

Final Minutes of the Chew Valley Area Forum

Wednesday 4th December 2017 at 6.00pm

The Library, Chew Valley Secondary School

Present

Name	Organisation Represented
Chris Head	Chair, West of England Rural Network (WERN)
Tony Heaford	Vice Chair, Publow with Pensford PC
Colin Moore	Ubley Parish Council
Jane Eagon	Resident
Mark Dury	Whitchurch Parish Council
Gareth Beynon	Headteacher, Chew Valley Secondary School
Sgt Jon Bagnowiec	Avon and Somerset Police
Nick Scholfield	Chew Magna Parish Council
Lynne Eaton	Chew Magna Parish Council
John Harvey	Stanton Drew Parish Council
Rosemary Naish	Clutton Parish Council
Cllr Tim Warren	B&NES Council, Leader and Ward Councillor
Cllr Karen Warrington	B&NES Council, Cabinet Member and Ward Councillor
Heather Clewett	Stowey Sutton Parish Council
Liz Kingston	Stowey Sutton Parish Council
Hilary Collins	Clerk to Ubley Parish Council
Anna Wheeler	Bath College Adult Community Learning
Tony Hooper	Cameley Parish Council
Chris Craig	Compton Martin PC
Sandy Bell	Chew Valley Chamber of Commerce
Ian Bell	Chew Valley Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Vic Pritchard	B&NES Council, Cabinet Member and Ward Councillor
Cllr Liz Richardson	B&NES Council and Ward Councillor
Mike Bowden	Forum Sponsor, B&NES Strategic Director
PC Gemma Ludlow	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
PC Stuart Peard	Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Cllr Charles Gerrish	B&NES Council, Cabinet Member
Ashley Ayre	Chief Executive, B&NES Council
Claire Wynne Jones	Community Quartet Foundation
Bridget Smith	Chew Valley and Keynsham Befrienders
Chris Lewis	Resident
Mari Martin	Labour Party
Ruth Jones	Resident
Helen Stocknell	Resident
Liz Hine	Resident
Nigel Chambers	Resident
Andy Ward	Resident
Janet Ward	Resident
Andrew Tanner	Resident
Sara Dixon	Locality Manager, Communities Team (B&NES)
Ticki Toogood	Local Resident and B&NES Organisational Development Officer

Apologies: West Harptree Parish Council; Helen Harris, Practice Business Manager - Chew Medical Practice and Denise Perrin from West of England Rural Network, Chew Stoke PC

	Ordinary meeting	Action
1.	Welcome from the Chair of the Forum	
1.1	CH welcomed those present and roundtable introductions were made.	

	Apologies were noted.	
2.	Notes from the previous meeting and matters arising	
2.1	The notes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record.	
2.2	The feedback given by members of the Forum and the young people from Chew Valley Secondary School were submitted to the B&NES Transport team as a formal response to the consultation on the Chew Valley Transport Strategy.	
2.3	The Forum were reminded about the Bristol Airport consultation, deadline: midnight on 26 January 2018	
2.4	Chris confirmed that the funding for the project to Commemorate the 1968 floods was successful. WERN will appoint a project officer to deliver the project and co-ordinate activities across the Chew Valley and Keynsham area.	
3.	Updates	
3.1	Local Police Matters – PC Gemma Lindow	
3.1.1	Gemma provided an update an activity since the last meeting and referred to her report (see appendix 1).	
3.1.2	She specifically highlighted a spike in non-dwelling burglary although this is now tailed off. An arson attack was being investigated.	
3.1.3	The officers had now reverted back to their neighbourhood team operations which has meant that more proactive policing in the Chew Valley could commence. A number of traffic operations were carried out over the last month in between Keynsham and Chew Valley with 19 speeding tickets, 5 people given speeding tickets on Dursley Hill. They were keen to spend more time outside of the school getting to know the community and also talk to parents about parking.	
3.1.4	A statement was made about the traffic congestion in Pensford and the negative impact on local residents. The congestion causes a great deal of concern to residents as lorries mount the pavements, bollards are knocked over and lorries break down causing increased congestion and pollution.	
3.1.5	Q. What figures lead to an arrest or conviction? A. Most of the time we have a successful prosecutions. We know most people who commit the crimes locally.	
3.1.6	Q. Are there drug problems in the Chew Valley?. A. No, we don't have a lot of reports of drug issues, although people could not be reporting it.	
3.1.7	Q. There seems to be a lot of canisters left all over the place, is this an issue? A. We are not getting reports, please do let us know if you notice a lot of them in the villages. Send an email (details in appendix 1).	
3.1.8	NOTE: You can also report non emergencies via the on-line reporting system https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact-us/report-a-crime-or-incident/report-a-crime-online/#/	

4.	Community Showcase	
4.1	Chris introduced a new section to the Forum meeting called Community Showcase. This is an opportunity for local organisations to promote their services and highlight their work. He was delighted to welcome, Bridget Smith from Chew Valley and Keynsham Befrienders and Claire Wynne-Hughes from Quartet Community Foundation.	
4.2	Chew Valley and Keynsham Befrienders has been operating for 25 years. It provides support to individuals and their families who have mental health problems or are experiencing distress. Referrals are received from people themselves, GP's, health professionals etc. Befrienders offer face to face visits or telephone support.	
4.2.1	For more information about the service goto: http://www.befriender.org.uk/ Contact: Bridget Smith email: bridgets@uwclub.net	
4.3	Quartet Community Foundation provide small to medium size funding to local charities and organisations. Funding is built up around donors and endowments they have built up since 1987. A number of projects have been funded by Quartet to deliver services in the Chew Valley. The criteria is based on disadvantaged communities, this doesn't have to economic but could be due to poor broadband, access to services or transport.	
4.3.1	For more information about the grants available go to: http://quartetcf.org.uk/ . Research study – Vital signs which focusses on mental health needs in the West of England - http://quartetcf.org.uk/vital-signs/ .	
4.3.2	Q. Due to funding cuts, youth services will need to find other sources of funding. Would this be eligible for grant funding via Quartet? A. It's a grey area, in normal cases Quartet would not fund statutory services. Suggest looking at the specific grant criteria for each funding programme to see if eligible.	
4.4	Chris thanked Bridget and Claire for attending the meeting. He said that if anyone had any suggestions for future Community Showcases to contact Sara.	
5.	Any other issues or updates	
5.1	There were none.	
	Annual General meeting (AGM)	
6.	Notes of the previous AGM meeting and matters arising	
6.1	The notes were agreed as an accurate record.	
7.	Chair's Annual review – A review of the year's activities and looking ahead to 2018	
7.1	Chris referred to the Annual report that was circulated with the papers of the meeting. A lot of items had been covered over the last year and the work plan for 2018 had a number of key topics already in place.	
8.	Review and amend, if required, Terms of Reference	
8.1	None	
9.	Election of the Chair and Vice Chair positions (nomination forms attached) and election to Partnership bodies if required	
9.1	CH handed over to SD. She asked if there were any further nominations. There was none. SD received two nominations for Chris Head as Chair and for Tony	

	Heaford as Vice Chair. This was agreed by majority. CH thanked the Forum.	
9.2	Cllr Warren thanked Chris for all his efforts as Chair of the Forum over the past year.	
10.	Changing Together – The Council’s Budget Challenge and Pressures’	
10.1	The Chair introduced Cllr Gerrish and Ashley Ayre and welcomed them to the meeting. Cllr Gerrish provided the background to the challenges facing the Council.	
10.2	Last year the Council had to save a total £49m by 2020, but this has now risen to £58m by 2020. The changing role and funding of the local authority alongside increasing demands for adult social care and children’s services have placed greater pressure on the Council’s budget.	
10.3	A lot of work has already been undertaken to identify savings and reduce the gap. £42m of savings have been identified but an additional £16 million needs to be found by 2020. The Council is looking at proposals to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructure the workforce and deliver staff savings • Further reduce office accommodation • Seek further efficiencies within social care while protecting the most vulnerable people. • Explore opportunities for how discretionary services are delivered. • Ensure statutory functions and front line services are maintained even if in a different form • Explore more ideas around new income generation. • Identify how the community can play an increasing role in delivering services. 	
10.4	Four key areas have been identified where communities can help to reduce demand and make our money go further. This included: Health & Wellbeing, Going Digital, Volunteering and the role of communities. A copy of the presentation can be found via the following link. http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/final_-_updated_-_changing_together_presentation_-_27.11_0.pdf A questions and answer session then took place, summarised below:	
10.5	Q: A plea made from Bath City College, Adult and Community Learning Team. Up-skilling people to get into work is important and the Adult and Community Learning team provide courses to support them. However there is also the need, particularly in the Chew Valley, for upskilling older people to use the internet and get on-line. The team provide courses to support older people to improve their skills. It is important that future funding provides flexibility for people to get back into work but also to allow people to upskill and be more independent, living healthier lives. A: It will become the responsibility of the West of England Combined Authority to allocate the funding for Adult Education, however we will ensure that the funding is allocated based on local needs and demands.	
10.6	Q: There have been on-going discussions with Highways regarding the A37 traffic issues in Pensford particularly safety improvements	

	<p>which is greatly needed outside of the school. There were plans for kerb improvements and bollards. We have heard nothing since the last meeting. We would like to receive an update.</p> <p>A: Ashley Ayre agreed to follow this up. Cllr Gerrish commented that Councillor May has been lobbying for improvements at the Bellution junction and there has been a focus on the A37 to ensure it is identified as a key route. This will enable additional funding to be released through the West of England Combined Authority.</p> <p>Action: Chris suggested that a sub group of the Forum be set up to look at the A37 issues.</p>	
10.7	<p>Q: I came along this evening to find out how to get our views across. You mentioned in the presentation about how we can give our views, but it is still not clear. We need clear channels of communication.</p> <p>A: The Council has committed to engaging with the Forums and the wider community over the next 12 months and tonight is the start of the conversation. In the past the Council has just presented the Budget to the Forums. The Forums are a perfect opportunity to discuss local issues and challenges. There is a meeting next week of all the Forum Chairs where we will be discussing how to take this forward. Please ensure that you give your details to the Communities Team who will add you to the Forum circulation.</p>	
10.8	<p>Q: I have been unable to find the business plan for Environmental Services on the Council's website. How does the Council measure service performance against individual's performance in order to make greater efficiencies? How can you make decisions on budgets if this information is not available?</p> <p>A: Public Protection has been streamlined and has delivered savings. Cllr Bob Goodman is the Cabinet member responsible for this service area. Cabinet members are regularly briefed on issues within their areas of responsibility.</p>	
10.9	<p>Q: As a GP I regularly visit vulnerable people in their homes within our rural community and these people are least likely to have internet connection or a mobile, or have the skills or interest. We therefore need to ensure we have the support available to our communities.</p> <p>A: We have no intention of delivering all our services on-line. We will still ensure our Council Connect service and One-stop-Shop remains. However, we do recognise that more people are IT literate and prefer to access some services on-line.</p>	
10.10	<p>Q: I care for a resident who has early onset Alzheimer's. It is important that we continue to care for vulnerable people and acknowledge the resources needed. A study by Newcastle University identified that 1.2 million people in the UK are suffering from a lack of care. We need to ensure we offer support not just find alternative ways of doing things.</p> <p>A: The Council has delivered efficiency savings within Adult and Social Care. We have reviewed the way undertake our assessments. In the</p>	

	past some people received assessments unnecessarily - they had just required signposting to services. It is important that the Council assesses people at the right time in order to integrate the right health services they need at the right time.	
10.11	Chris thanked Charles and Ashley for their presentation.	
11.	Any other business	
11.1	There was none.	
12.	Date of next meeting	
12.1	26 th February 2018. 6pm, Chew Valley Secondary School	

Police Report for Chew Valley Connecting Communities Meeting **Monday 4th December 2017**

Crime figure comparison for Chew Valley

Offence	25/09/2017 – 30/11/2017	25/09/2016 – 30/11/2016
Theft and handling	21	17
Dwelling/non-dwelling burglary	17 (3/14)	13 (5/8)
Violence against the person	12	12
Criminal damage	5	4
Arson	1	0
Robbery	0	0
Drugs	0	0

The crime statistics above are for the period since the last Connecting Communities meeting. A comparison with the same time period in 2016 has been provided.

Theft and handling offences

This includes anything from a minor shop theft to the theft of a vehicle. The number of thefts is slightly higher than that of last year but there is no specific reason identified for this. Thefts from motor vehicles are still a common issue. Simple precautions like not leaving valuables on show will help to reduce the number.

Dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries

There has been a slight increase in burglaries compared to the previous year, although dwelling burglaries have decreased. The three dwelling burglaries recorded for this period were attempt burglaries. There was a spate of non-dwelling burglaries over September and October but research did not identify any patterns or trends. This now seems to have reduced significantly.

Violence against the person offences

This category includes offences from low level public order (shouting and swearing), physical assaults (usually minor), neighbourhood issues, ASB, domestic incidents and road rage incidents.

Arson

There was one report of arson within this period. This was a barn fire which is being investigated by police.

Drugs

There have been very few identified issues with drugs in the last couple of years. It is hoped that this is due to the fact that there are few drugs issues in the area but may also be linked to the strain on resources and the fact that there are less opportunities for proactive patrols.

Summary

We are working hard to maintain a visible police presence in the Chew Valley and surrounding areas. We continue to encourage members of the community to contact their Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators or the police to report any suspicious activity. We rely on intelligence and information from those around us to assist in keeping our communities safe.

Winter is here, bringing with it darker, colder nights. It is important to remember that many of our roads and villages in The Chew Valley have little street lighting so after daylight hours, these areas become very dark.

People are encouraged to plan their journeys well, making sure vehicles are road worthy and ready for all weathers.

Flooding is something we deal with regularly within the area and our advice is never to take unnecessary risks with flood water. If you are not 100% sure you can drive through a flooded area, then please don't. Only travel in severe weather, when absolutely necessary.

Other news from the beat

As a beat team we have been trying to focus some more time on traffic related matters. We have planned at least two traffic operations per month, concentrating on speeding, mobile phones, weight restrictions and contravention of traffic signs/instructions.

Example, 28th November 2017

* Speed checks completed in Chew Magna by Broadcroft. Checks were made over a 25 minute period and as a result, 19 warning letters will be sent to drivers exceeding the speed limit.

* Police monitored the NO RIGHT TURN at the top of A37 by Hursley Lane. Within a 1 hour period, 5 drivers received tickets for contravening this.

Local Beat Teams have increased patrols around their schools at the start and end of the school day. This is to provide a community presence and also to help tackle any parking issues around the school areas.

We had the pleasure of attending the first Chew Valley Santa Scramble yesterday. It was great to see so many people turn up to raise money and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Beat Officers for Chew Valley and surrounding areas

PC 4343 Gemma LINDOW – Beat Manager
gemma.lindow@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
07889656297 (temporarily out of use)

PC 3455 Stuart PEARD – Beat Manager
stuart.peard@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
07889656337

PCSO 8079 Martyn BRAGG – Police Community Support Officer
martyn.bragg@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
07889656671

PCSO 7315 David HOLMES – Police Community Support Officer
david.holmes@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
07889656703

PCSO 7752 Kate Humphreys – Police Community Support Officer
kate.humphreys@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
07889656685

The above contacts are for information and non-urgent enquiries only. If officers are on rest days, leave or sick there may be a delay in responding. If you wish to report an incident or a crime or need to speak to a Police Officer you should contact 101.

For all emergencies call 999.