

Final Minutes of the  
**Somer Valley Forum**  
 Wednesday 21st February 2018, 7.00pm – 8.45pm  
 The Centurion Hotel, Charlton Lane, Midsomer Norton BA3 4BD

**Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation Represented</b>
Lynda Robertson	Chair of Somer Valley Forum and member of Midsomer Norton Society
Cllr Karen Walker	Vice Chair of the Forum and B&NES Ward Councillor, Peasedown St John
Richard Baldwin	Divisional Director - Safeguarding & Social Care, B&NES (Divisional Director Sponsor of the Somer Valley Forum)
Stephen Bell	Emergency Planning, B&NES
Adrian Brimson	Midsomer Norton Dial-a-Ride
Cllr John Bull	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton
Cllr David Collett	Timsbury Parish Council
Sara Dixon	Locality Manager, B&NES
Cllr Janet Durk	Timsbury Parish Council
Nick Hall	Chair – Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum
Cllr Liz Hardman	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton
Cllr Mike Hedges	Chair Farrington Gurney Parish Council
Cllr Ron Hopkins	Westfield Parish Council
Cllr Deirdre Horstmann	B&NES Ward Councillor, Radstock
Cllr Jeff Humphries	Paulton Parish Council
Cllr Barry Macrae	B&NES Ward Councillor, Midsomer Norton North
Daniel Noad	Emergency Planning, B&NES
Cllr Jonathan Rich	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Richard Robertson	Welton Village Group
Cllr Kathy Thomas	Chair – Peasedown St John Parish Council
Roger Tollervey	Welton Village Group
Cllr David Walker	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Cllr Hugh Warren	Paulton Parish Council
Cllr Karen Warrington	Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services
Alison Wells	Community Projects Officer, B&NES
Diana White	Camerton Resident

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation Represented</b>
Cllr Sarah Bevan	B&NES Ward Councillor, Peasedown St John
Cllr Doug Deacon	B&NES Ward Councillor, Timsbury
Cllr Michael Evans	B&NES Ward Councillor, Midsomer Norton North
Cllr Eleanor Jackson	B&NES Ward Councillor, Westfield
Cllr Anne Lyons	Chair of Paulton Parish Council
Cllr Paul Myers	B&NES Councillor, Midsomer Norton Redfield
Andrew Pate	Strategic Director Resources (Director Sponsor of Forum)
Cllr Alistair Slade	Midsomer Norton Town Council
Shirley Steel	Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust
Tina Veater	Chair – Somer Valley Chamber of Commerce

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome from the Chair of the Forum; introductions and apologies.</b>	
1.1	LR welcomed those present. Apologies as above. She introduced herself and Cllr Karen Walker as Vice Chair of the Forum.	
1.2	LR explained that the role of Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum does not simply involve attending and Chairing these meetings. They also meet regularly with Council officers to discuss agenda items and meet at least four times per year with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the other Connecting Communities Forums across the district. Together, the Forum Chairs discuss their respective meetings, forthcoming Agenda items and areas of commonality. She said that this group now also includes the Chair of the Third Sector Group (3SG) which represents voluntary and community groups across Bath and North East Somerset and the Chair of the B&NES branch of ALCA (the Avon Local Councils Association), which represents local parish councils. This ensures that everyone is aware of the issues raised by the Forums and can discuss how we might be able to work together to address them. LR reminded those present that we all, as residents and representatives of local organisations, have an important role to play in not only highlighting these issues but considering how things might be done differently in future and how we might collaborate. By working together we can all help to address local concerns and continue to protect and enhance the services that matter most to our communities.	
1.3	LR asked for any nomination forms for the positions of Chair or Vice Chair for the forthcoming year to be brought forward. There was none.	
1.4	LR said that she was sure everyone would join her in congratulating Terry Taylor on the British Empire Medal he received in the Queen's New Year's Honours for services to the community in Midsomer Norton. As well as being Chair of this Forum and its predecessor, the Somer Valley Partnership, for a number of years, Terry is also Director of Norton Radstock Regeneration Company, Chair of the Community Association and a Trustee of the Somer Valley Economic Environmental Development Company. Terry is also known for his work with the Somer Valley Rotary Club, taking part in many fundraising activities and played a large part in the creation of the Midsomer Norton skatepark. There was a round of applause for Terry.	
1.5	<p>KW said congratulations are also due to the local nominees and winners of the Chair of Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council's Community Awards which took place on 8<sup>th</sup> February. Local winners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer Team of the Year: Joint winners of this award were The Potting Shed - a small and friendly gardening for wellbeing group which covers the Somer Valley area.</li> <li>• The Peter Duppa Miller Lifetime Achievement Award went to Alison Hoddell who has a long history of volunteering in roles which offer support to people facing difficult times in their lives. This includes volunteering for Citizens' Advice in the Midsomer Norton office since 2009.</li> <li>• Young Carer of the Year went to Kirsty Clarke of Radstock who cares for her grandmother, enabling her to stay in her own home.</li> <li>• Steve Plumley received Highly Commended in the Volunteer of the Year</li> </ul>	

	<p>Category for his support to a range of community organisations in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair of the Council also had some Special Awards this year and one went to Terry and Caroline Wynne - an amazing husband and wife team who together have fundraised over half a million pounds for Paulton Community Hospital and recently retired from running a charity shop in the village for this cause.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>'Community Places of Safety and other aspects of Emergency Planning' – Emergency Management Team, B&amp;NES</b>	
2.1	LR said we are delighted to have as our main Agenda item this evening, Community Places of Safety and welcome Stephen Bell and Daniel Noad from the Council's Emergency Management Team to tell us more about their work. This Agenda item was suggested by Forum member Shirley Steel and if there are items you would like to see on a future agenda, do let us know.	
2.2	For presentation and Q&A, please see Appendix 1.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>To announce nominations for Chair and Vice Chair position and hand out voting slips</b>	
3.1	LR handed over to SD. SD said she would like to thank Lynda and Karen for their work and support this year, particularly representing the views of the Somer Valley at the wider meetings outlined earlier. They also help officers to ensure there is a balanced agenda and while we support them, we appreciate their guidance.	
3.2	She said she had received a nomination for Lynda Robertson as Chair and three nominations for Cllr Karen Walker as Vice Chair. She asked whether the Forum wished them to say a few words. The Forum felt that as they knew LR and KW this was not necessary.	

*Break*

## **Annual General Meeting**

		<b>Action</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Notes of the Previous AGM Meeting and Matters Arising</b>	
4.1	The notes of the AGM held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017 were circulated prior to the meeting. These were agreed as a true record.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Chair and Vice Chair's Annual Review</b>	
5.1	LR said the Forum has covered a lot of topics and issues since its last AGM and there are full details in the Annual Report which was circulated with the Agendas. Copies are also available this evening.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Update following the 2017 AGM from Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum and Somer Valley Walking Festival.</b>	
6.1	KW welcomed Nick Hall, Chair of Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum and Cllr John Bull from the Somer Valley Walking Festival to give an update on their activities since their presentation last year.	

6.2	The presentation from Nick Hall and update from Cllr Bull can be found at Appendix 2.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Review and amend the Terms of Reference</b>	
7.1	SD said we have had no requests for additional members. The membership list has been circulated by e-mail and copies are available this evening. If anyone would like to propose an organisation to join the Forum, let us know now. There are 10 places available.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Election of the Chair and Vice Chair Positions</b>	
8.1	Votes were taken by a show of hands with 17 votes for LR to remain as Chair with no abstentions. Also 17 votes for KW to remain as Vice Chair with no abstentions. 17 was the total number of voting members present.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Partnership Meetings – Nominated Representatives from each Forum required</b>	
9.1	SD said that, currently Richard Robertson is the CCG ‘your health your voice’ representative for this Forum. She asked whether Richard is happy to remain a representative or whether anyone else would like to be involved. RR said he is happy to continue in the role but there was little to report as few meetings had been held recently. AW to follow up with the CCG to see if the group are continuing to meet.	AW
<b>10.</b>	<b>Proposal re Future Meeting Venues</b>	
10.1	<p>LR said the question of where the Somer Valley Forum should meet has been discussed previously by its members. Since 2014 the Forum has held their meetings in various locations, some of which have been hosted by a parish or community venue. The Forum has had various discussions regarding its meeting venues which have not been concluded. Other Forums such as Keynsham Area and Chew Valley remain in the same venue year ‘round and this has assisted in planning ahead the meeting arrangements and publicity for the meetings. However, it is recognised that some members of the Forum wish to meet in different locations and others wish to hold the meetings in one fixed venue, we therefore would like to propose the following:-</p> <p>That the Somer Valley Forum meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take place in the following venues in rotation (subject to availability)</li> <li>• venues to be booked a year in advance</li> </ul> <p>Suggested Venues</p> <p>Conygre Hall, Timsbury Prattens, Westfield Swallow Café, Radstock Town Hall, Midsomer Norton</p>	
10.2	BMc said if it is specific and relevant, could we go elsewhere? LR said yes, this list would not preclude other venues.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	

11.1	There was none.	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b>	
12.1	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March – The Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton  <i>The informal session will have a theme of Wellbeing with presentations from B&amp;NES Sport and Active Lifestyles, Age UK and DHI. The main Agenda Item will be Economic Development with updates on the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone, Broadband and Tourism.</i>	
12.2	24 <sup>th</sup> July – venue TBC  <i>There has been a suggestion that this will look at the Joint Spatial and Transport Plan as well as hosting a discussion on public and community transport to include possible, local, solutions.</i>	
12.3	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 – Swallow Community Café, Radstock  <i>A change from the date of the 19th September meeting as ALCA has arranged a meeting for the same evening. The theme is likely to be Young People.</i>	
12.4	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 – The Assembly Room, Town Hall, Midsomer Norton  <i>Our annual meeting to discuss the B&amp;NES Council Budget.</i>  <i>There is a gap in meetings in Spring to allow for Parish AGM and APM meetings in April and May</i>	

## Actions

	Responsible
<p>Contact CCG to see if ‘your health, your voice’ meetings are still taking place.</p> <p><i>Actioned: Your Health, Your Voice is a meeting held every two months for members of the public to provide feedback on the CCG’s plans for improving local health services. The CCG believes that involving patients, service users and carers in the commissioning process means that health services are better designed to suit their needs. The meetings are chaired by Suzannah Power, the CCG’s Lay Member for Patient and Public Involvement, who gives a report on the feedback received at every CCG Board Meeting in Public. If you would like to find out more about the group or attend a meeting then please contact:</i></p> <p><i>Daisy Picking, Engagement Manager</i>  <i>E-mail: banes.yourvoice@nhs.net</i>  <i>Tel: 01225 831861</i></p>	AW

**Title: Community Places of Safety and other aspects of Emergency Planning'**

**Presenters: Steve Bell and Daniel Noad – B&NES Emergency Planning**

<b>Slide</b>	<b>Comment</b>
2 – My Skills and Knowledge	SB's career history.
3 – Top 5 Risks	Top five risks nationally which cause issues for Local Authorities. Climate change has increased flood risk. Severe weather includes winds. Pandemic – the team works closely with the health service on this. Terrorism is high on the agenda – the methods being used now include hostile vehicles and marauding attacks using machetes and knives. The Council works with the Police and Counter Terrorism on this. Industrial dispute includes fuel strikes for example.
4 – Definition of UK 'Major Incident'	This is defined as something that will change the routine of your day. Recent incidents include floods in Cockermouth which cost their Council £267m as bridges and rail links needed repair.
5 and 6 – Recent Incidents in B&NES	Trees often come down in summer as the leaves increase their wind-loading.
7 – image	This shows the coach that did not stop at the bottom of Brassknocker Hill. The injuries were not too bad – luckily there was no-one underneath.
8 - image	Hedgemoad Park in Bath – there was land movement here – no injuries but some rubble clearance.
9 - Travel	Incidents on the Highway. The Council monitors on CCTV, reports and tweets.
10 – Lansdown Bomb	A WW2 bomb found under school playground. The builders thought it was a pipe and hit it with a pick! It was 500lb bomb. The Army was called and the area evacuated with a centre found for residents away from the site. Sandbags were brought, road closures put in place and media liaison undertaken. It took 24 hours to address.
11 - Recurring Risks in B&NES	These can have wide impacts when a disaster is over.
12 - image	The Batch – Chew Magna. There is flood mitigation at the cottages but these were not installed properly so it flooded.
13 - image	Fire Station – Chew Magna. This does flood – even emergency services are not immune.
14 – image	Debris blocks flow and causes overflow onto road.
15 – image	Flood protection boards in Chew help but people drive too quickly through flood water which creates a bow wave. It is dangerous to drive through flood water as there could also be sink holes.
17 – Severe Weather Conditions	These have increased in recent years and climate change is likely to bring more.
18 – Lessons Learnt	The Council work with the Police and Fire Services and the Environment Agency, Coastguard and local communities following incidents to discuss what went well and what didn't. We live in these communities too and want

	to protect them. Chew Magna has a Flood Plan and as public service resources reduce, it is good for communities to have their own emergency plans.
19 and 20 – Charts	The first chart shows how much money is used in emergency scenarios – there is huge resource put into response and recovery but not mitigation – this is the case world-wide. The chart should ideally look like the second one.
21 – Community Places of Safety	<p>There are emergencies that displace communities. We have approached communities across B&amp;NES on the location of village halls that people could go to if there was a gas leak or similar.</p> <p>We have been developing this for a while and received a really good response. Venues are usually required for around four hours and need to be accessible, safe, warm, with disabled access, toilets and where it is possible to serve light refreshments.</p> <p>The team will be putting information on Community Places of Safety on the Council’s website and are keen to see more resilience built up in communities.</p>
Closing remarks	We want to build links with voluntary organisations and are visiting all the Forums. This is a start and then we want to look at resilience with communities. We will contact parishes for information on risks to help plan this and for us to become stronger communities. All have different risks. We continue to work with Chew Magna on their flood plan

### Questions following the presentation

**Q1: What would happen if there was no budget? I’ve never seen a budget for this.**

A1: There is the Belwyn Scheme – if it is costly, you can apply to this. During the response phase, you can draw down funds from the Government. Somerset Levels is a good example and Cockermouth – comes from the War Chest.

**Comment 1: Flooding seems to be the highest risk. TV and radio electrics fail in such circumstances. You can’t rely on everyone looking at a web-page. I understand you want to talk to us but youngsters have mobiles and may be able to help.**

Response 1: It is a good idea – young people are technologically advanced. Twitter and Facebook are useful in emergency planning. When we look at engagement, it will be with a cross section of society.

**Q2: Presumably you do have plans for terrorism in Bath as a tourist city?**

A2: We do have plans and a Local Resilience Forum which includes neighbouring authorities and the emergency services.

**Q3: How would families with young children and older people know where to go – who tells them?**

A3: It depends on the type of emergency. Loud hailers can be used, knocking on doors, calling. It depends on what we want the community to do – if it is noxious fumes, we would prefer them to stay indoors. If it was a terrorist attack, it may unfold so quickly that there can be limited warning. Run Hide Tell is the Government advice.

Communication is key and regularly considered as part of the ‘wash up’ after an event. It is not easy with vulnerable people as it may involve knocking on doors. We are working with schools on this at present.

**Comment 2: You could perhaps produce a fridge sticker with a short guide.**

Response 2: It's a good idea – there would be a multiple agency approach to it.

**Q4: Do you want community groups to be the first point of contact?**

A4: We've got contacts for the parishes and would start there. We are open to suggestions of other groups.

**Q5: Are you going to put a notice at the Community Place of Safety when it has been identified?**

A5: Bristol do this – we are looking at it and putting a map of the nearest place on the website.

**Comment 3: People underestimate the tech savvy of the older generation. Social media is very useful in sharing information (eg crashes on Dunkerton Hill)**

**Q6: We have been talking to Highways about risks on the A367 – they only deal with accidents – do you take the same approach?**

A6: No, we look at the level of risk. We use matrices of high risk events, numbers of people etc.

**Presentation by Nick Hall, Chair of Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum**

NH thanked the Forum for their invitation to return – it is a pleasure to be able to bring the meeting up to date with activities at the Museum, which is now ‘Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum’. He hopes the community will recognise the resource the Museum is for this area and worth of its support.

<b>Slide</b>	<b>Comment</b>
2 – a lively street scene	The Co-op van in the image was rescued from a hedge and lovingly restored by Mike Horler. There was a competition to name the horse with the winning name being ‘Trigger’.
3 – Blacksmith forge rebuilt	The Museum wanted to rebuild its Blacksmith’s Forge and Midsomer Norton Town Council gave them a grant to support this. A working blacksmith from Glastonbury assisted and a 5 minute film was created to show him making a nail using all 6 of a blacksmith’s skills.
4 – Replica coalmine	The replica coal mine has been improved with smells of a coal mine and pit ponies! There is also a trap boy mannekin. The Museum is collaborating with Bath College – two students have created a virtual reality ride down a mine shaft along the rails with 360 degree vision. It was launched two weeks’ ago on Points West.
5 – Victorian parlour	The Victorian Parlour now has decorations and a mannekin of James McMurtie – the mine manager. He had three wives and 17 children!
6 – 1930s railway buffet	The tea room has been transformed into a 1930s Southern Railway buffet. There are old photo decals on the windows showing Radstock’s railway. Also steam train sounds. They do cream teas and a local lady from Camerton makes the cakes to rave reviews!
7 – so what’s new in the Museum for 2018	<p>In the printshop, there is a TV showing a film of the press working. It is used in the Museum periodically for events such as Valentine Card making.</p> <p>The Museum is looking to make better use of the school room by putting a DVD in the desks, subject to Trustees’ approval.</p> <p>A grant from Westfield Parish Council and Midsomer Norton Town Council has assisted in the Research Room and files on local incidents is being prepared.</p> <p>The Museum is becoming better at engaging with visitors and asking them about local life in past times.</p>
8 – Other developments in the Museum for 2018	<p>The Museum has become a Children’s University Learning Destination which is being run through Bath Spa University.</p> <p>Every school holiday there will be a family activity – Pancake Pandemonium was held last week.</p> <p>The Friends of the Museum have a gazebo so are planning to attend Summer events and village days. Do extend invitations to them.</p> <p>Volunteers have been on a dementia friendly training. Miranda at the</p>

	<p>Museum is a dementia champion so can be invited to speak at care homes. Special events such as memory mornings and tea and talk afternoons are being planned.</p> <p>The changing exhibitions continue – the current one is about Downside. The next will be about radio and the Autumn one will be about suffragettes and the end of WW1.</p>
<p>9 and 10 – The Old Mills Colliery Winding Engine</p>	<p>Last but not least, ten or more years ago, the engine house for Old Mills was on the site of Old Mills/Tesco. The engine is unique and would just about fit in this room. The drum is 14 feet in diameter. It was built by Evans' Foundry in Paulton and worked at Old Mills until 1966. It was saved by Sir Neil Couzens and taken to Bristol for an industrial museum that never happened. It is currently at the M-Shed but not on display – they don't want it. They can only pass it on to Radstock Museum as it is the only accredited museum in the coalfield. Radstock Museum would like it but need a long building (10m x 5m x 5m); £1m to move it and then it needs to be cared for.</p> <p>This is a real opportunity to have it back in this area and the Museum is pushing hard to make it happen.</p>

### Questions following the presentation

**Q1: I am pleased that Westfield Parish and Midsomer Norton Town Council are supporting the Museum – what is Radstock Town Council doing?**

A1: We didn't approach them for funds last year but do have a good relationship with them.

**Comment 1: The Evans family still live in Paulton.**

Response 1: Yes – the Museum has a display about them.

**Q2: What about the Brunel Shed for the engine?**

A2: We have considered it and plans have been drawn. It would fit but it is not very accessible for visitors.

### John Bull – Somer Valley Walking Festival

**14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

JB said the aim of the Festival is to introduce participants to the beautiful countryside, history and heritage of the Somer Valley. A talk at the Museum starts the event and this year it will be about Romans in the Somer Valley and given by Stephen Clews, Curator of the Roman Baths.

This will be the third walking festival and numbers are expected to be greater this year as word of mouth spreads. People from as far afield as Kent have taken part.

There will be a mix of short, medium and longer walks on offer, including a walk to Priston Festival from Peasedown. Also art and nature walks.