

Final Minutes of the
Somer Valley Forum
 20th September 2018, 6.00pm
 Swallow Café, St Nicholas Tea Rooms, Church Street Radstock BA3 3QG

Name	Organisation Represented
Lynda Robertson	Chair of Somer Valley Forum
Cllr Karen Walker	Vice Chair of Somer Valley Forum and B&NES Ward Councillor, Peasedown St John
Siobainn Chaplin	Operations Manager - Off the Record
Cllr Amanda Clarke	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Cllr Richard Clarke	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Cllr David Collett	Timsbury Parish Council
Cllr Chris Dando	Ward Councillor, Radstock
Sara Dixon	Locality Manager, B&NES
Cllr Michael Evans	B&NES Ward Councillor, Midsomer Norton North
Jim Gillespie	Boys in Mind
Cllr Ron Hopkins	Westfield Parish Council
Cllr Deirdre Horstmann	Ward Councillor, Radstock
Cllr Eleanor Jackson	B&NES Ward Councillor Westfield
Karl Kilburn	1 st Peasedown St John Scouts
Stephanie Massie	Community Development, Mentoring Plus
Tracey Pike	Service Manager, Youth Connect - B&NES
Hannah Powell	Member for Youth Parliament
Cllr Jonathan Rich	Peasedown St John Parish Council
Cllr Alastair Slade	Midsomer Norton Town Council
Shirley Steel	Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust
David Walker	Peasedown Residents' Association
Diana White	Resident
Alison Wells	Community Engagement Officer, B&NES
Sarah Westell	Radstock & Westfield Big Local
Cllr Pat Williams	Westfield Parish Council
4 x Young People	

Apologies

Name	Organisation Represented
Cllr Sarah Bevan	B&NES Ward Councillor, Peasedown St John
Cllr John Bull	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton
Angela Clarke	Director - CYP Specialist Services, B&NES
Cllr Doug Deacon	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton
Cllr Liz Hardman	B&NES Ward Councillor, Paulton
Cllr Paul Myers	Ward Councillor for Midsomer Norton Redfield and Cabinet Member for Economic and Community Regeneration
Terry Taylor	Norton Radstock Regeneration and Midsomer Norotn Community Association
Roger Tollervey	Welton Village Group

		Action
1.	Welcome from the Chair, Lynda Robertson and Apologies	
1.1	LR welcomed those present and encouraged everyone to sign in. She gave a safety announcement.	

1.2	LR said the main topic of this meeting is Young People and the Forum would hear from a range of speakers.	
1.3	Apologies as above.	
2.	Notes of July 2018 Meeting and Matters Arising	
2.1	Agreed as true record. LR gave update on actions from previous meeting	
2.2	Odd Down Park & Ride – RUH service: The bus service 42 from Odd Down P&R to the RUH has been operated as a commercial service (i.e. not subsidised or commissioned by the Council) since Sept 2016. The RUH provides financial support in return for discounted travel for staff. The operator, Wessex Bus, is now withdrawing from the local market and has cancelled the service from 31st August 2018. First have registered a replacement service which they are committed to run for at least 6 months and will consider its viability during that time. First already operate their bus service 4 from the P&R site to RUH on Saturdays and Sundays – when service 42 does not run.	
2.3	Non-emergency Transport to the RUH: The Council's Public Transport team work with Community Transport providers and are keen to hear from them about issues they may have. They have been in discussion with the NHS about their contract with Arrive and are encouraging them to buy transport from the Community Transport Sector.	
2.4	Taxi Rank – Midsomer Norton: Bath & North East Somerset Council is now working on the measures necessary to ensure the Taxi Rank in Midsomer Norton is formally implemented.	
3.	Notices KW gave the following notices:	
3.1	Our Power: Firstly, Bath & North East Somerset Council has recently launched the Our Power in B&NES scheme which offers residents access to greener and more affordable energy through the choice of two new energy deals in the Bath and North East Somerset district. One of the tariffs is aimed at pre-payment meter customers and is one of the cheapest dual fuel tariffs available on the market for them. https://our-power.co.uk/bathnes	
3.2	Warm Home Discount: The Centre for Sustainability Energy will be holding a drop in event in Radstock for those living in the Somer Valley on Wednesday 3rd October between 10.30am and 6.00pm. It is aimed at older people, parents with young children, those living with a mental or physical illness, individuals in receipt of means tested benefits and those on a low income with high fuel bills. The event is free and they will be giving away free energy efficient light bulbs. Please do let anyone who might be eligible know about the event.	
3.3	Community Awards: Nomination for the Bath and North East Somerset Community are now open and provide an opportunity to recognise inspirational local people. There are three main categories – Volunteering in the Community; Business in the Community and Service to the Community. There is a range of awards in each category for individuals, groups and professionals. The deadline for nominations is 21st December 2018. The award ceremony	

	<p>will take place on 27th February 2019 at the Guildhall, Bath with awards presented by the Chair of the Council.</p> <p>http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/neighbourhoods-and-community-safety/local-awards/chairmans-community-business-awards</p>	
4.	Police	
4.1	Did not attend this meeting.	
5.	<p>Air Quality – Impact in the Somer Valley Area and Clean Air Zone for Bath</p> <p>See Appendix 1</p>	
6.	<p>Community Showcase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peasedown St John Scouts • St John Ambulance Cadets <p>See Appendix 2</p>	
7.	<p>Main Agenda Item – Young People</p> <p>See Appendix 3</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business and Requests for Future Agenda/Community Showcase Items</p> <p>8.1 LR said the topic of tonight’s Forum had been brilliant and suggested by Forum members themselves. She asked whether anyone had ideas for a future meeting. EJ said that she had suggested Christine Clinch of Ammerdown to talk about their work on Peace and Reconciliation and with Syrian Refugees.</p> <p>8.2 LR said if anyone has ideas to contact Sara or Alison – it is important that the Forum meetings cover what you want.</p>	
9.	<p>Dates of Future Forum Meetings</p> <p>Thursday 29th November, 6pm – Town Hall, Midsomer Norton</p> <p>This will feature the Council’s Budget</p>	

Presentation: Air Quality and Clean Air Zone for Bath

Presenters: **Aled Williams - Environmental Protection Manager, B&NES**
Cathryn Brown - Team Manager Health & Environment, Environmental Protection Team, B&NES

Slide	Comment
1 – Title Slide	CB explained that the presentation would be in two parts – first air quality and then the clean air zone for Bath
2 - Pollution in B&NES	<p>Vehicles are the main cause of pollution by Nitrogen Dioxide, with diesel the biggest culprit. Bath is not alone - it affects a number of cities across the UK. The pollutant is Nitrogen Dioxide. There are areas in B&NES which exceed the Government limit and where this exists, we need to focus efforts on bringing it down.</p> <p>The 5 Air Quality Management Areas in B&NES are Bath; Keynsham; Saltford; Farrington Gurney and Temple Cloud. High levels have been found recently in Farrington Gurney and Temple Cloud.</p>
3 - Monitoring Network – Continuous monitoring	The Council uses three different kinds of monitor. This continuous monitor gives real time information which is on the Council's website. There are several in Bath.
4 - Monitoring Network – Mobile monitoring	Not so accurate are the mobile mesh monitors which are fixed to a lamp-post. These are left in position for 3 months and a SIM dials into the office with the results. The one in Keynsham is moving to Westfield soon at request of Parish Council.
5 - Monitoring Network – Diffusion tubes	A diffusion tube was passed around - these get analysed in a laboratory after a month. The readings are averaged out and get a yearly figure. The Government limit is 40 mg/m ³
6 - Local monitoring – High Littleton and Timsbury	The map shows readings in High Littleton of 17 and 26, with Timsbury's readings at 17. However, a full year's data is needed to calculate the average.
7 - Local monitoring – Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Radstock and Westfield	Paulton's monitors are fairly new so there is not a full year's data yet. The result to date is 30. For Midsomer Norton it is 33 but Nitrogen Dioxide levels fall off very quickly.
8 – Local Monitoring – Farrington Gurney	Farrington Gurney has exceeded the recommendation. The Enterprise Zone will bring opportunities for improvements do the junction to help mitigate this.

9 – Local Monitoring Results	Nitrogen Dioxide levels are decreasing as people buy newer vehicles. Readings are taken at houses and at the roadside.
10 – Bath's Clean Air Plan Title Slide	
11 - Direction from DEFRA	<p>AWilliams explained that the Government was taken to court regarding lack of action on air quality. This resulted in new plan, with some Local Authorities being legally directed, in July 2017, to improve. This includes the London Road, Bath. The Council had been bidding previously for funding to address then and been unsuccessful but now have funding to tackling the issue which is positive.</p> <p>The proposed Clean Air Zone is a congestion charge similar to that in London but about vehicle emissions.</p>
12 - Proposed Zone Boundary	A map showing the proposed zone.
13 – Shortlist	<p>Class B zone (high emission taxis, HGV's, Buses and coaches) plus complementary non-charging measures</p> <p>Class C zone (all of the above plus LGV's) plus complementary non-charging measures</p> <p>Class D zone (all of the above plus cars) plus complementary non-charging measures</p>
14 – End Slide	<p>We wanted to talk to you as this will impact on everyone, not just those living in the City.</p> <p>Non-compliant vehicles are petrol cars older than 2006 and diesel older than 2015.</p> <p>We are considering exemptions and want feedback on Community Transport as well.</p> <p>The formal consultation will be launched in October for 6 weeks and there will be a range of engagement events.</p>

Questions following the presentation

Q1: Are there any monitors in Peasedown St John or plans to have them?

A1: Can we get back to you – they should be on-line.

Q2: The Farrington Gurney slide shows levels of 54 at the traffic lights. Westfield has 3.5 miles of standing traffic in rush hour twice a day in both directions. The road is just 3 metres from the school. How do you decide where monitors go?

A2: It is determined by the worst case scenario on people's health and via people reporting their concerns to us. We put up a diffusive tube first for three months first. There is a mesh monitor being moved to Westfield imminently. The tubes showed levels of 26 and 30 last year. The provisional results for 2018 are 27.

Q3: Are there any examples of the diffusion tube results compared to the Nox

monitor results placed side by side?

A3: Yes – they are side by side in the London Road in Bath so we can compare any bias and apply this to other monitors across the district.

Comment 1: I used to live in Bath at the junction of the London Road with Cleveland Bridge – there needs to be a by-pass for HGVs

Response 1: We have considered a link road as part of the plan but need short term measures as well. We have been doing ANPR photos and the amount of through traffic is not as bad as we thought. We think 75% of vehicles will be compliant, so levels of traffic could still be high.

Q4: Do you have proof that the Government was wrong in promotion diesel cars at zero tax?

A4: These were incentivised to address CO2 emissions from petrol cars. We can't look at any single pollutant in isolation. At present we are looking at Nitrogen Dioxide but can't fix that while creating another problem.

LR thanked the presenters and urged everyone to respond to the consultation – many people travel to Bath for work and leisure so the impact will be wide.

Further information can be found here:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-breathes-2021>

Community Showcase

Community Showcase 1: Peasedown St John Scouts

Presenters: Karl Kilburn (Scout Leader)
Joe and Jordan (Scouts)

KK said that Peasedown is fortunate in that its Scout group is thriving. They offer young people a range of activities, also at Beaver and Cub level such as:

- Crate stacking at Chelwood – they got to 22!
- Horseriding in Wellow
- Dragon Boating in Saltford
- An evening at Camerton and Peasedown Croquet
- Usual scout skills eg ropes, poles, 'A' frames to cross the river

There is also a Summer Camp where they spend a week cooking, washing up, tomahawk throwing, tubing etc.

They took 50 young people to the district Jamboree in Keynsham – 400 people took part in total.

They also visit local places, recently visiting the Guildhall in Bath and Radstock Museum.

They participate in the Remembrance Parade in Peasedown with the Guides and the Brownies and have taken Scouts to the WW1 battlefields in France.

There is camp each year and challenge nights. They enjoy cooking large joints of meat in the ground.

Joe and Jordan

Our favourite thing is summer camp – all the scouts work together, we meet new people and learn new skills. The dragon boat racing was really good.

KK – all the activities are paid for by the parents – it costs £90 a year. We are fortunate in being well supported in Peasedown but other local groups are seeking volunteers to help lead their groups. It is very rewarding – we say that the seeing the achievement of young people and the smiles on their faces is our wages.

Q1: How do you cook the food at the camp?

A1: We use half an oil can with fire and racks with pots. It is off the ground.

Q2: Can you explain your badges to us? They look impressive.

A2: They are membership, where you're from (district and group), patrol leader, year and activities such as nights away, time on water.

Q3: Do you sew your own badges on?

A3: Yes.

<http://www.peasedownstjohnscouts.org.uk/>

Community Showcase 2: St John Ambulance Cadets

Presenters: Alex, Adam and Caitlin

Our Cadet Unit is part of St John Ambulance. The team is a small sub-set of this so young people can have access to first aid training. The Unit has 15 cadets and all are well trained on first aid and other courses. We do duties at football matches, fairs etc. At 16, we start to think about CVs and take nationally recognised courses such as BTECs. We can teach first aid skills to brownies etc. Also peer education. Other courses are First Aid Level 1 and Basic First Aid. Operational First Aid is nearly the same as the adult course, we just can't administer certain drugs. It is very beneficial for young people to have these skills for their community.

There is also a Grand Prior Award which involves life skills as well such as cooking, hygiene, arts and crafts and camping. We have a weekly session including first aid and get various badges at different levels and different epaulettes too – Corporal, Sergeant and Cadet.

It is a very popular unit in the area but we would like some more youth leaders so if you know anyone, please tell them.

Q1: What age do you start?

A1: Badgers are aged 7 – 10. They do learn some first aid and other activities. They can become 'Super Badgers' and get a gold badge.

The Cadets are 10 – 18 and after this you join the adult St John or become a youth leader.

We hope that our young people will go on to become doctors or nurses. Some of our members have helped elderly neighbours that have fallen.

<http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/young-people.aspx>

Main Agenda Item: Young People

Presentation 1: Hannah Powell – Member for Youth Parliament

HP said across the country there are about 400 MYPs. In November, they all get together in the House of Commons with John Berkow. The last time, the issues discussed were Votes at Age 16 and Curriculum for Life (eg learning life skills at school)

In B&NES, Transport was put forward – the campaign is to change the full fare age from 16 to 18. Young people from Bath want to come to this area but can't afford it. She has also been speaking to Tim Bowles about young people's travel passes.

HP said her personal campaign is Period Poverty. 1 in 10 women experience this and can't afford to buy sanitary products. It is shocking to talk about but needs to be. She is working with Virgin Care and wants to widen the offer of sanitary products in public toilets from soap and hand towels to include sanitary items as well. She has put this on the 'Make Your Mark Ballot' as a National Campaign.

HP said she welcomes opportunities like this so that young people's voices can be part of making better communities for everyone.

Q1: May I have your contact details? We want young people to tell us what they want as part of the work of the Radstock and Westfield Big Local.

A1: Yes – we can speak after the meeting.

Find out more about MYPs here: <http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/about-us/>

Presentation 2: Off the Record

Presenter: Siobainn Chaplin – Operations Manager, Off the Record

SC said she would be talking this evening about Off the Record's work in the Somer Valley. Off the Record supports young people aged 10-25 years. Mental health is a big issue and growing – so the service is looking at how to expand its provision – there is currently have a waiting list.

Off the Records is looking at ways to engage with young people and undertaking a scoping exercise for the area. This includes offering Creative Arts and Mental Health, working alongside counsellors in case the activity triggers a memory. There are also 'drop in' sessions with musicians, writers – this means young people do not have to say they are going for counselling.

The focus of Off the Record is not Bath, it is the Somer Valley area. We need your help and want to work with you.

Q1: How are young people referred to you?

A1: We prefer self-referral but it can be done by GPs, parents, CANS.

See Off the Record's Presentation:

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

Presentation 3: Boys in Mind

Presenter: Jim Gillespie

JG said:

It is good to follow Siobainn as our work is complementary. We look at boys' mental health and suicide. It affects a lot of people, so if my talk upsets you, I don't mind if you need to leave.

Three times as many young men commit suicide than young women – this led to the formation of Boys in Mind. Suicide is the main killer of men aged under 45.

Very often, no-one knows they are in distress – they will not be known to Off the Record, CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services).

My colleague, Kate Murphy, goes into schools in B&NES to support them. She has dealt with five suicides in the last five years and four were young men. It causes distress among their friends and teachers as well as their families.

A group of us got together because we wanted to do something. We consulted with lots of young people and created a strategy.

I work as a teacher and walked past some playing fields after work. There were three young women sitting on the kerb chatting and one was lolling over another one. I thought, they are in good shape mentally – they were close and had trust. They were not afraid to express their feelings – it is healthy to show your feelings and be able to ask for help.

The equivalent for young men of the same age is that they do not talk in the same, intimate way. They have difficulty in asking for help. It is not in them when they are born – it is an attitude they feel they need to adopt to make it in the world.

We look at young people at a much younger age – five, when they start school. They don't pretend then that they feel ok when they don't. However, young men tell us they stop doing this in primary school. They learn not to cry and have intimacy that girls are able to keep. We try to stop them losing those skills.

A friend who runs an after school club was told by a five year old boy 'My Mummy doesn't let me cry at home – she says it's for girls and babies'. I was on the South Coast at the weekend and saw a family. The young boy had had the stabilisers taken off his bike and was really scared – his father said 'Stop crying like a girl'.

This demonstrates how this message comes through during early years. The ability to work through our upset is what counsellors do.

We're raising awareness with teachers in primary schools. Teaching them what information they need to give to young men and women to support them. It has been very well received by them and the young people.

Crying is so important. If young male children don't, it comes out in other ways such as anger. Tears come when young men talk about things so they also learn not to talk. Teachers also tell us that unruly behaviour at school comes from young men who find it difficult to express their

emotions. Prisons are full of them and suicide rates are high in prison. Strong emotions are always inside and one way of dealing with it is through alcohol or drugs. It is more of an issue with young men than women.

Q1: Where do you do your sessions – schools?

A1: We have had funding to visit schools. We try to speak to the whole school in assembly and raise awareness with staff as well.

Q2: Can I have your contact details please? Mentoring Plus should be in touch with you and I'm not sure we are.

A2: Yes

Q3: Is it parents you need to reach as well?

A3: Information needs to go far and wide. The parents that come tend not to be the ones we need to reach. We have done a lot of work around homophobia and sexuality in schools. This has also had good exposure on TV etc. It worked well but there will always be hard to reach parents. If a child can get respite at school, it can be a good place to start.

Presentation 4: Mentoring Plus

Presenter: Stephanie Massie

SM said Mentoring Plus has been supporting vulnerable young people for 20 years. Her role is fund-raising and events, including talking to groups.

Their core work is to train mentors and match them with young people aged mainly up to 16 years. They are referred by schools and social workers for issues such as mental health, disengagement from education and lack of a positive role model. Mentoring Plus aims to raise their aspiration.

Mentors are vital and undertake two days of training. Mentoring Plus has just won the Queen's Award for their work, which is equivalent to an MBE so are very proud of that.

All mentors are DBS checked and interviewed. They are not matched with young people where there could be a connection (eg children at the same school). They meet their young person once a week for a year so it is a big commitment but young people say it is life changing for them.

Mentoring is listening, having fun – walking the dog or going to a museum. Mentors give one and half hours a week. Primary school children go out in the day and secondary in the evening.

Mentoring Plus also arranges free weekly activities aimed at increasing confidence, self-esteem and skills such as drama, sewing, cooking and football. They partner with other organisations such as The Egg, Bath Festival, University of Bath - not many of the young people have been to a museum and some do not know there is a University in Bath.

The young people say:

'I owe them a massive thank you – without them I wouldn't be where I am now'
'It gave me some time to think about myself'

The mentors say:

'One of the most worthwhile things I've ever done'
'After a year of mentoring you will be nicer and kinder'.

If you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a mentor, do ask them to get in touch.

Q1: Being one of the group/cool kids is important to young people – doesn't taking a child out of school mark them as being different?

A1: The young people are proud to be associated with us and we don't take them out of school in a way that draws attention to them.

There are lots of comings and goings in classrooms these days – it is not unusual for a child to be taken out for an hour and no stigma.

Q2: Are you planning to take over Riverside Youth Hub – what are you planning to do with it?

A2: I am unable to speak publicly about this at this stage. We are there at present and want to stay.

Mentoring Plus Website: <http://mentoringplus.net/>

Presentation 5: B&NES Youth Service

Presenter: Tracey Pike – Service Manager, Youth Connect, B&NES

TP said that as of 1st October, she would no longer be employed by the Council as the youth service has been cut. Staff are working to become a public mutual - if approved, it will be a limited company and staff will TUPE to it on 1st April 2019.

The mutual does need funding but some has been received from Parish Councils. They have also talked to charities and have a five year fund-raising plan. It is a big challenge but staff wanted to do it for the young people they work with.

Unfortunately, the Council doesn't have any money so communities have to take responsibility for services the Council used to do.

Presentation 6: Radstock & Westfield Big Local

Presenter: Sarah Westell

SW said that the Radstock and Westfield Big Local was set up in 2010 after the area was awarded £1m of funding from the Big Lottery to be distributed by residents. It is now a Community CIC, which will enable it to apply for further outside funding.

For 2018-21, £23,000 has been ring fenced for young people (although it cannot fund core costs or services the state must legally provide). The Big Local has been working with Westfield Parish Council and Radstock Town Council on a survey of young people.

59% of young people surveyed said they would like to have more say. To help develop this, £5k is available annually for young people to decide what they want to spend it on. The decisions are made by a Youth Panel, which also helps young people develop valuable chairing, organisational and secretarial skills. They recently chose to use funds to go to Thorpe Park to help face their fears. They are also interested in basic first aid and having a weekend activity where they can work as team, improve self-esteem and overcome challenging behaviour.

A key project will be to develop an anti-bullying strategy for the whole area with an outcome that there is a significant yearly reduction of young people concerned about bullying. The young people's survey determined that 100% of respondents had been involved in some form.

Another aim is the improvement in communication between services, activities and our young people. To help with this, a list of where to go for help, organised activities and opportunities relating to young people has been put on the website with an interactive map to pinpoint hubs and places of interest. The Big Local is happy to promote events, services, opportunities and venues – just get in touch.

Comment 1: Sarah Westell and Rob Wicke are professional Community Workers and do a fantastic job. The Big Local covers a range of things, not just youth. I am a Director and we are waiting to hear from you.

Radstock and Westfield Big Local Website: <http://radstockwestfield.org.uk/>

Link to their presentation: http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/big_local_presentation.pdf

KW thanked all the speakers.