

## Minehead Area Panel

### Notes of meeting held on 11 June 2014 at Sainsbury Hall, Whitworth Road, Minehead

#### Present:

Sandra Slade (Chair)	Resident
James Barrah	Taunton Deane Borough Council & West Somerset Council
Cllr Andrew Hadley	West Somerset Council
Cllr Richard Lillis	West Somerset Council
Cllr David Sanders	West Somerset Council
Cllr Mandy Chilcott	West Somerset Council
Cllr Gail Everett	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Marcus Kravis	Minehead Town Council
Sue Sanders	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Christine Lawrence	Somerset County Council
Cllr Terry Venner	Somerset County Council
David Peake	Somerset County Council Area Highways
Chris Jones	Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
PC Mark Curran	Avon & Somerset Police
Jenny Lennon-Wood	Minehead Development Trust
Julian Luke	Minehead Museum
Sally Bainbridge	Minehead Conservation Society/Townsend House Trust
Fay Dyke	Revive Minehead
Diana Bowen	Butlins
John Clyde-Smith	Longbay Sea Power
Malcolm Hill	1 <sup>st</sup> Exmoor Scout Group
Paul Ramsey-Read	Longbay Sea Power
Anne Clarke	Manor Road/Staunton Lane Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
Ann Fairiyan	Paganel Way Neighbourhood Watch
David Rowden	Paganel Way Neighbourhood Watch
Pam Gray	Resident
Colin Isherwood	Resident
Cath Isherwood	Resident
John Gray	Resident
Sarah Wilsher	West Somerset Council

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

Sandra Slade welcomed everyone, both new and loyal members to the meeting and to the new venue.

Apologies for absence were received from Ron Blundell, Cllr Paul Grierson (Minehead Town Council/West Somerset Council), Andrew McCausland (Minehead Baptist Church), Cllr Doug Ross (West Somerset Council), Cllr Maureen Smith (West Somerset Council), John Vicary.

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

A number of issues were raised as follows:

- (a) *John Gray expressed concern regarding the hedge that ran alongside the properties opposite Sainsbury Hall as it was encroaching by 2 metres across the pavement, and also roots were pushing up through the nearby footpath.*

It was felt that the owner of the hedge was probably Knightstone Housing Association. Sue Sanders suggested that Mr Gray pop into the Town Hall with the full details of the hedge, roots and damage to footpath, etc. so that Minehead Town Council could make enquiries and pursue the issue

**ACTION: Sue Sanders to take forward the issue of the hedge once full details were received.**

- (b) *The issue was raised of students parking across the road from West Somerset College in the Ellicombe Meadow estate rather than in the Rugby Club car park.*

Christine Lawrence advised that consultation was currently taking place on the provision of double yellow lines about 8-9 cars in length along the Ellicombe Meadow access road. Discussion also took place on residents parking schemes, however, David Peake advised that such schemes should be well thought through as they required long-term strategies and had to be paid for by the residents.

Sandra advised that she had written to West Somerset College previously about students parking in residential areas and had asked for the steps that were being taken to encourage students to park at the Rugby Club.

- (c) *Mandy Chilcott raised the issue of visitors driving to Butlins blocking the entrance to the flats along Warren Road and whether a yellow hatched box could be provided along the road to keep the access free.*

David advised that the request be made through Minehead Town Council who would contact Somerset County Council (SCC) Highways. A traffic engineer would then look into the issue.

Marcus asked whether the roundabout at the bottom of Seaward Way could be looked at too with regards to vehicles waiting on the roundabout.

**ACTION: Mandy to put both highways issues through Minehead Town Council.**

Mark Curran advised the meeting that the Police could be contacted on 101 if a car was blocking a driveway.

- (d) *Sally Bainbridge was concerned that youngsters were playing in the street, as they were unaware of the locations of playing fields in Minehead and how to reach them.*

Sue Sanders advised that every playing field owned by Minehead Town Council had a sign by its entrance. Directional signs could not easily be put in place. It was noted that there was no printed up-to-date street map currently produced of Minehead, but the recreation grounds could be found on Google maps. Mandy suggested that the locations of the playing fields in Minehead could be put on the Minehead App and she would look into this.

**ACTION: Mandy Chilcott to investigate whether the playing fields in Minehead could be put on the Minehead App.**

- (e) *Anne Clarke advised that the Brook Street name sign on the Bircham Road end had fallen off.*

**ACTION: James Barrah to look into a replacement sign.**

- (f) *Terry Venner expressed concern about the drinking, bad language and unacceptable behaviour portrayed in Minehead by certain people staying in Butlins during the adult weekend held on 7/8 June.*

Diana Bowen advised that Butlins liked to keep people on site, but expected their visitors to behave properly if going into the town and there was a sign at Butlins which laid down the rules for people going off site. Butlins paid for two extra police officers during adult weekends and if the police informed them of poor behaviour by Butlins visitors they would be evicted. In addition, Butlins welcomed suggestions from locals on how to ensure harmony during adult weekends, which were now not called 'adult' weekends but known as music weekends.

Mark Curran added that evictees were encouraged to leave the area and were not allowed to stay in licensed premises within the town.

Fay Dyke advised that she had recently met with Jason Ward, Resort Security Manager at Butlins who had not been aware of the behaviour issues that arose last weekend. He was now aware and eager that they should not be repeated.

Mark Curran apologised for the lack of police presence over the weekend. He also advised that the main licensed premises within the town, for example, The Hairy Dog, Stones and the Duke of Wellington, co-operated with the police during adult weekends.

Mandy stated that as a parent she was concerned if her daughter went into town during an adult weekend, and wished to know if there was an easy way of publicising the dates of such weekends for the community.

**ACTION: Diana Bowen to put forward to Butlins the idea of the Company putting a regular notice on the front page of the West Somerset Free Press with details of their adult/music weekends.**

### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 March 2014**

#### **Matters of Accuracy**

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

#### **Matters Arising**

*Item 10 – Completion of the double yellow lines on part of Station Terrace and Glenmore Road:* Sandra advised that Highways had responded to say that new double yellow line markings on the southern junction of Station Terrace with Glenmore Road eastwards for a distance of 15 metres would be ordered so that they would be correct with the TRO. In addition, the next West Somerset Amendment order would be amended to add on the double yellow lines that were laid at the northern junction with Glenmore Road.

*Item 10 – State of the double yellow lines along North Road to Blenheim Gardens:* Sandra advised that Highways had responded to say that the lines were correct as per the TRO and were not in need of refurbishment, however, there had been some reinstatement works at the back of Harbour Court and the line (about 10 metres in length) had not been put back down. This would be chased with the Minehead Highways Office and the statutory undertakers requested to finish the job as soon as possible.

*Item 14 – Lighting along footpath between West Somerset Railway and Trinity Way:* Sandra advised that Somerset County Council Highways had investigated and, following a report back from their Term Maintenance Contractor, could advise that street lights 1 to 7 and 11 to 14 were found to be working okay whilst street lights 8 to 10 were found to be vandalised so the lanterns had been removed to make them safe. Temporary lanterns were to be fitted to street lights 8 to 10 by 26 April 2014 until a permanent solution could be put in place.

**4. Presentation by on the Community Impact Mitigation Fund for Hinkley Point C by Andrew Goodchild, New Nuclear Programme Manager, Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils**

Andrew Goodchild reported that the Community Impact Mitigation or CIM Fund had been launched on 2 June 2014. All information on the Fund and how to apply was on the Council website: [www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/CIM](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/CIM)

The CIM Fund had been secured by legal agreements as part of the planning permission for the site preparation works at Hinkley Point. £3.5 million was in the Fund - £2million for the district of West Somerset; £1 million for Bridgwater and £500,000 for the Cannington area. There was also a separate pot of £500,000 for Stogursey, the parish closest to the development. In 2015 and 2016 there were expected to be further payments of approximately £1.6 million.

In order to apply for funding an Expression of Interest form had to be completed first, which would register the project and determine the eligibility of the project according to nine criteria. If the project was eligible a full application could then be submitted to the Major Projects Team at West Somerset Council.

There was a transparent process of approving funding bids. A Board of eight members (two from EDF Energy, two from West Somerset Council, two from Sedgemoor District Council and two from Somerset County Council) would meet bi-monthly and consider the bids before making recommendations to West Somerset Cabinet/Full Council. Bids of over £25,000 would need to be considered by Full Council. There was no minimum size of bid; the maximum size was £1 million.

The criteria against which each bid would be judged were:

- Priority Impact Zones – priority would be given to areas likely to experience the greatest adverse affect from the development. The first zone was therefore Stogursey, then the areas adjacent to the main transport routes to and from the site including the main settlements in West Somerset – Watchet, Williton, Minehead.
- Quality of Life
- Sustainability – eg, long-term financial security
- Extent of Benefit – small group, large town, whole community/district.
- Community Need
- Community Support – support of parish council, for instance.
- Partner Support – eg, if a sports project the support of an appropriate sporting body such as The Football Association, Sport England, etc.
- Governance
- Value for Money

Contact details:

[www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/CIM](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/CIM)

[www.twitter.com/wsomerset](https://www.twitter.com/wsomerset)

[www.facebook.com/westsomerset](https://www.facebook.com/westsomerset)

Email: [HinkleyCIMFund@westsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:HinkleyCIMFund@westsomerset.gov.uk)

Tel: 01643 703704

Andrew's presentation was followed by a question and answer session, as follows:

*How would Minehead qualify in respect of the Priority Impact Zones?*

Andrew advised that the Board would be looking for projects that had the potential to serve the whole community, for example, a sports facility in Minehead could be one of a network of facilities across the district.

David stated that the website was very clear and stated what the monies could not be used for, such as feasibility studies, an individual, etc.

*Could the Fund be used for updating and improving existing projects?*

Andrew responded in that the monies could be used to update/upgrade facilities if evidence was provided that such an improvement would attract more people to use the facility, for instance, putting a new more efficient boiler into a village hall would be an acceptable use of the funds if this meant that the hall could be used in the colder winter months and later in the evenings than previously, which would benefit the community and generate greater use.

*Should individual clubs, eg youth clubs, apply individually or jointly?*

Andrew advised that joint applications for projects with clubs working together would be better, but that individual applications were also welcome.

*Could the Fund be used for capital and revenue projects?*

Andrew replied that the Fund could be used for both and successful projects, particularly the larger ones, could look for match funding.

*Who could apply for funding?*

Andrew stated that the Fund was open to bids from all, including parish/town councils, etc. He further advised that to date £7.2 million had been received from EDF Energy. This would continue to £12.8 million, and when the power station became operational £3.2 million per annum would be paid for 40 years.

The meeting then expressed concern regarding the impact the construction traffic would have on routes to Minehead and whether any changes were to be made to the road system to prevent gridlock. Andrew explained that the impact had been considered in infinitesimal detail in the determination of both the site preparation works planning application and the Development Consent Order, as a result of which a range of traffic measures had been explored to enable the traffic flow through the District to Bridgwater and to the M5 corridor to continue as now, at peak times only 15 lorries per hour will be able to use the network. A Traffic Incident Management Plan would be put in place to ensure that in the case of an incident diversionary routes for traffic would be employed. In addition, although a large number of lorries would be on the roads, 80% of materials would be being transported by sea to the jetty. Schemes would also be implemented to reduce the amount of traffic on the roads, such as the establishment of cycle and footpaths in Bridgwater, working with schools to encourage more use of sustainable transport, etc. Chris Jones advised that not all construction traffic would be the major HGVs; 3.5 tonne vehicles and big transits would be used too.

Andrew added that to counter the perception that Minehead may not be open (as happened in the January/February floods) the Council's Tourism Officer (funded by EDF Energy) would be marketing and promoting the area using a ring-fenced fund provided by EDF Energy.

Sandra thanked Andrew for his informative and enlightening presentation.

## **5. Minehead Vision Group – an update**

A report had been prepared by Corinne Matthews, Regeneration & Tourism Manager with West Somerset Council, which Sandra read out, as follows:

Due to the judicious management of the Minehead Vision Manager's staffing and operational budget, as well as having levered in various strands of external funding, the post with the current incumbent (Stephen Hooper) was to be extended beyond its contract end date of June for at least a further six months. Minehead Development Trust (who host the post) were in the throes of submitting additional funding bids that hopefully would help to sustain the position for longer.

Minehead Vision Group intended to refresh their Action Plan on Thursday, 7 June and would be using a workshop format to look at the current priorities, discuss potential new ones, and also consider the recommendations made in the report by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES).

In relation to the CLES report – the Area Panel may recall that this report came about due to a successful bid written by the Minehead Vision Manager to the Association of Town Centre Management who had agreed to fund a local resilience study for ten towns. CLES came to Minehead in February 2014 and conducted their local research via looking at local documentation/strategies, etc. and interviewing about a dozen local stakeholders (public, private, community and voluntary).

The recommendations of the CLES report were:

- 1 Maximise the benefits from Hinkley Point and the old hospital.
- 2 Promote Minehead's natural and historical assets.
- 3 Use Revive Minehead to foster community spirit.
- 4 Bring local businesses closer together.
- 5 Use the urban environment to bridge the cultural divide.
- 6 Support local enterprise and aspiration.
- 7 Further create and communicate a shared vision for Minehead.

## **6. Minehead Development Trust – an update**

Jenny Lennon-Wood reported the following:

Minehead Development Trust (MDT) was working towards the creation of a community hub in the Old Hospital. As the site had been on the market since August 2013 there was some concern that there could be an urgent need to generate funding, for example, if the possibility arose of sale by auction. Therefore, MTD was exploring ways to finance outright purchase to ensure that the heritage buildings remained in community control. With advice from Locality, the Trust was developing a funding strategy involving a range of potential sources including Catalyst Donors. MDT would also be following up the recommendations in Locality's report on the Asset Opportunity Workshops and would work with service providers who had expressed an interest in co-locating within the Old Hospital hub.

MDT was pleased to report that Minehead Information Centre had now transferred to the new Beach Café, where the new partnership with the YMCA Somerset Coast and Minehead Museum was proving very successful. In only ten days, following the completion of the refurbishment, the Museum team had managed to set up a fine range of exhibits and were already approaching their 3,000<sup>th</sup> visitor. Minehead Vision

Manager, Stephen Hooper, was continuing his work on the Minehead Vision Action Plan. The currach had been built in a week and the launch had been very well attended by the community and visitors. Designs for the maritime heritage plaques to be displayed on the harbour wall had been completed for mould-making and casting. A new season of artists' exhibitions had opened in the former Visitor Information Centre on the seafront.

Julian Luke of the Minehead Museum confirmed that since the Museum opened on 29 March 2014 there had been over 2.5,000 visitors, and that this was expected to rise to over 3,000 by the end of June.

## **7. Police Report**

Mark Curran reported the following:

- On Sunday, 8 June the Police had received a 999 call from a member of the public in North Hill saying that an aircraft had come down in the Alcombe area. The Police had put search and rescue people on the ground. However, it had been found to be a flare not an aircraft.
- Shoplifting previously had been on the increase with three people identified/charged. Recently, however, there had been only one shoplifting offence.
- There had been a spate of telephone calls recently with callers claiming to be from the Police and stating that there were problems with peoples' bank accounts/cards and advising them to put money into a taxi to be taken to a certain location. The scam had almost worked with someone putting money into a taxi, fortunately though the taxi driver had been suspicious and had contacted the Police.
- Some counterfeit notes had been found to be in circulation in Minehead.
- Events were to be reported as crimes in the first instance unless proved as not a crime by the Police.
- There had been problems with the lack of police presence in Minehead on 8 and 9 June during a Butlins adult weekend. This would not happen again.
- The Shopwatch and Pubwatch schemes had been provided with more funding for equipment, radios, etc. which would enable quicker responses to be made. The schemes in Minehead were to be linked with the Watchet and Williton schemes.
- Minehead Police Station was to be relocated within the next 2-3 years as the current Station was too large, antiquated and too expensive. Several options were being looked at including a possible merger with the Ambulance Station and possibly going into the Old Hospital, although the hospital would only be suitable for a 'cop-shop type pop-in centre' rather than as a base for officers. Mark emphasised that some cell facilities would be included in the new station location.
- Avon & Somerset Police would be running a drink driving campaign during the World Cup, particularly targeting the morning-after-the-night-before drivers as many matches would be televised late in the evening and it took many hours for alcohol to leave the system, eg four pints of lager took 13 hours to go through the system.

Terry Venner asked whether Minehead would be adequately policed during the adult/music weekends and the football world cup. Mark replied that the Butlins weekends would be adequately covered due to the two police officers funded by Butlins and that there should be suitable police coverage in the town during/after the football matches had been televised in licensed premises.

## **8. Highway Matters**

David Peake reported the following

**Completed Highway Works:**

Carriageway resurfacing along Hillview Close.

High speed fibre broadband cable installation in existing ducts between Cross Keys and Williton on the A358.

Drainage work on the A39 at Keepers Cottage.

**Ongoing Highway Works:**

Water main replacement on the Dunster Back Road to Alcombe with a temporary road closure from 22 April to 16 June.

Drainage and kerb repairs on the A39 at Station Road, Washford with a temporary road closure from 9 to 11 June.

**Future Highway Works:**

Carriageway resurfacing on the A39 at Allerford with a temporary road closure from 13 to 14 June.

Water main replacement at Combeland Road, Minehead with a temporary road closure from 16 June to 11 July.

Carriageway resurfacing on the A39 Station Road, Washford with temporary road closures between 6.30pm and 11.30pm on 17 and 18 June.

Carriageway resurfacing along Townsend Road, Minehead with temporary road signals on 24 June.

Carriageway resurfacing on the A358 at Flaxpool Hill with a temporary road closure between 7pm and 7am from 25 to 26 June.

Carriageway resurfacing on the A358 at Black Arch Railway Bridge with a temporary road closure between 7pm and 7am from 26 to 27 June.

Carriageway resurfacing along King George Road, Minehead with a temporary road closure from 21 July to 22 July.

In addition, work to Alcombe Brook – Phase 2. A bid had been put into the Somerset County Council Flood and Water Management fund for works in 2014/2015.

Sandra read out a list of roads that residents felt were the worst road surfaces in Minehead and Alcombe (via Revive Minehead’s Facebook page), as follows:

Marshfield Road  
Irnham Road  
Lower Park  
Hillview Road

Fownes Road  
Bampton Street  
Whitegate Road

Hayfield Road  
Poundfield Road  
Parkhouse Road

David explained that County Highways had a legal duty to keep the roads safe and the above roads were safe. However, they kept a list of roads that needed work doing to them and as part of their annual programme of resurfacing works they would chip away at their list, finances permitting, so roads would not be forgotten but it may take some time for them all to be improved.

**9. Burning Issues**

Chris Jones of the Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service reported the following:

**Operational News**

- Minehead Crews attended 36 operational calls during the last quarter. These included a number of road traffic collisions both serious and minor, a number of property fires including the large property fire in Porlock, an electrical sub-station and a number of domestic cooking related incidents. There was also the recent incident with the reported siting of a flare in the Alcombe area and possible light



aircraft incident. This generated a large amount of public interest along with plenty of comments and observations. There had been several genuine reports by the public, hence the initial response by blue light services. It appears now that it had been an unofficial launch and use of a parachute flare. People with information that can help the Police with their enquiries were to contact the Police non-emergency number 101 with details. There were no cases of deliberately ignited fires during the last quarter in the Minehead area.

### **Community Safety News and Activities**

- The major community engagement event that ran out of Minehead Fire Station called Phoenix Job Centre plus, had been a major success. This particular scheme was jointly funded on this occasion by West Somerset Council and the Fire Service. It was a scheme where 12 individuals on Job seekers allowance from the West Somerset area were given practical training under a Fire Service related environment and discipline. This aimed to help them learn new skills such as health and safety training, basic first aid at work, health and hygiene along with team building from fire service related training and drills. Indications were that all of the 12 participants had now secured employment within the local community.

### **News and Public Information**

- Industrial action was to take place across the UK starting on Thursday, 12 June at 9am for 24 hours. The Fire Brigades Union had announced the strikes in a dispute with the Government. During periods of industrial action there would be parts of Devon and Somerset that may have a reduced service. Contingency arrangements had been put in place to ensure a response in the quickest time possible. In order to be prepared for any periods of action please read more at: [www.dsfrs.gov.uk](http://www.dsfrs.gov.uk)
- Following the efficiency savings of the initial £5.5 million for 2013/14, the Fire Authority continued to look at the next rounds of savings for 2014/15, which would run in excess of £5 million. Indications were that savings were likely to continue up until 2018.
- Public information could be sought from the website: [www.dsfrs.gov.uk](http://www.dsfrs.gov.uk)

## **10. Town Council Update**

Sue Sanders reported the following:

- Weed spraying had been undertaken around Minehead and Alcombe and would be done again in the Autumn. This was at a cost of £5,000 per year.
- Lower Park was to benefit from a Highways Enhancement Scheme for planting, which was being joint funded between Minehead Town Council and Somerset County Council.
- An application had been submitted to West Somerset Council for S106 funding for the provision of new play equipment for Culvercliffe and this had been considered by the Planning Obligations Group on 10 June.

## **12. District Council Update**

James reported the following:

- Blenheim Gardens public conveniences were re-opened on Monday, 31 March for the Summer. They would close for the Winter on Monday, 27 October 2014. The main ladies and gents facilities at The Carousel public conveniences on Warren Road were also re-opened on 31 March and would also close for the

Winter on 27 October, however the two unisex public conveniences would remain open.

- Four days of sand removal on the seafront took place during the week commencing 7 April 2014.
- The project to extend the existing CCTV system to cover the harbour area had now been completed taking the total number of cameras in Minehead to 17. In addition, a publicly viewable webcam had been installed which provided a view of the harbour area. This can be accessed via [www.mineheadharbour.co.uk](http://www.mineheadharbour.co.uk). Local businesses would also be offered the opportunity to advertise on this website.
- Following approval by West Somerset Council (WSC) an Order had been made extending the geographic boundaries of the Designated Public Place Zones to encompass the entire beach area, The Avenue, The Parade and Wellington Square plus the area of the Alcombe shops.
- Somerset County Council sub-contractors were making good progress and had completed the new path surface and LED lighting between Morrisons and the West Somerset Railway. At present WSC were awaiting an update regarding the damaged streetlight opposite Morrisons car park.
- Following the storms over the Winter two new grills had been installed on the culvert near Minehead Hospital.

Gail Everett asked whether there were any plans to clear the drains on the seafront before the Summer Festival in August.

**ACTION: James Barrah to investigate.**

Mandy Chilcott advised that she would be taking Penny James, Chief Executive of Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council, on a tour of Minehead on 16 June including the seafront.

## **12. County Council Update**

Terry Venner reported that he was pleased to hear that the plans to sell the railway line used by the West Somerset Railway and owned by Somerset County Council had been shelved. He wished to see both West Somerset Railway plc and the West Somerset Railway Association around the table with Somerset County Council in order to provide the Railway with as long a lease as possible.

He was also pleased that the proposed building of the roundabout at Bishops Lydeard had been postponed as it was better for West Somerset's tourism if the work was undertaken in the Autumn. Andrew Goodchild added that West Somerset Tourism Officers were working with Exmoor National Park Authority and Somerset County Council as the Hinkley Tourism Action Partnership in order to keep Minehead open and ensure that potential visitors were aware it was open.

Following the storms earlier this year, Terry advised that the Environment Agency had met with local residents and a local flood alleviation plan was being put in place for Lower Park and The Parks.

Terry was concerned with the state of Minehead – the grass was high in many places and not being cut or maintained. This was particularly the case along Seaward Way and Trinity Way and weeds, etc. were so overgrown around the zig zags that it was proving very difficult, if not impossible, to get through them. He wished to get all local authorities and relevant organisations together in order to improve the presentation of the town. Marcus Kravis also felt that the state of the high hedges along the lanes/minor roads was resulting in the roads becoming unsafe.

Gail Everett informed the meeting that an article would be appearing in the Somerset County Gazette this week in respect of how tourism in Minehead could be badly affected by overgreen weeds and dead plants.

Christine Lawrence asked what the meeting thought of having a road crossing between Minehead Rugby Club and West Somerset College for the safety of all pedestrians wishing to cross Bircham Road. She expected that the College would support the idea and hoped it would encourage more students to park at the Rugby Club instead of in the nearby residential streets.

David Peake advised that the scheme would need to go through Minehead Town Council and would cost more than expected, as the crossing would need illuminated signs, a refuge in the centre as it was a wide road, etc. The new crossing in Long Street at Williton had been a scheme submitted by County Councillor Hugh Davis and Williton Parish Council and had been an expensive undertaking as it had affected water mains, telecommunication cables, etc. He would need to look at where it would be best to place the crossing.

A resident of Ellicombe Meadow agreed that a crossing was needed as it was very difficult to cross Bircham Road in the morning when people were trying to get to the College and the flow of traffic was at its heaviest. The meeting also felt that a crossing between the bus stops would be a good idea for those disembarking from the bus.

Andrew Hadley asked whether a central refuge would make the crossing cost prohibitive. David replied that even for a pelican/zebra crossing a power supply was needed.

The Panel unanimously decided that a crossing was a good idea and needed to be taken forward.

Christine reported that Minehead Hospital would be reducing its number of beds from 17 to 14 as one qualified nurse was required for every seven beds so to reduce the number of qualified staff needed they were decreasing the number of beds accordingly.

**13. Any Other Business**

None.

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

**Future meetings to be held on:**

Wednesday, 10 September 2014 at The Avenue Methodist Church Hall, The Avenue, Minehead at 6.30pm

Wednesday, 10 December 2014 at The Avenue Methodist Church Hall, The Avenue, Minehead at 6.30pm

Wednesday, 11 March 2015 at St Michael the Archangel Church Hall, Quarry Close, Alcombe at 6.30pm