Mya Rose Craig from Compton Martin as young leader for setting up Black2Nature. 	
1.8	CH said the referendum on the Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan took place on 15 th February and he would like to congratulate all involved.	
2.	Updates	
	Local Police Matters	
2.1	The Police were not present at this stage of the meeting but it was noted that they are operational and may have been called to an incident.	
	Changes to Waste and Recycling Services	
2.2	A paper briefing was tabled and circulated to Forum members electronically on 28-2-17.	

	<p>Local Government Boundary Commission for England for Bath and North East Somerset</p> <p>2.3 CH introduced Andy Thomas from the Council’s Strategy and Performance service to give a presentation. See Appendix 1 for further details.</p> <p>Announcement of the B&NES Community Empowerment Fund</p> <p>2.4 CH introduced Cllr Paul Myers to give a briefing on this. See Appendix 2 for further details.</p> <p>To note update on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan</p> <p>2.5 A paper briefing was tabled and circulated to Forum members electronically on 28-2-17</p> <p>Chew Valley Children’s Centre Project</p> <p>2.6 CH said a funding bid had been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government but was not successful. There were 830 applications and only around 30 were funded. One of the successful bids was for Foxhill in Bath. The proposal for Chew was good and we will be able to move the project forward via other funding opportunities. The headteacher of Chew Valley School, Gareth Beynon, is here this evening and is in discussion with B&NES re wider use of the space. We would like some current uses, particularly services for young people, to stay but there have also been discussions around the potential for community library facilities and IT infrastructure linked to this. Other potential uses are for Wellbeing College activities and continuing education. He thanked Gareth for his continued interest and support.</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>Any Other Issues</p> <p>CH said he also has an update on the bid for managing flooding. This proposal would utilise natural flood management to slow the flow – the same level of water comes through but there is less impact (ie no torrent). It can be as simple as cutting down trees to create natural bends. The DEFRA funding was small, so no application was made. However, there is a proposal on the table and other sources of funding are being looked at. There is buy-in from B&NES, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency. The catchment area involved is large and it may be possible to use some of the Community Empowerment Funding for this.</p> <p>LE said the team in Chew Magna was nominated for an Environment Agency Community Resilience Award by B&NES Officers. They are the only volunteer group to make the top three shortlisted.</p> <p>CH said Pensford is also doing a Flood Plan.</p> <p>CH said that Nick Goldsmith from Hidden Valley Bushcraft is here. During the recent floods, he assisted distressed people who were not prepared. Curo are also now aware of the Chew Magna Flood Plan.</p> <p>CH said a training session on Assets of Community Value was held here on 24th January, although not all parishes were able to attend. An officer from Wiltshire Council presented – they currently have 90 on their list while B&NES has 9. It was a really useful session and he thanked the Council’s Community Engagement team for organising it. SD said further sessions will be organised.</p>	

BREAK

4.	Notes of the Previous Meeting	
4.1	These were agreed as a true record.	
5.	Matters Arising	
5.1	CH said a briefing note sent to Parish Liaison intimated that the Chew Valley Transport Strategy existed. LR said it does but has not been finalised. CH said responsibility for transport will move to the West of England and this will include Community Transport. He wants to be clear on the implications for this area.	
6.	Theme: 'Environmental Sustainability' – tackling future challenges and empowering local communities	
6.1	CH welcomed Jane Wildblood Corporate & Community Sustainability Manager, B&NES and Don Weston from Chelwood Community Energy. See Appendices 3 and 4 for their presentations.	
7.	Any Other Business	
7.1	There was none.	
8.	Date of Next Meeting Monday 3rd July Wednesday 27th September Monday 4th December All starting at 6pm in the Library of Chew Valley School	

Presentation: Local Government Boundary Commission for England for Bath and North East Somerset

Presenter: Andy Thomas - Strategic Manager Communities, B&NES

To view the presentation visit:

http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/boundary_review_presentation.pdf

The presentation was also circulated to Forum members electronically on 28-2-17.

Slide	Comment
Slide 1	Title Slide
Slide 2	<p>There are two boundary reviews taking place – one on the parliamentary constituency boundaries, which is out of our hands and being done separately by the Boundary Committee for England.</p> <p>The second, which we will be discussing tonight, is the review of electoral arrangements within Bath and North East Somerset – ie the wards that make up the district and not the parliamentary constituencies.</p> <p>It is routine for the Local Government Boundary Commission to do this and it has been some years since Bath and North East Somerset was last reviewed.</p>
Slide 3	<p>This map shows that the number of electors to Councillors is slightly out of kilter in some areas – the green areas show under-representation and the purple over-representation. . The Commission will also take into consideration future population projections when making their decision.</p>
Slide 4	<p>The first stage of the process is to look at how many Councillors there should be then where the boundaries of the wards should be. The boundary for the Bath and North East Somerset district will not be changed and neither will the boundaries of individual parishes. However, the review may look at changes to the boundaries of wards within parishes.</p>
Slide 5	<p>The Boundary Commission will work out the number of Councillors they believe the Council should have and then divide the electorate by this to get the number of wards. They will decide where the boundaries to the wards will be but will give consideration to decision making structures, the scrutiny process and partnerships in place and where community interests and identities lie.</p>
Slide 6	<p>The Boundary Commission will then look at how the wards are drawn up and will start with a blank sheet. They are not wedded to any existing ward boundaries but are interested in views around where people feel they belong.</p>
Slide 7	<p>This slide shows the timetable for the process. The Boundary Commission are currently gathering information to determine the size of the Council. A working group has been set up for this.</p> <p>18 May 2017 – Council decision on numbers June 2017 - submissions on council size July – August 2017 consultation on wards December 2017 – March 2018 Consultation on final proposals</p>

	April 2018 – Final recommendations
Slide 8	Anyone can put forward a view to the commission as part of the consultation. They are keen to receive reasoned proposals. They will not necessarily take school catchment areas into account. The final representation goes to Parliament.
Slide 9	Contacts at the Commission and at Bath and North East Somerset.

There were no questions following the presentation.

Briefing on the Community Empowerment Fund

Presenter: Cllr Paul Myers – Cabinet Member for Policy, Localism & Partnerships

PM introduced himself and said his role involves liaison with parish and town councils and third sector organisations. He appreciates that there is less resource around and therefore, the more organisations can work together, the better.

PM said he wants to start a dialogue with town and parish councils and will do so with an offer of funding. This will equate to 50p for every person in a parished area, based on the 2011 census. Bath has been included as well so the process is fair and dialogue here will be through the Bath City Forum. Where parishes have small populations, a minimum amount of £250 will be made available.

The funding, which totals £90k, will be available for one year only for projects that relate in some way to the public realm. The idea is that the funding is matched by the parish, either in cash or in volunteer time. Parishes can also group together to increase the funding available for a particular project.

PM said he is keen to visit parishes and hear any expressions of interest – the idea is to start discussions around ways of working together on projects that will make savings and benefit local residents.

Questions and Answers

Q1: How many Parishes are there in B&NES?

A1: 52

Q2: Do you intend to hold 52 separate meetings?

A2: No, we are looking for expressions of interest at this stage.

Q3: If a group within a parish has a project, does that also count?

A3: Yes – we intend to talk directly to parish councils but if they are working with a local group that has a project, this will be fine.

Q4: Will you be sending an application form?

A4: Yes but it won't be onerous, or have too many criteria.

Q5: What is not being funded in order to fund this?

A5: Nothing – a case has been made to have the funding to support the excellent voluntary work taking place across the district and encourage more.

Q6: How does this relate to the Ward Councillors Initiative (WCI) funding?

A6: It doesn't.

Q7: Is the WCI funding also available, or being reduced?

A7: It is organised in a way that means it is not made available during an election year. Town and Parish Councils will need to do more of the things that B&NES does now – they can often do it better and cheaper.

Q8: Can you explain more about the volunteering element?

A8: This will be worked out in the criteria but will equate to £10 per hour. Examples could be litter picks, painting fingerposts etc.

Q9: What is the requirement in terms of matched funding/volunteering?

A9: A 50/50 split with the funding.

Q10: Will the information be sent to Parish Clerks?

A10: Yes

Presentation: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change

Presenters: Jane Wildblood - Corporate & Community Sustainability Manager, B&NES
and Micaela Basford – Corporate Sustainability Officer, B&NES

The presentation was also circulated to Forum members electronically on 28-2-17.

Slide	Comment
Slide 1	Title Slide
Slide 2	The Council's Sustainability Team run the Environmental Sustainability Partnership, which is led by Cllr Martin Veal. The partnership has been in existence for five years and recently reviewed its strategy. Their new vision is set out on this slide.
Slide 3	Reference to low carbon in the Council's Corporate Strategy
Slide 4	A Low Carbon Future: This means so many things eg work on the ground in Chew Valley around local flooding issues and community energy production. Home energy also links to health and wellbeing. Another aim is to increase jobs in the food and energy sectors. We are trying to keep funding for energy circulating within the local economy.
Slide 5	Delivering and Influencing: We do this in partnership – the Sustainability Team works to create frameworks for people to do more for themselves.
Slide 6	Strategic Approach: there is a three pronged approach. Examples include a sub partnership for local food. The team also run a Community Energy Forum. We also try to lead by example as a Council.

JW handed over to MB

Slide 7	<p>Food: There is a Local Food Strategy and a partnership. A stakeholder event was held recently in Farrington Gurney which was attended by 80 people. This was an opportunity for producers to meet buyers and for best practice to be shared.</p> <p>The whole of the B&NES district is recognised as a 'Sustainable Food City' and has a bronze award for this. It is one of only 12 in the country. It is a collective achievement involving a range of stakeholders.</p>
Slide 8	Map of B&NES Agricultural Land Grade: In the Chew area, there is a community farm. G1 agricultural land is a finite resource but the Chew Valley has a comparatively high percentage of this. G1 is the highest class horticultural grade land
Slide 9	Food: The team work to encourage planning policies are in place to support a thriving local food culture, making sure the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan includes farm diversification, re-use of agricultural buildings etc.
Slide 10	British Food Fortnight: The Council ran one event for this but the rest (there were

	30) were held by local organisations – Taste of Timsbury was an example. It gave opportunities to showcase local food production. The central image shows a British school lunch. There was also herb growing courses and a supper club with a seasonal menu. The 2017 event will take place between 23 rd September and 8 th October. We are co-ordinating a similar programme, so let us know if you are interested in taking part. We won the National Award for our British Food Fortnight activities in 2016.
Slide 11	School Meal Contract: through purchasing power, we can help support local businesses. However, Local Government procurement rules can be a barrier. We have listened to a number of small, local producers who wanted to supply to the Council but found the process too onerous. So, we have been piloting a new approach. Fresh Range act as a logistical enabler. Producers can join as and when they have produce to sell. For example, if one farmer can only produce half the amount of carrots needed, the shortfall can be made up from a different supplier.
Slide 12	B&NES Local Food Directory : We have been working with Big Barn on a new food directory. Food suppliers can register and home delivery is available as well. It is a way for enabling local food producers to compete with on-line supermarket shopping.
Slide 13	Food Cycle in Bath receives a weekly delivery from three local supermarkets. They use the ingredients to make 3-course meals for up to 20 people. Bath Repair Café is a new venture, based on successful schemes elsewhere. It involves specialist volunteers repairing items that might otherwise be thrown away. They are keen to encourage similar repair cafes across B&NES. The Council's Waste Services team have organised a couple of clothes swaps per year and have kit to lend to local groups if they want to run one themselves (hangers, clothes rails, mirrors etc).

MB handed back to JW

Slide 14	Energy: We work in partnership with Bath and West Community Energy. Income generates funding which projects can bid for.
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Questions and Answers

Comment: B&NES Waste Services came to a Forum meeting and said they get £100 income per refuse lorry for recycling. There could be promotion to say that if you improve your recycling efforts, you generate more funding for your community. At a Parish or Forum level this could be a critical mass.

Comment: The Children's Centre may provide opportunities for the types of projects MB mentioned.

Presentation: Chelwood Community Energy

Presenters: Don Weston, Chair of Chelwood Community Energy

The presentation was also circulated to Forum members electronically on 28-2-17.

Slide	Comment
Slide 1	Title Slide
Slide 2	Introduction Slide
Slides 3 to 13	A Social Interest Company: This means it can't trade shares or pay dividends. Interest is paid to shareholders and any surplus has to be spent for the benefit of the community.
Slides 14 to 25	<p>Generating Green Electricity: The table shows OVO which is a Bristol based company, in comparison with the national average. The cost of renewable energy has come down in price.</p> <p>The Chelwood Community Energy solar array is hidden and not the one that you can see from the A368.</p> <p>The company began on 13th December last year and has generated over 4,825 MWh.</p>
Slides 26 to 40	Returning Profits to the Community: The area of benefit is the surrounding parishes, although there is no prescribed area. Trustees will interpret applications and manage grant allocations. The Board will next meet on 28 th February 2017 and hope that there will be £50k going into the fund. They only had approval from the Charity Commission a month ago so the grant policy is still under development.
Slide 41	End slide

Questions and Answers

Q1: How does the cost of green energy compare for users?

A1: A standard tariff is around 15p per unit – there are cheaper deals available. The situation is changing rapidly and the Council is looking in detail at how to get better deals for B&NES residents. Renewables are becoming cheaper and this is where investment is being made. There is an increasing roll out of smart meters and a time of use tariff will be coming in as well. Chelwood's energy is exported to the grid. The vision is to get to a point where, ideally, locally produced energy is used locally and this is of interest to Western Power. Local storage is key ie if you have solar panels, you can keep the energy produced and store it.

Comment: Our smart meter doesn't work because of lack of mobile signal. There is an oil buying scheme in this rural area. Group buying of electric may be possible, particularly for parishes running buildings – the buildings don't need to be next to one another for this to work.

Response: We are looking at all these issues. There is a Home Energy Efficiency Scheme as well, with 300+ homes being refurbished. The Council's aim is to get people off pre-payment meters, which are expensive, and to make homes warmer. Please help us promote this <https://www.energyathome.org.uk/>

Q2: Were you persuaded by Government to set up the company and is it right that they no longer provide funding?

A2: A farmer and son started the business but passed it on to Bath and West Community Energy as it became too much for them to manage. Yes, the Government has withdrawn support.

Comment: Renewables will overtake traditional methods of energy production. Costs will come down. In 25 years it will be more sophisticated and won't require acres of land to produce.

Response: There will be further opportunities and it will look different – the ideal would be to have solar panels on buildings rather than land.

Q3: Could this school benefit from having solar panels?

A3: Yes – they own their building so could benefit.