

Williton, Watchet & Quantocks Area Panel

Notes of Meeting held on 6 December 2011

at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton, at 7.00 pm

Present

Eddie May (WSC); Inspector Lisa Simpson (Avon & Somerset Constabulary); Peter Owen (SCC Highways); Anthony Trollope-Bellew (SCC and WSC); David Talling (Holford Parish Council); Peter Gill (Kilve Parish Council); Jan Swan (Sampford Brett Parish Council); Valerie Boxall (Stogursey Parish Council); Sally de Renzy-Martin (Watchet Town Council); Janet Sansom (West Quantoxhead Parish Council); Jenny Koch (Williton Parish Council); Robin Nuttall (WACET); Iain Porter (Quantock Hills AONB); Stuart Dowding, Dave Westcott, Hugh Davies, Adrian Dyer and Helen Dobson (WSC);

No members of the public were in attendance.

1. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

A question was raised regarding speeding through Holford and had anyone been charged. Inspector Lisa Simpson wasn't able to confirm whether anyone had been charged and advised that reports were being written and more work would be undertaken. She asked that if volunteers from Holford could help, training would be provided and that 'speed watch' was a very effective tool.

A request was made that the next time a temporary speed detector was erected on Tower Hill, Williton, could it be facing the traffic coming into Williton from the Taunton direction. Peter Owen advised that he would take the request back to Richard Newby.

Inspector Simpson advised that there would be a higher Police presence on the roads in Watchet and Williton over the next few weeks.

Concerns were raised regarding traffic problems in Williton, in particular, using the bollard by the Co-op as a roundabout, parking outside the Post Office and traffic outside of Danesfield school at the start and end of the school day. It was suggested that there should be a couple of disable parking bays outside the Co-op due to the difficulty of walking up the hill to the main car park.

During the debate it was confirmed that using the bollard by the Co-op as a roundabout was not illegal. Peter Owen advised that removing the bollard and making it a mini roundabout was not as easy as it sounded. Further, that if parking was restricted outside of the school the problem could encroach on Williton. If there were 2/3 parking bays with gaps in between vehicles would have to weave in and out along that stretch of road, which could increase the likelihood of an accident happening.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Peake (SCC Highways); Chris Warren (Bicknoller Parish Council); Graham Bigwood (Williton Parish Council); Loretta Whetlor (WACET); John Richards and Janet Tapp (Watchet Town Council);

Tony Murray (Magna West Somerset Housing Association) and Tony Knight (WSC).

3. Notes of the Meeting held on 20 September 2011 and Matters Arising

The Panel noted that the notes of the meeting held on 20 September 2011 were incomplete and were not able to be confirmed as a correct record.

4. Police Report

Inspector Simpson reported –

- Detection rates were up to 37%, more than this time last year.
- The main headline for the area was an appeal for security issues around outbuildings, machinery, small-holdings, farms, large gardens. Opportunist crime was still rising. They were working hard on prevention and suggested that with some financial help from neighbourhood watches they could provide deterrent notices stating, for example, 'Don't bother stopping here our neighbourhood is secure'. Unfortunately, they would not be able to fund it alone.
- A decision was to be made by the CPS regarding an incident of scrap metal theft in Old Cleeve. A charge may come out of that, the individual/s responsible came from the Bridgwater area.
- There was a theft in Stogursey involving an outbuilding.
- Several burglaries had been reported in the marina in Watchet, two men had been charged.

In response to questions Inspector Simpson reported the following:

- She was aware of one incident of oil theft in the last four weeks. It was likely that there would be further thefts, but currently it was not a problem. This type of theft would involve the use of quite a substantial sized vehicle. The advice of the Police was keep it secure, monitor it and stay vigilant.
- The Police did not issue shed alarms. They did not know who was responsible for the shed breaks but were concentrating on stopping them from coming to the area. The use of 'smart water' would require a very quick response/recovery rate to be effective. It was a tool that they were just beginning to invest in.
- She did not know the cost to produce deterrent notices, but wanted to see if parishes would be willing to help financially and advised if 30 or 40 parishes were able to help then perhaps £100 each, or more, would go a long way.

The West Quantoxhead Parish Council representative advised that Neighbourhood Watches receive various items, such as, padlocks, alarms, etc, that could be used.

5. Highways Report

Peter Owen advised of the general maintenance of ditches/grips in Lilstock, Stogursey, Kilton, Strington and Crowcombe Hill and of the following works:

Crowcombe

A358 Flaxpool – carriageway resurfacing Done

Kilve

A39 Putsham Hill – major resurfacing Done

Sampford Brett

A358 WSR Black Arch Bridge – drainage works Done

A358 WSR Black Arch Bridge – temporary road closure between 19.00 and 07.00 due to carriageway resurfacing 30 Mar – 31 Mar

Stogumber

Kingswood to Yard – repairs to verge/embankment Done

Stogursey

Lime St - minor drainage works completed to stop flooding issues Done

Park View – resurfacing Done

Watchet

Risdon Rd - footway resurfacing Done

Quantock Rd – carriageway resurfacing Done

Woodland Rd – carriageway resurfacing Done

Anchor St & Whitehall – carriageway resurfacing Done

Williton

A39 Washford to Washford Cross - temporary road closure between 19.00 and 07.00 due to carriageway resurfacing 19 Mar – 21 Mar

Peter Owen reported further that:

- SCC had carried out practice runs of salting routes. So far they had only been out once this year.
- An open evening to view the winter service operation was held for all parish/town councils on 15 November, only 3 parishes sent representatives.
- There had been a good uptake on the collection of salt bags for parish/town councils and there were still a few left if anyone wanted to collect them.

In response to questions/concerns he advised that:

- Salt bins could be purchased from Tanks Direct, Mart Rd, Minehead, he would circulate their telephone number. SCC kept the salt bins topped up so long as there was enough in stock. Inspector Simpson asked that everyone be aware of theft from salt bins.
- He would look to see if drains were blocked in West Quantoxhead to determine the cause of water running down Hill Lane across the road and into the row of houses.

Holford Parish Council expressed concern that notification to the public of a previous road closure in the area had been two days and not six weeks, and requested that in future notification was also sent to the parish clerk.

Peter Owen responded by apologising for the break down in the process and advised that he would pass the request on to the road closures team.

Adrian Dyer reported that the Council received a weekly update from the Highways team and that he would look at how to include it with the Community Matters newsletter.

6. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

No representative was available to attend.

7. Presentation on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society by Steve Haigh, Countywide Dementia Awareness Worker

Steve Haigh was not available to attend.

8. West Somerset Council

Adrian Dyer advised as follows:

- Roughmoor industrial estate was fully occupied. In preparation for Sort It+, Veolia had vacated the depot in November and were now in Brunel Way.
- A new tree was planted on the Esplanade in Watchet.
- Watchet footbridge official re-opening took place and was now in use.
- A two-month consultation period started today regarding the final plan for the railway crossing at Goviers Lane.
- Fly tipping had increased over the last six weeks as a result of the introduction of Sort It+. The issue was being monitored.
- NHS Somerset undertook a bed review of Williton Hospital and were now using a reduced number of 20 beds. The Council's Scrutiny Committee requested that the NHS attend their meeting to answer questions. The meeting will take place on Monday 12 December 2011 and Jan Hull and Judith Brown, representatives from NHS Somerset, and Dr Andrew Dayani, GP from Williton Surgery will be attending. The meeting will be open to the public and anyone wishing to speak should inform the Council by 4pm on Friday 9 December.
- Urban Splash was in the process of arranging a meeting with the marina operator regarding a revised development for the East Wharf.
- The Council had received a copy of the Development Consent Order Application relating to Hinkley Point C. The IPC would be holding a consultation event at the Council Offices, Williton, on Friday 9 December, others were planned. The s106 was yet to be signed, it was still under negotiation and the Council were working towards that.

Concern was expressed regarding the proposed removal of recycling facilities from some car parks leaving a problem for those who were unable to make use of kerbside recycling. Although the facilities had attracted fly-tipping their removal or restricted use, like Williton HWRC, would not be welcomed.

In response to questions/concerns Adrian Dyer explained that:

- Unfortunately, any removal of recycling facilities in car parks would be due to lack of financial resources.
- He realised that the IPC consultation event had not been very well advertised and as a result had produced a press release. The event would help the

public understand who the IPC were and how to make a representation. He confirmed that EDF would also be conducting their own consultation.

- He advised that with regard to the development of the East Wharf that boat owners needed somewhere to live and the development would help to regenerate the area. The marina was not intended to be a boat repair facility. West Somerset Council owned the land. He believed that Watchet would greatly benefit from the development.

Iain Porter reported that fly tipping had increased four-fold. The District Council had been prompt about collecting it.

9. West Somerset Strategic Partnership

Hugh Davies reported that the West Somerset Strategic Partnership held their final meeting on 25 October 2011. A good debate took place, however, funding had been withdrawn, so in the end it was decided the partnership could not continue. He paid tribute to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the partnership for their work and was sorry that the Vice Chairman was not at this meeting.

A meeting would be planned with other partners regarding future partnership working.

10. Note Taker for the Next Meeting

The Chairman advised that due to capacity issues at the District Council there would be no note taker available for Area Panels after this meeting. He suggested that the parish and town councils take turns to make a note of any actions that arise from future meetings.

Adrian Dyer confirmed that the authority were no longer able to provide a note taker for the Area Panels due to reduced capacity. The Council would continue to arrange the meetings and circulate the agenda, as usual. A request for volunteers to take notes had been made and one person from the authority was happy to continue that service for the Minehead Area Panel. He reported that he would continue to attend and would be able to take notes of any actions and report back at the next meeting. He asked that the parishes and towns discuss the request at their next meeting.

In response to concern regarding the withdrawal of the service, he advised that as important as the Area Panel meetings were they were not a frontline service and that time taken to attend evening meetings meant that time was taken off during working hours.

Valerie Boxall of Stogursey Parish Council volunteered to take notes of any actions at the next meeting of the Area Panel and hoped that further volunteers would step forward to do the same in subsequent meetings.

11. Date of Next Meeting

27 March 2012, at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.