

**Note of the meeting of the Bath City Forum  
held on Tuesday, 17th July, 2018  
in Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath**

<b>Full Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Rob Appleyard	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Jasper Martin Becker	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Nicolette Boater	Bath City Forum
Penny Coatsworth	Bath City Forum
Roger Driver	Bath City Forum
Councillor Bob Goodman	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Penny McKissock	Bath City Forum
Andrew Page	Bath City Forum
Councillor Lin Patterson	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Rosie Phillips	Bath City Forum
Councillor Joe Rayment	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Leslie Redwood	Bath City Forum
Joy Saunders	Bath City Forum
Councillor Peter Turner	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Virginia Williamson	Bath City Forum

<b>In Attendance</b>	
Ashley Ayre	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Tim Ball	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Sue Craig	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Mark Hayward	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Samantha Jones	Inclusive Communities (B&NES)
Councillor Paul Myers	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Adam O'Loughlin	Avon and Somerset Police
Residents	Residents
Adam Reynolds	Bath Resident
David Walton	DHI
Roanne Wooten	Julian House
Tony Yates	DHI

<b>Apologies Received from</b>	
Councillor Colin Blackburn	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Jeremy Boss	Bath City Forum
Councillor Anthony Clarke	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Andrew Furse	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Robin Kerr	Bath City Forum
Ben Palmer	Bath City Forum
Councillor Dine Romero	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall	Bath and North East Somerset Council

## 1. Agreement of the Minutes of the previous meeting 15.05.18

The forum members were asked if there were any requests for corrections to the draft minutes. No requests were made and the minutes were agreed by Cllr Rob Appleyard and seconded by Cllr Patrick Anketell-Jones.

## 2. Neighbourhood CIL for Bath

Cllr Rob Appleyard reported on the recommendations made by the Bath City Forum Working Group for Neighbourhood CIL in the meeting which took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018.

### Freeview Road Parking Twerton

The panel still require confirmation on several points in the scheme from Highways. As long as these come back without issue the project will not need to return to the panel.

**Once fully satisfied a recommendation for £34,000 for area C and area E**

### Combe Down Rugby Club

The panel felt that this application would be looked at as three separate requests.

The request for funding for the tarmacking of the Rugby Club Car Park **was declined**. The working group felt that local users from the adjacent development would not need to travel to the club by car when they are so close by. The benefit for visitors from visitors further afield would be greater. This was not seen as to have strong benefits to the local community.

The infrastructure provided by having a two way flow between the school and the playing field clubhouse was seen as an idea that should be supported. This project linked up the facilities and would create safe access to integrated facilities that would allow the community to integrate. £15,348 plus VAT was quoted as the cost for this part of the project. **This part of the project was recommended for funding by the working group.**

The request for funding for improvements to the changing rooms, trench and pipe installation and a new boiler were supported by the panel. The community need this infrastructure to be in place to maximise the use of the space for a range of activities. £11,035 plus VAT was quoted as the cost for this part of the project. **This part of the project was recommended for funding by the working group.**

### Two Tunnels Greenway Signage

The two tunnels signage project application fully identified the requirements for providing better directions for cyclists on a number of routes across Bath.

The panel felt that this project request for £6,000 was to be supported as getting residents out of their cars and more active is of great benefit to communities.

The panel asked if the project has considered the needs for future signs where developments in Bath have not get been completed. They would support a slightly higher bid if this needs to be built in to the project. **This was recommended for funding by the working group.**

### **Brickfields Park Bench**

The request for £1,455 to provide a bench in the brickfields park **was agreed by the panel**. The application costings showed the cost include ten years maintenance.

This green space is used by increased numbers of residents for exercising, dog walking and children's play.

### **Beat the Street Bath**

**The panel concluded that they did not support this application.**

There were a number of concerns around how affective that the project would be in the longer term. It was felt that a lack of information around how the assumption was reached on uptake rates and how an idea such as this has succeeded elsewhere are missing from the application.

This idea was seen to be a similar idea to others that are available as apps on smartphones. Games such as Pokémon Go and activities such as the Owl Trail are freely available and have similar benefits of getting people physically active. Activities were seen to have a short lifespan with young people not sticking to them in the longer term.

The overall cost of this scheme was considered to be too high; at £20 per resident the panel felt this did not appear to provide good value for money.

### **Lighting on Linear Par leading up to Two Tunnels**

#### **Pre Application Discussed**

The panel liked the idea of solar lighting but reserves judgement on making a final decision until a fully completed application form has been submitted.

Cllr Appleyard explained that the panel requests that only completed applications are brought to future meetings. Council Officers are asked to deal with the applications up to the point where they are in a position to be presented to the panel.

The Bath City Forum Members were asked to vote on all of the proposals above; this was agreed with a strong majority in favour.

### **3. B&NES Council Consultations**

Virginia Williamson explained that his agenda item for The Bath City Forum had been included at her request. Bath City Forum members had received paperwork on this topic that had been circulated earlier.

Cllr Paul Myers explained to the forum that he welcomed the opportunity to discuss this topic with them as this is an area of work that he has already looked at, and recognises that there is further work that can be done with the communities across all of Bath and North East Somerset.

The PowerPoint presentation which Cllr Myers used is included within the meeting minutes.

There were a number of points that were discussed during the presentation:

- We are all part of the consultation process.
- The process of consultation has many levels which need to be clearly defined.
- When consulting the Council needs to be able to set out the points in the process and where and when they need to have discussions about the options.
- There are examples when the Council wish to consult on areas such as the setting of the budget. There is still a place for sharing the position and asking about the impacts, but this needs to come with an explanation.
- Good consultation will give participants a true sense of involvement.
- Improvements to Council consultation are already underway, the approach on Bath Breathes, the Parking Strategy and Modern Libraries.
- The Council have taken an inclusive approach to engagement; how Neighbourhood CIL is spent, the setting up of a Third Sector Group, the Parish Charter and Fix my Street all show a commitment to a more collaborative approach.
- There are complex governance structures that the Council have to work within, how we make this easier to understand can be addressed.

### **Comments / Questions**

Cllr Lin Patterson raised the issue about consultation and when will the changes take place and when can we expect to see the results of the changes.

Cllr Tim Ball asked if we convinced we are sure about 'what consultation is'? Residents often feel that the decisions go ahead regardless of what is feedback.

Cllr Peter Turner felt that the Council need to build relationships with the local communities and good consultation is good means of delivering this.

Roger Driver explained that rules are set out nationally on what needs to be done when consulting on statutory duties. Having a memorandum of understanding in place will help the entire parties involved feel included.

Penny McKissock commented that the Sure Start discussions which took place in 2002 left a legacy in South West Bath this was due to the methods that were used.

Nicolette Boater thanked Cllr. Myers for his presentation. She agreed that stakeholder engagement is an integral part of effective governance and decision making and respectful, trusting, collaborative, relationships is critical to this. She would like to support a more robust and transparent consultation framework being developed.

Cllr Joe Rayment commented that the Council holds elections every four years to give a mandate for elected members to make decisions; these offer an opportunity for a co-production of ideas to take place.

Cllr Jasper Becker explained that the idea of referendums is something we could see more of in Bath. Switzerland is a good example of somewhere that conducts lots of local referendums.

Responses from Cllr Myers:

- Now is the time to work collaboratively.
- We need to work out what dialogue is needed when a consensus is not reached.
- There are sometimes strong views within our communities.
- A plan is required that involves all of the connecting community forums, the 3SG and as many different people as possible, this needs to include difficult to reach groups.

Virginia Williamson thanked Cllr Myers for his presentation.

#### **4. Joint Community Safety Plan - PCC**

Samantha Jones presented an overview of the Joint Community Safety Plan (included with the minutes)

The plan has been put together by a range of partners for the B&NES area and a great deal of discussion on input has taken place within the partnership meetings. The themes that have been discussed at the Area Forum meetings have been lifted from the minutes to form the area priorities.

The forum was asked to feedback on whether the priorities that have been listed for Bath and the Environs are correct.

Cllr Tim Ball

An understanding of our different communities and what they require needs to show the range of differences and expectations that exist.

Cllr Peter Turner

The scrutiny panel that took place yesterday (16/07/18) explained how the ASB powers that are available have been used in Keynsham Town Centre. The use of the real time public contact data which is generated by 'click sense' allowed solutions to be quickly designed. Response – Yes, the data being available for the Police morning briefing gives the opportunity to have a strategy that is based on the information that the public have provided. By door knocking and working with difficult families in housing association properties actions were taken.

#### **5. Street Homelessness and Activity**

The forum received a presentation on Street Homelessness in Bath & North East Somerset from:

**Roanne Wootten** Operations Director Julian House

**Tony Yates** Assertive Outreach Worker DHI

**David Walton** Housing Director DHI

The presentation looked at the local pattern for rough sleeping in B&NES, the causes of why people are homeless and how street outreach workers are helping in Bath.

The BANES Homelessness Partnership has received additional government funding of £300K which was allocated to areas that have more than twenty or more street homelessness people. Following consultation with rough sleepers the areas of new intervention have been strategically planned and will be targeted in the following ways:

- Hospital Discharge.

- Rapid Assessment and Re-engagement
- Mental Health Outreach (AWP).
- Housing First.

The Streetlink service provides the opportunity for the public to help in the reporting of people that may be in need of help. This is available on line or through the mobile phone app. The service has recently shown how effective it can be as fifteen reports were made in the period of one week.

## **Questions and Comments**

Cllr Bob Goodman – Having spent time with an outreach worker about a year ago I saw for myself the real value that the specialised outreach bring to people who get to know them.

Cllr Peter Turner – I appreciate the work that is being carried out and would like the aim to be that all street homeless come off the street. I do see and hear about the level of begging that is carried out in Bath after 7pm which is then used for buying drugs.

Response – there is a commitment to women on the street that are more vulnerable. Offers of accommodation are made and over twenty people are in safe house accommodation at any one time, this does mean we are mostly full. There are individuals that refuse accommodation as they do not feel comfortable, this can be down to violence or aggression that they have suffered in the past.

Cllr Jasper Becker – How bad is the situation with fake begging on the streets and how bad is the impact on mental health caused by weed or other drug misuse?

Response – Bath and Keynsham has seen a professional beggar situation which has been picked up by outreach workers and on social media. The Police have been really good at acting upon information.

Rouge Sleepers have often experienced traumatic childhood experiences, when this has been the case it often leads to a greater risk of substance misuse. Support is available, from September 2018 there will be two outreach workers, and in addition a weekly drop in surgery is held at The Beehive in Southdown Bath.

Roger Driver – The Wellness activity that takes place in the City where students help and handouts are given does not seem to be co-ordinated by a professional service and is not as well joined up as it could be.

Response – Food is always available to anybody who is in a homeless situation, the myth of a £3 charge for the night shelter is not true for Julian House and The YMCA. There is a policy that tents are not to be given out and this shared by DHI, genesis and Julian House.

Cllr Patrick Anketell-Jones – What is done for those people that value their independence but appear to have lost the acceptance of the community around them?

Response – We look to find the way that works for the individual, this can be in an existing community where steps are taken to build around them. Where we can identify the likes and interests of someone we can look to support through different levels of courses with likeminded people. When activities are identified we look to get someone to accompany them along to these.

## **6. Initial Forum Development Feedback**

Andrew Page explained that last week a session had taken place at Widcombe Social Club for forum members to look at the aims of the forum, how well we are meeting these and what more can be achieved.

The views were collected at the meeting and by email from those who could not attend. The next step is to have an item on the agenda at the next meeting which will allow the forum can take forward any realistic ideas.