

## Minehead Area Panel

### Notes of Meeting held on 8 June 2016 at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead

#### Present:

Sandra Slade (Chair)	Resident
Phil Webb	Taunton Deane Borough Council & West Somerset Council
Cllr Terry Venner	Somerset County Council & West Somerset Council
Cllr Christine Lawrence	Somerset County Council
Maureen Smith	Minehead Town Council/Minehead Development Trust/Transition Alcombe & Minehead/Forum 21
Inspector Shane Carey	Avon & Somerset Police
PC Joseph Sanderson	Avon & Somerset Police
James Guscott	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Paul Ramsay-Read	Town Watch Radio
P Broom	Resident
Liz French	Resident
Peter French	Resident
Bridget O'Brien	Resident
Colin Isherwood	Resident
Cath Isherwood	Resident
C J Vicary	Resident
Harold Compton	Member of the Public
Sarah Wilsher	West Somerset Council

#### **1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

Sandra Slade welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the absence of a speaker this evening – see agenda item 3 below.

Apologies for absence were received from James Barra (Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council), Ron Blundell, Cllr Mandy Chilcott (West Somerset Council), Anne Clarke (Manor Road/Staunton Lane Neighbourhood Watch), Cllr Andy Hadley (West Somerset Council), Marcus Kravis (The Arkade), Jenny Lennon-Wood (Minehead Development Trust), Meigan Lyons (Resident), David Peake (Somerset County Council Area Highways).

#### **2. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns**

Issues for Have Your Say, were as follows:

- (a) *Cynthia Stevens had enquired by email whether there was the possibility of a First bus going via Musgrove Park Hospital once an hour without the need for a change of buses at the bus station.*

Christine Lawrence suggested that the Panel write to Cllr David Fothergill at Somerset County Council (SCC) and to First Bus, with copies to herself and Cllr Venner.

**ACTION: Sandra to write a letter to Cllr David Fothergill at SCC and First Bus, with copies to Cllrs Lawrence and Venner.**

*This has been done.*

Terry advised that the County Council did not financially support public transport in West Somerset and the availability of services was down to the commercial operator. Also, if First bus agreed to include the hospital in a bus route this could not be put in operation until September at the earliest when the current three month licence would expire.

It was noted that a bus ran every nine minutes from the bus station to Musgrove Park Hospital and return from 7am to 7pm daily.

## **2. Opportunities for Our Young People**

Sandra apologised for the absence of Paul Gibbs, who had recently advised that following a staff restructure at West Somerset College he was no longer in the appropriate role to attend the Panel meeting. Dave Jackson from the YMCA/Beach Hotel and representatives of the Somerset Rural Youth Project had been invited to speak at the next meeting of the Panel on 14 September, and Peter Elliott, Executive Headteacher, would be approached and asked whether a representative from West Somerset College could be provided.

*Since the meeting Dave Jackson has accepted the invitation to attend the next meeting of the Panel and Peter Elliott has responded to say that he has forwarded the invitation to the new Headteacher of West Somerset College, Zoe Stucki, who would ensure that someone would be present at the next meeting*

Bridget O'Brien expressed disappointment that West Somerset College had not provided a substitute or comment. She had viewed the College website and noticed that the domain name for courses at the Skills and Enterprise Centre had expired.

The meeting agreed that the current state of the College gave cause for concern, particularly in relation to vocational courses. It was noted that the restaurant at the Skills and Enterprise Centre was still open but the hairdressing salon had closed. Christine Lawrence advised that work was ongoing to ensure that the farm survived and in this respect a meeting was to be held on 10 June.

Terry Venner advised that prior to September 2015 County Councillors used to be invited to Governors meetings as observers and would therefore learn what was happening within the College, but now that the College was an academy and not connected to the County Council this requirement no longer applied.

## **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 March 2016**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **Matters Arising**

*Item 2(c) – John Vicary had raised the issue of people taking a shortcut from Seaward Way to the Magna properties by making their way between the panels of a fence by the hospital. Jean Parbrook had agreed to investigate: John reported that a structure had since been erected by the fence to prevent people from taking this shortcut. Maureen Smith advised that the new operations manager at the Town Council was proving to be a successful and effective officer.*

John expressed his feelings about reports being circulated prior to the Panel meetings. He acknowledged that they speeded up the meetings but wished for representatives of the organisations to be present for any matters arising out of the reports and/or other issues raised.

#### **4. Minehead Coastal Community Team – An Update**

Sandra read out the report which had been circulated prior to the meeting, as follows:

A meeting to review the work of MCCT will be held on 28 June. The outcomes of this meeting will be reported at the next Minehead Area Panel meeting in September.

Maureen advised that thirteen projects were being considered.

#### **5. Minehead Development Trust – An Update**

Jenny Lennon-Wood had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Sandra read out the report. Maureen added that the owners of the Old Hospital had recently attended a Minehead Town Council meeting and they wished to set up a social enterprise and private partnership in the future, involving the community in their future plans, as well as the three tiers of local government. Paul Ramsey-Read felt that the viability of the project was an issue and Sandra agreed that it would probably need a commercial element in order to pay for itself.

Terry felt that a single hub which brought together a number of organisations was an excellent customer service idea, and the one hub building in Shepton Mallet which housed Mendip District Council, Somerset County Council and the Parish Council, NHS, etc. was a shining example.

#### **6. Police Report**

PC Joseph Sanderson had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Inspector Shane Carey and Joseph further reported the following:

- PC Charlie Fitzpatrick was now a beat manager for Exmoor and was based in Dulverton. PC Mark Curran was still a beat manager for Minehead but was not currently at work. Joe worked in a team of two beat managers and three PCSOs plus 24/7 officers.
- Butlins weekends were being held on 11 and 12 June and 18 and 19 June. Four officers would be patrolling on these days (two paid for by The Police and two by Butlins). The officers were usually off-duty officers from Bridgwater and Taunton, wishing to put in more time.
- The custody centre at Minehead Police Station was no longer staffed and therefore could only be used in exceptional circumstances. In the past two officers would take the detained person to Taunton and would stay and interview, obtain statements, etc. The procedure now was that the two officers would take the detained person to Bridgwater and then return, the officers in Bridgwater would do the questioning and obtain the statements, etc.
- The Home Office 'formula' for recording crimes had changed so figures for recorded crimes in Minehead were now higher than they used to be – see attached report. Tel.no 101 could still be used to report a crime. 999 should be used if there is a danger to people.

- Paul Ramsey-Read advised that in the Town Watch Radio scheme 28 shops had radios, which all helped to keep crime at bay.

## **7. Highways Matters**

David Peake had provided a written report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached).

## **8. Burning Issues**

Chris Jones of Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue had provided a written report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached) and James added the following:

- 37 operational calls had been received since the last Minehead Area Panel meeting (9/3/16).
- In relation to the closing of Quay Street for five days a week for three weeks from 20 June to 8 July for works to the cliff face (see Highways report), safety advice had been offered to all the residents in Quay Street as emergency vehicles could be delayed with the road closure.

James was then asked about what was happening with the Regional Control Centre in Taunton. James explained that this was a Central Government issue and not down to the individual Services. At present the building was still empty.

## **9. Town Council Update**

Sue Sanders had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Sandra read out Sue's report. Maureen Smith added the following:

- At the recent Amenities and General Purpose Committee the Town Council had agreed to take on responsibility for all the public toilets in Minehead. This recommendation would now go to the Finance Committee and Full Council.
- The sale of the Town Hall had gone through. The Town Council would however be renting the building for six months on a good lease whilst they sought for alternative premises.
- The toilets in Irnham Road were now open following their renovation.

## **10. District Council Update**

A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached) and Sandra introduced Phil Webb who was standing in for James Barrah this evening. Phil reported on the impending work on North Hill and Quay Street, as follows:

- Currently there were catch nets and a reduction fence for loose rocks/soil. These nets were now full and could be in danger of coming away. The rocks needed removing and the nets made secure. The trees would also be removed or reduced in size, as necessary. The rock stabilisation and debris removal would last two weeks. During the third week the arboriculturalists

would work on the trees. All the debris and waste would be removed in lorries which would be parked in the Quay West car park.

- Steve Chaston of Taunton Deane Borough Council had spoken to the residents affected. As a resident, Cllr Lawrence stated that he had been very informative and reassuring.
- The work involved using a 50-tonne crane which could be reduced in size, by retracting the legs, to enable emergency appliances of a certain size to get past it.
- When the gib was hanging over individual properties then these properties would need to be evacuated.
- The disturbance would be kept to a minimum.
- The road would be open for a couple of periods per day. The equipment would be set up at 9.30am, but when the workers were on rest breaks the road could be re-opened. Businesses such as the tea-rooms and the Old Ship Aground would be affected.

Phil further advised that the work had been identified by a survey undertaken by Geotechnical South West. The emergency areas were being done first. The other areas to be done plus the maintenance work required would be phased in over the next five to ten years.

Phil added that the shingle around the end of the harbour wall had been moved to more acceptable locations following concerns by the community and accepted that it was difficult when a new organisation entered the scene which didn't have local knowledge.

## **11 . County Council Update**

Christine Lawrence reported that 53 people had undertaken the Charity Abseil of County Hall on 22 and 23 April. Just under £7,000 had been raised, one third of which would go to the charity for ex and disabled firemen, one third to the autistic society and one third to children in care.

Terry Venner had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Terry spoke to his report adding the following:

- The County parking arrangements in the Harbour area, Quay Street and Quay west was a complex issue due to the number of different owners of the land.
- Excellent work had been undertaken by Somerset County Council staff to ensure the Webbers bus services were covered by other operators as soon as possible.
- The County Roadshow to be held on 10 June in Wellington Square, Minehead, would take place between 10am and 4pm. Residents would be asked which services they value the most. A similar roadshow had taken place in early June in Shepton Mallet.

Mr Vicary asked about the progress being made for a pelican crossing to go outside West Somerset College on Bircham Road. Terry replied that the feasibility study had been accepted by the County Council and the project was a priority. Funding was now being looked into and there would be a consultation period. The bus stop may need to be moved, which meant that no work would be undertaken on the hardstanding until this was known.

Sandra said that she had noticed that the warning lights and lollipop person still operated in Ponsford Road for Minehead Middle School students, although the school entrance was now in Townsend Road and wondered whether warning lights

could be considered for Townsend Road too. This matter would be put to David Peake.

**ACTION: David Peake to be contacted regarding the possibility of warning lights in Townsend Road.**

Sandra also felt that the build-up of traffic and parking along Townsend Road near Minehead First School did help to keep traffic speeds low – as stated by Mark Curran at the December 2015 Panel meeting – and this was borne out by the outcome of a recent accident not being as bad as it could have been.

**12. Any Other Business**

There was no further business.

**13. Date & Venue of Future Meetings**

**Future meetings to be held on:**

Wednesday, 14 September 2016 at 6.30pm at St Michael the Archangel Church Hall, Alcombe, Minehead.

Wednesday, 7 December 2016 at 6.30pm – venue to be confirmed.

Wednesday, 8 March 2016 at 6.30pm – venue to be confirmed.

## **Minehead Coastal Community Team Update**

A meeting to review the work of MCCT will be held on 28 June. The outcomes of this meeting will be reported at the next Minehead Area Panel meeting in September.

## **Town Council Update**

Minehead Town Council is still progressing the sale of the Town Hall - and a number of premises in the town centre are currently being viewed.

Work should start in the next few weeks on the upgrade of the path / cycle path at lower Marshfield Road. Meetings have been held with Somerset County Highways and Lynch's to progress the work.

The Toilets at Irnham Road Recreation Ground have now been renovated and will be open during the summer months.

Talks have been held with West Somerset Council to find a way forward for the Town Council to help with grass cutting/trimming in a number of key sites in Minehead including the Parks Walk and Woodcombe Walk. The Town Council is very conscious that these areas need to be kept to a high standard and will work together with the District Council to attain this goal.

## **MINEHEAD DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

### **Report to the Minehead Area Panel meeting on 8 June 2016**

Minehead Development Trust (MDT) has worked for nine years, with overwhelming community support, to secure the iconic Old Hospital's future as a community hub. After considerable effort and discussion over the last year, we regret that MDT has not succeeded in reaching a viable agreement with the new owners, Minehead Old Town Hall Investments Ltd (MOTHI).

The proposals we put to MOTHI for negotiation aimed to deliver a sustainable project and provide the community with security of tenure. To this end, we have generated a long-term business plan with potential to attract grant funding and financial investment from local, regional and national sources.

MDT understands that the development of the Old Hospital as a community hub is still MOTHI's aim. We wish them success as all our commissioned studies demonstrate this use of the heritage buildings to be vital for Minehead's economic and social regeneration. Respecting the community's enthusiasm for the project, MDT remains prepared to work with any organisation aiming to achieve this goal, if requested.

MDT will continue its work to deliver community-led projects for Minehead's social, economic and environmental regeneration. We will build on our partnership with the YMCA and Minehead Museum at the Beach Hotel, where Minehead Information Centre goes from strength to strength. MDT will consider other projects for inclusion into its aims and objectives where appropriate.

The MDT Board greatly appreciates all the support received from organisations and individuals in our community.

Jenny Lennon-Wood  
Chair of Minehead Development Trust



## **Minehead Area Panel Meeting Police Report – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

### **Current crime statistics – Minehead (Beat AW051):**

#### **01/01/2016 – 31/03/2016**

Recorded crimes – 72  
ASB calls – 52

#### **01/04/2016 – 30/06/2016 (to date 31/05/2016)**

Recorded Crimes – 73  
Burglary – 2  
Vehicle crime – 15  
Criminal Damage – 12  
Violence against the person – 44

ASB calls received – 37  
Environmental – 2  
Nuisance – 28  
Personal – 7

Please see the above statistics. Recorded crime has risen over the last two months, matching the first quarter, with one month still remaining of the second quarter. This is as expected over the summer months, and will likely stay at a slightly higher level through until August/September.

Anti-Social behaviour calls appear to have stayed at a consistent level into the second quarter, which is promising as we approach the summer months.

### **Other points of note:**

Two weekends within the second quarter have been identified as 'High Impact Weekends' due to the Butlins weekends, these being the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Four extra Police officers are being provided for each date.

I would like to introduce myself as your new beat manager. I grew up in Minehead and have worked for the Police for the last 6 years in Bristol. I have now moved back to the area, filling the post of PC Fitzpatrick. I have included my contact details below for anybody who requires them. If you have any issues please do not hesitate to contact me.

PC 4389 Joseph Sanderson  
Minehead Police Station, Townsend Road, Minehead  
Mobile – 07889 656 888  
Email – [joseph.sanderson@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:joseph.sanderson@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

*Produced 31/05/2016*

Planned Works in Minehead Panel Area

The Hub, Alcombe, 8 June 2016

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
<b>Completed</b>						
SCC	Minehead	A39 Bircham Road	Resurfacing of Ellicombe Roundabout.		Completed	
SCC	Luccombe	A39 Minehead Road	Carriageway resurfacing between Porlock and Allerford.		Completed	
SCC	Williton	A39 Long Street	Carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
SCC	Williton	A358 High Street	Carriageway resurfacing		Completed	
<b>Ongoing</b>						
Private	Minehead	Seaward Way	Highway works in relation to new development. Temporary traffic signals at times.	6 June	29 July	8 weeks
WPD	Minehead	Combeland Road, Ellicombe	Electricity supply work. Temporary road closure.	6 June	10June	5 days
<b>Future</b>						
WSC	Minehead	Quay Street	Works to cliff face. Temporary road closures between 09.30 to 16.30.	20June 27June 4 July	24June 1 July 8 July	5 days 5 days 5 days
SCC	Minehead	The Avenue	Footway and carriageway patching. Temporary suspension of waiting in the evenings.	June/ July	June/ July	2 evenings
SCC	Sampfords Brett	A358 Taunton Road	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 19.00 and 07.00.	15June	17June	2 nights
Private	Brompton Regis, Upton & Skilgate	B3224, C200, A396 & B3190	"IRONMAN 70.3 UK Exmoor", based at Wimbleball Lake.	26June	26June	1 day
EA	Cannington	A39 Bridgwater Road	Installation of temporary bridge as part of temporary works for flood defence scheme. Temporary traffic signals.	19 July	21 July	3 days
<b>Other</b>						
SCC	West Quantoxhead	A39 near Wibble Farm	Vegetation clearance of verges and embankments has now been carried out. CCTV survey of highway drainage system. Trial pits have been dug and Strength of road formation tested.			



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## **Area Panel Meetings items for discussion / community information.**

**Planned Meeting Date:** 08/06/2016

### **Operational News for Community information relevant to the areas covered by area panel meeting:**

Since the last area panel meeting held in March 2016 through to this report dated 13/05/16 (10 weeks), Minehead crews have attended 31 operational calls. These have included seven Road Traffic Collisions, seven property fires of which have been accidental causes or electrical related, one vehicle fire, two special service calls to assist other agencies and two Chimney fires.

Crews also attended four fires in the open that were unattended or poorly controlled bonfires spreading to other property or land. Crews have also attended a number of domestic smoke alarm calls and calls made with good intent that did not require our attendance.

### **Community Safety news and activities within the areas covered by the relevant area panel meeting:**

Since the last area panel meeting, community safety work has been carried out at various events in and around Minehead.

These have included:

- Home fire safety visits to those requesting a visit and being considered at higher risk.
- Crews continue to raise awareness about our Home Fire Safety Check and Visit Service locally. **Please see below for full details:**

This included information drops at specific targeted address areas where there is likely to be an elderly or potentially vulnerable residency.

These are still valid and the public are encouraged to phone to see if they qualify for either a check or visit.



**DEVON &  
SOMERSET**  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

## **Minehead Fire Station Spring Community Fire Safety campaign.**

### **FREE Home Fire Safety Checks and Visits**

Did you know you are entitled to a **FREE Home Fire Safety Check** and may also be entitled to a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit**?

Do you know or care for someone that may benefit from this service?

All residents that live within Devon or Somerset are entitled to call our **FREEPHONE** advice number and receive **FREE home safety advice**.

It will take no more than 5 minutes and you will be asked some simple questions that will help our advisor decide if you need a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit**.

Home Fire Safety Visits, take around 30 minutes and are bespoke to suit the circumstances of the individuals and homes we visit.

If a Full **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit** is considered appropriate, it may also include fitting **FREE** smoke detectors or other equipment should you require them. You would also be offered all the advice you may need to make you safer in your home.

Visits are arranged to suit your circumstances and at times to suit you.

Calls can also be made on behalf of others that you care for, and arrangements made via a preferred third party contact.

If a visit is not considered appropriate following your telephone call, our team will ensure you are sent all the relevant **FREE advice and literature** to help you carry out the checks in your own home.

To receive the **FREE Home Fire Safety Check** and seek advice about a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit**, please call **0800 05 02 999**.

**Or Text info line: 078 00 00 2476**

Further details can be found on our website at  
**[www.dsfire.gov.uk/YourSafety/SafetyInTheHome](http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/YourSafety/SafetyInTheHome)**

## **DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE – MAY 2016**

### **Harbour**

We have now cleared the shingle bank from outside the harbour at Minehead and cleared a large proportion of stone from along the harbour wall. Axminster Excavators who completed the works also reinstated the stone/shingle which had been washed away from the groynes directly adjacent to the Quayside car park.

### **Lifesaving equipment**

A number of the life rings have been vandalised over recent months with some being unwound and left on the sea front. We have replaced one at Minehead and had to repair two on the West Pier at Watchet.

### **Public Toilets**

- Blenheim Gardens Gents and Ladies were reopened for the Summer period for Easter however, the Ladies had to be shut the following week due to blocked drainages. They reopened again on 10 May.
- Carousel toilets have had maintenance issues and were briefly reopened at the start of May these have had to be closed again whilst maintenance is carried out. The two cubicles at the top of the stairs are due to open on Monday 16 May.
- Summerland Avenue toilets have also had a drainage problems and issues with the hand dryers, this is being addressed.

### **Beach**

- Sand build-up, removal is being looked into.

### **Culvercliffe**

- Issues with dog waste – this continues, the dog warden has attended.

### **Harbour**

- Renew of mooring fees has been sent out – there are a number of mooring holders dissatisfied with the price increase.
- Shingle has been removed.
- The new Assistant Harbour Master has started and there is a noticeable improvement to service.

## **Somerset County Council Councillors Report - Number 2**

### County Parking Arrangements - Harbour Area, Quay Street, Quay West

The Consultation period is now complete, with ongoing discussions with local residents and local businesses, final decision by end of the summer (sometime September 2016).

### Repair to Footpath, Church Road, Minehead

Works due to start back in March, now planned for July (delay due to Legal Agreement).

Works to Start this September 2016- New Roundabout at Bishop Lydeard

Six months period -delays expected between Minehead and Taunton.

### Webberbus - Public Transport

County Council staff carried out an excellent operation in response to the collapse of Webberbus. Transport Somerset worked all week-end to make sure public transport continued to operate in Minehead and West Somerset.

Town Service 101 and Service 10 Porlock Weir to Minehead and the Service 16 Minehead to Bridgwater via Doniford are being covered by First, Buses of Somerset. All services at this present moment are operating on behalf of Somerset County Council.

Any passengers wishing to go to Musgrove Park Hospital can travel to the Hospital via the Bus Station on route number 9. every 15 minutes.

All school contracts are now covered. New contract to go online soon!

### Health and Wellbeing Grant

The County Council's Health and Wellbeing Grant Scheme has now been completed and has come to an end due to budget cuts. Lead member at Somerset County Council closed the scheme down at the end of March 2016.

### Friday 10th June 2016

County Road Show will be held in Wellington Square, between 10.00am and 3.00pm

All local residents are welcome to attend.

Just some of the things which have taken place in the last few weeks.

Regards

Cllr Terry J. Venner

MINEHEAD

01643 709682