



**Note of the meeting of the Cam Valley Forum  
held on Thursday, 2nd August, 2018  
in Shoscombe Village Hall - Barn Hill, Shoscombe, Bath, BA2 8LX**

### **Meeting Attendance**

<b>In Attendance</b>
Lyn Alvis (Monkton Combe)
Councillor Neil Butters (Bathavon South Ward)
David Dixon (B&NES)
Mark Hayward (B&NES)
Samantha Jones (B&NES)
Steve Kendall (Avon & Somerset Police)
Kathryn Manchee (Camerton, Dunkerton & Tunley, Englishcombe)
Doug Pattison (Priston)
Darren Baker (Avon & Somerset Police)
Diana White (Camerton)
Des Wighton (Monkton Combe)
John Wilkinson (Priston)

<b>Apologies Received from</b>
John Adler (Chair)
Jean Fossaceco (Shoscombe)
Brian Huggett (Englishcombe)
David Orme (Dunkerton & Tunley)
Martin Robinson (Dunkerton & Tunley)
Councillor David Veale (Bathavon West Ward)

#### **1. Welcome, Introductions and notes from the last meeting**

In the absence of the forum Chair, John Adler, B&NES Council Officer Dave Dixon stood in as Chair for the meeting.

The notes from the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **2. Chairs Annual Report**

A statement was read out on behalf John Adler, Chair of the Bathavon South Forum.

Since the last AGM of the Bathavon South Forum on 20 July 2017 the forum has met three times including the budget update meeting.

It was decided to hold all forum meetings in local parish locations, it is hoped that this has been of help to all the attendees when travelling to the meetings.

**Police and Fire & Rescue** Updates have been received when operational needs have allowed for this. We are keen to maintain close links with the emergency services as this provides information on the trends that are taking place in our local area.

**Waste Services:** We received presentations and consultation around the changes to our bin collections. The more rural areas required more complex arrangements than in the City, it is hoped that the changes are now embedded and the recycling rates continue to rise in the positive way that they have done since the changes went live.

**Budget Challenge and Pressures'** – The forum hosted one of the Council budget consultation meetings where we heard about the difficult financial picture and the pressures that are being put on the council around Adult Social Care and Looked after Children. We were grateful for the transparency and honesty of the discussions and recognise the need for Parishes we need to work more closely with B&NES.

**Age UK Services:** Janet Dabbs shared with us useful information around the range service that they can assist our residents accessing.

**Fit for Life:** Martin Pellow led a discussion around the health and wellbeing benefits of everyday activities that everybody can easily take part in locally.

I am happy to put myself forward again for one further year as Chair of this forum, after this a new Chair will need to be found.

### 3. Election of Chair

Dave Dixon explained that the position of Chair needed to be agreed for the next year, no nominations other than from John Adler were received before or at the meeting. It was proposed to the Bathavon South Forum members to agree that John Adler continues in the role of Chair for another year. All forum members were in agreement with this proposal and John was re-elected.

### 4. Police Update

The Forum received an update on local crime statistics and trends from Darren Baker, Neighbourhood Beat Manager.

The statistics for the local area for the rolling twelve month period had seen 706 recorded incidents; this sees a decrease of 6% on the previous twelve months. The whole of B&NES has seen a drop in incidents of 10.5% in the last quarter.

It was noted that most types of crime had seen a drop in reported incidents, where prolific criminals are arrested there is a marked difference in incidents. The two recent arrests that related to burglaries showed who crime levels see an immediate effect.

Anti-social behaviour and drug crime are areas that need a grip on them in the villages. There have been some incidents of 'cuckooing' which have been addressed; these incidents affect vulnerable people in our communities.

The level of crimes that are reported that relate to fraud and scams on the internet is an area that continues to develop and can be complex to investigate.

The Police have improved methods for tracking crimes as they are reported and have a strategy which allows local teams to deploy resources where they are most needed.

Several questions were asked around prison release. It was explained that drug use in prison does for some inmates have specific requirements that must be met before they will be released. This can mean that some tests need to show that a prisoner is clean of drugs before release is agreed. The point was discussed about when prisoners are discharged they are left having to wait a considerable time before they start receiving universal credit. The process around prisoners being met when leaving prison is not always being followed up and they are left unsupported.

A question was asked by a forum member regarding the names of the officers that cover the local area, it appears that updates on any changes that are made are not being adequately communicated.

It was asked if radio blocks could be used to prevent mobile phones being used in prisons. This is a difficult issue to resolve as the infrastructure of a prison requires the staff to be able to communicate on radios and phones; therefore a block can't be used.

## **5. Community Safety Plan**

Steve Kendal gave an introduction that provided some background information on the operational issues that the Police have been dealing with. Samantha Jones explained how the Community Safety Plan had been brought together through partnership working with a number of different agencies.

- Manvers Street Police Station was sold in Bath for financial reasons; this led to a counter service being provided in the One Stop Shop and offices being located at Redbridge House on the Lower Bristol Road.
- There is a longer term ambition to have a police station at a central location in Bath as the Redbridge House location will be redeveloped into flats in the next seven years.
- Visibility of officers is of real importance and to help with this laptops are being issued for officers to be able work whilst on the beat and electric cycles are being introduced.
- It is noted that people want to be in places where they go, The Galleries shopping Centre in Bristol and The Library in Keynsham are examples of being located in public spaces.
- The PCC has a commitment to PCSO's and Community Policing, these are Sue Mountstevens priorities, these could change if the PCC changes.
- The Police recognise the different types of people that can be caught up in domestic violence incidents, this topic could be covered in greater detail at a future forum meeting.
- Modern Slavery checks are carried out in the area through work with the Councils Environmental Service Team. Nail Bars and Car Washes are checked, we have involved in the first successful prosecution in the Country.
- Health Services including the A&E departments have representatives that have provided input into this plan.

The Streetlink service was discussed; they connect rough sleepers to local services. Anybody can make a report by using their website [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) or via the Streetlink mobile phone app.

Samantha explained that this plan provides a comprehensive review that is the first big update in three years. The Responsible Authorities Group is a partnership which includes all the relevant agencies which were required to bring the draft of this plan together. The Area Forums priorities have been also taken in through a review of the notes where discussions have taken place with the Police. If anybody has any further comments they think of after the meeting, please can you feed these back through Mark Hayward before 16<sup>th</sup> August.

## **6. Odd Down Park and Ride Service 42**

The Bus Service 42 which has served the route from Odd Down Park & Ride to The RUH in Bath will be withdrawn from 31 August 2018.

The good news is that First Bus has agreed a six month trial for their service number 4 to be extended to serve the Park & Ride Site. As this service commitment is presently only for six months the Forum is encouraged to publicise the new route within their communities and to write to First Bus supporting making this a permanent arrangement. Correspondence can be sent to: The Control Room, First Bus, Bath Depot, Bath BA2 1HB.

## **7. Planning**

It was explained that John Adler had proposed that the forum could look at some of the issues around planning.

It was suggested that a better understanding of how B&NES are deciding which CIL projects will be financed in North East Somerset.

## **8. Forum Rebranding**

The forum was in agreement with the suggestion that was brought forward to rename the Bathavon South Forum. All members present agreed that the new name will now be The Cam Valley Forum.

## **9. Volunteering Opportunities**

The Forum heard from Mark Hayward about the Community Challenge Volunteering Opportunities which took place this Summer, B&NES Council have built up this programme with partners over a number of years. This year we have taken on challenges that have supported successful projects which were put forward by Parish Councils.

As we continue to work with our existing and new partners, we would welcome further project ideas to be put forward from Parish Councils.

Please contact Mark to discuss any ideas you may have 01225 396975 or [mark\\_hayward@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:mark_hayward@bathnes.gov.uk)

- 10. Forward Plan**  
Suggestions:  
Rural Transport  
Village Agents  
CIL Funding  
Consultations

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018, 7-9pm  
at Priston Hall