

Minehead Area Panel

Notes of Meeting held on 11 October 2017 at St Michael the Archangel Church Hall, Alcombe

Present:

Cllr Andrew Hadley (Chair)	West Somerset Council
Cllr Mandy Chilcott	West Somerset Council and Somerset County Council
Cllr Maureen Smith	Minehead Town Council and Chair, West Somerset Community Land Trust
David Peake	Somerset County Council Area Highways
Loretta Whetlor	Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC)
PC Joe Sanderson	Avon & Somerset Police
Ray Tew	Minehead Development Trust
Bernard Maynard-Smith	Minehead Development Trust and Engage West Somerset
Alex de Mendoza	Minehead Chamber of Commerce
Peter Broom	Resident & Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Queens Road
Paul Johnson	Resident
Sarah Wilsher	West Somerset Council

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Andrew Hadley welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from James Barrah (Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council), Ron Blundell (Resident), Cllr Gail Everett (Minehead Town Council), Colin Isherwood (Resident), Marcus Kravis (The Arkade), Cllr Christine Lawrence (Somerset County Council), Bridget O'Brien (Resident), Chris Jones (Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue), Sandra Slade (Chair, Minehead Area Panel).

2. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

Issues for Have Your Say, were as follows:

- (a) *Bridget O'Brien had emailed expressing concern about the destruction of adult learning in West Somerset by the massive reduction of funding at the start of the academic year. SSL (formerly Somerset Skills and Learning) faced a financial shortfall of around £3m due to a drop in funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Andrew Hadley announced that in early October SSL had been given a grant of £2.5million – an increase on the £111,000 it had originally been offered but still less than the £3.4million it had been granted last year. Bernard Maynard-Smith added that the extra funding had come from a different source to the £111,000 and that this source would sadly not be available for the 2018/19 academic year. He was also disappointed that the West Somerset College had not added their voice to the protest for further funding.*

Since the meeting Bridget has provided the following information: Thanks to a county wide protest and appeals from Somerset residents SSL has 75% of the funding needed nearly 4 weeks after the start of term. Courses have been cancelled. The Company is restructuring. The future provision in West Somerset is not known yet. Bridgwater

and Taunton are now the closest sites providing GCSE Maths and English. The situation needs monitoring to see how adult learning will be affected in West Somerset.

- (b) *On behalf of Katherine See, Maureen Smith raised the issue of the current problems of parking in Manor Road, which would be exacerbated if new housing was allowed along this road, citing as an example, the recent planning application for a new dwelling at 29 Manor Road (which had been refused by the West Somerset Council's Planning Committee in September). It was noted that the lack of parking and the obstructive parking in Manor Road had been raised at previous Minehead Area Panel meetings, particularly in relation to the difficult passage afforded to emergency vehicles. Andrew Hadley advised that Somerset County Council Highways would continue to be consulted on planning applications and that the problem was often caused by the increasing number of vehicles per household.*
- (c) *Alex de-Mendoza asked for clarification as to when Somerset Waste Partnership's Recycle More scheme would be introduced in West Somerset. Mandy Chilcott advised that timings had slipped. South Somerset had been due to get Recycle More first, in September, but this had not happened due to difficulties with contractors. Also, the existing vehicles were coming to the end of their lives and were to be replaced with new vehicles with more compartments to hold the extra recycled items and allowing sorting to take place at the kerbside, which was more efficient than sorting it back at the depot. Andrew Hadley confirmed that West Somerset Council had signed up to the Recycle More scheme and explained that using the Somerset Waste Partnership to collect the rubbish and recycling was more cost effective than the Local Authority doing it themselves.*

2. Talk by Ryan Kelly, Community Safety Officer for Sedgemoor and West Somerset

Unfortunately, Ryan had had to give his apologies due to the need to attend a meeting in Sedgemoor. He would be attending the Minehead Area Panel meeting on 8 March 2018.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 June 2017

Maureen Smith stated that under 'Matters Arising' it should read: 'Following the discussion on plastic recycling at the last meeting Maureen advised that Somerset Waste Partnership were looking for markets for different plastics.'

Matters Arising

None.

4. Future Chair of the Minehead Area Panel – required for 8 March 2018 meeting onwards

Andrew Hadley explained that Sandra would be stepping down as Chair at the next meeting on 8 March 2018 and thus a replacement Chair was required. He asked that if anyone wanted to be Chair, or had ideas of who could be Chair, to contact Sarah on swwilsher@westsomerset.gov.uk or tel: 01984 600209.

5. Minehead Coastal Community Team – An Update

Andrew Kingston-James, secretary to the Team, had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached). Mandy advised that she had attended the soft launch of the West Coast 360 Tourism and Hospitality Academy programme and to date it was proving successful. She explained that bids to the CIM (Community Impact Mitigation) fund had to meet specific criteria and there was prescriptive guidance on how awarded monies could be spent.

The proposals for the seafront and branding exercises would be open to public consultation. The Leader funding would be used for the re-branding. A branding group had been set up consisting of various local associations/groups and the scheme was currently going out to tender. Nicki MacLean and Robert Downes, officers of West Somerset Council, were leading these projects.

Andrew explained the Business Improvement District Bid, whereby a 1.5% of the business rates from participating businesses would be used to improve the Business Improvement District area within Minehead by providing street furniture, for instance, and holding events. The BID Board would be responsible for determining how the funding was spent. The BID area was Friday Street, Bancks Street, The Parade and The Avenue, the Harbour (where the Old Ship Aground was situated), Butlins, Tesco, Morrisons and Lidl. For the ballot to be successful, 50% of the businesses needed to vote in favour of the BID, along with 50% of the total rateable value of all the business within the BID area. Butlins needed to be on board as 1.5% of their rates would be the largest single contributor to the scheme. Charity shops, if in the BID Area, would need to contribute too. There was no match funding for the BID. It had worked successfully in Weston-Super-Mare and it was the Vice Chair of Minehead Chamber of Commerce, Graham Sizer's idea to introduce the scheme into Minehead.

6. Minehead Development Trust – An Update

Ray Tew apologised for the lack of a report at the last meeting. Due to two key trustees moving out of the area and thus stepping down – Mike Downes and Jenny Lennon-Wood - there had been a change of officers within the Trust. Mike continued to work remotely with the Minehead Information Centre, Richard Robbins was now the Treasurer, Bernard Maynard-Smith, the Secretary and Ray Tew, the Chair.

The decision had been made to give back all the donations that had been made to the Trust. 150 cheques had been written. This was a disappointing decision but the right decision and had resulted in many letters of thanks and offers of future support.

Minehead Development Trust (MDT) remained the legally and financially responsible body for the Minehead Information Centre. The Beach Hotel had removed their coffee area which had enabled the Information Centre to expand their retail function, and thus bring more monies in.

7. Police Report

PC Joe Sanderson had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting. He apologised for the second page of the report not being updated from the last meeting. He then advised of the following:

- A spate of domestic burglaries was taking place in the south of Minehead – Parkhouse Road, Paganel Road, etc. Joe asked for anyone who had details of suspicious activities to come forward and urged everyone to be vigilant and take security precautions. He described the burglars as naive but forensically aware.
- Enforcement action was to be taken against obstructive and illegal parking, particularly around Minehead First School. In answer to a query Joe advised that blocking a vehicle on a driveway was illegal.
- Monthly meetings were taking place with other agencies, schools, etc. This was the oneteam multi-agency approach and was proving successful. Mandy Chilcott and Andrew Hadley both expressed an interest to be involved in the meetings and Joe agreed to pass this onto PS Stuart Williams.
- Early in 2018 the Williton police officers would be moving to the District Council premises in Williton. Joe and three PCSOs were to reside in Minehead, but Joe was unsure of where this would be. It was noted that in the past it had always been agreed that a local cell would reside in Minehead. However, this was no longer the case.

8. Highway Matters

David Peake provided the following report:

Completed Highway Works:

- Carriageway patching on the A358 at Sampford Brett.
- Carriageway resurfacing on the A39 Bank Street and Priest Street in Williton.

Ongoing Highway Works:

- Drainage improvement works on the Blue Anchor Road in Chapel Cleeve with temporary road closures from 2 to 20 October.
- Kerbing and drainage works on Clanville Road in Minehead with temporary road closures from 2 to 6 October and 9 to 12 October.
- Carriageway resurfacing on Clanville Road in Minehead with temporary road closures from from 2 to 6 October and 9 to 12 October.

Future Highway Works:

- Drainage improvement works on the A39 at Dragon Cross in Bilbrook with temporary road closures between 9.30am and 3.30pm from 6 to 10 November, 13 to 17 November, 20 to 24 November and 27 to 30 November. *Please note that these works have now been re-scheduled for early 2018.*
- Carriageway resurfacing on the A39 from Washford Cross to Bowhayes Cross with temporary road closures between 7pm and 7am from 20 to 22 November.
- Carriageway resurfacing on the A39 from Washford to Washford Cross with temporary road closures between 7pm and 7am from 22 to 25 November.
- Carriageway resurfacing on the B3191 Swain Street (Anchor Street to railway bridge) with temporary road closures between 6.30pm and 11.30pm from 27 to 28 November.

Other

There would be a gritting training day on 13 October. Usually three routes for gritting ran from the Minehead depot but this year a fourth route would be added which usually ran from the Bridgwater depot.

David explained that the drainage improvement works on the A39 at Dragon Cross in October was building upon work that had been done in 2014 and was being funded by the Somerset Rivers Authority. The official diversion would be via Raleighs Cross and Andrew Hadley explained that this was because the diversion route needed to be on a similar grade of road as the closed highway. However, the Watchet road would be open. He expressed concern about how the bus services and the Monday and Friday Butlins traffic would be impacted. It was also noted that it would take longer for the police to drive to the cells in Bridgwater, leaving Minehead bereft of officers for longer. David advised that Butlins would be informed and traffic warnings would be set up well in advance.

A resident mentioned that there was the problem of signage being covered up by foliage and this was noted by David.

9. Burning Issues

Chris Jones had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached).

10. Town Council Update

Sue Sanders had provided a written report which was circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached) and was read by Andrew Hadley to those present.

Maureen Smith reported that more flood wardens were needed and a plea for people to come forward would be put on the Minehead Town Council Facebook page. Andrew offered for a flier to be added to the Minehead Events group page. Peter Broom said that he had volunteered to be a flood warden but had not heard from the Town Council. It transpired that the Town Council had been trying to contact Peter but had an out-of-date email address. Maureen would talk to Peter after the meeting.

11. District Council Update

A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting (see attached) and was read by Andrew Hadley to those present.

Mandy Chilcott reported that there had been no response from the Secretary of State in respect of the formation of the new Council. The Councils were still looking at transforming and more IT was being brought in to allow customers to self serve, although it was recognised that not all customers would be able to or would want to do this.

The largest project in West Somerset to be awarded CIM funding was the Williton Pavilion with a grant of over £1 million. They had also been successful with Lottery funding.

Next year 1% of Council Tax would go to the Somerset Rivers Authority. This was to be collected by West Somerset Council. Work was being done on the Butlins dyke and attenuation ponds plus flood mitigation works on Warren Road.

West Somerset Opportunity Area Plan

West Somerset was one of the first six Opportunity Areas (along with Blackpool, Derby, North Yorkshire Coast, Norwich and Oldham) and would receive funding from the Department for Education for research into apprenticeships and training for young people. There was a need to set up a model that would continue post funding. The West Coast 360 Tourism and Hospitality Academy programme, for example, fitted into the Opportunity Area Plan. The four priorities for the West Somerset Opportunity Area for 2017/18 are:

- *Priority 1 – Every child has a great start in life:* children in West Somerset will begin school with a strong start, with the proportion achieving a good level of development rising to above the current national average.
- *Priority 2 – Educational excellence in the classroom:* every pupil in West Somerset will make strong progress in school and ensure that attainment of disadvantaged pupils in particular is in the top half of performance in England.
- *Priority 3 – Transition to adulthood:* every young person in West Somerset will be inspired to achieve the best possible education outcomes after the age of sixteen. We will prioritise the access of disadvantaged young people into higher education and high level technical routes at the same rate as in the top half of England.
- *Priority 4 - Skills for employment and business:* every young person in West Somerset should be equipped to succeed in the world of work. This is why we will ensure that every school pupil in West Somerset gets four excellent experiences of work and will invest in adult skills.

These priorities could be changed for 2018/19. The social mobility plan for the West Somerset Opportunity Area can be viewed at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/650231/Social_Mobility_Delivery_Plan_West_Somerset.pdf

The Education Secretary's press release can be viewed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-launched-to-drive-social-mobility-in-opportunity-areas>

The meeting noted that the West Somerset College farm had been closed and the animals sold. However, the farm had not been sold and if the current situation changed the farm could be re-opened.

Somerset West Lottery

Andrew Hadley reported that there were two lottery pots between West Somerset and Taunton Deane and that they would be kept separate. A lottery ticket cost £1 with 50p going to a specific good cause of choice and 10p to a pot of good causes. Payment could easily be made via direct debit.

Further information on the Somerset West Lottery

In September 2017 Somerset West Lottery payments to local good causes in Taunton Deane and West Somerset had amounted to £3,728.40. This was an increase of £612.90 to local good causes on the August payment. In West Somerset Watchet Bowling Club, Compass Disability Services and Home Start West Somerset were well on their way to 200 ticket sales. 83 good causes were registered, including seven new ones in September.

Each week, the winning numbers were published on the Somerset West Lottery home page: <https://www.somersetwestlottery.co.uk/>

The prize of a Christmas hamper had kindly been sponsored by Mr Pring at Warren Bay Holiday Village: <http://www.warrenbayholidayvillage.co.uk/> In order for players to take part in the bolt-on draw on 2 December for this prize, they would need to be registered to play by Friday 10 November as it could take up to 14 days for the banks to clear some payments, such as direct debits.

Somerset West Local Community Funds (LCFs)

The application process for the Somerset West Local Community Funds was currently being worked on. These Funds comprised the 10 pence from every ticket sold and players who elected to buy a ticket for LCF as their good cause. The LCFs would be launched once £4,000 had been raised, which if present sales continued, would be in December 2017.

September Payment for Local Community Funds

Taunton Deane Local Community Fund would receive £1,506.60 and West Somerset Local Community Fund would receive £833.80.

Helpline

Any queries regarding the Somerset West Lottery should be sent to the helpline: 0300 30 20 666 or email: support@somersetwestlottery.co.uk

12. County Council Update

Mandy Chilcott reported the following:

- There was currently ongoing consultation on the children centres within Somerset. Details could be found on her Facebook page or at: <http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk/consult.ti/FamilySupportChildrensCentres/consultationHome>
- Each Somerset County Councillor could put forward two schemes to the Council's Small Improvement Scheme. Mandy had talked to all the Minehead Town Councillors and the Police and was looking at building a scheme around Minehead First School in respect of traffic congestion and parking. She was also looking at a kerb dropping scheme around the town to allow greater access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. She was talking to David Peake about this.
- The next tranche of CIM funding was now open. To date £3.5 million to £4 million was still available out of the original £7 million, administered by West Somerset Council. Also, £12 million over the next eight years could now be applied for. Somerset Community Foundation were administering this next tranche of funding. Rather than different websites serving each of the two funds a new website would be going live over the next few weeks. The contact officer was Lisa Redston at West Somerset Council.

13. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

14. Dates & Venues of Future Meetings

Future meeting to be held on:

Thursday, 8 March 2018 at 6.30pm at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead (provisional)