

Williton, Watchet & Quantocks Area Panel

Notes of Meeting held on 16 December 2014

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

Present

E May (WSC); D Talling and P. Grandfield (Holford PC); V. Boxall (Stogursey PC); G Tizzard (West Quantoxhead PC); PC Andy Ware (Avon and Somerset Constabulary); D. Westcott (WSC); S. Dowding (WSC); B Cleere (WSC); S. Goss (WSC); HJW Davies (WSC); Tony Mann (Magna Housing); David Peake (SCC Highways); Ross Edwards (EDF); L. Whetlor (Watchet Town Council); J. Koch and R. Woods (Williton PC); J. Richards (WACET); Naomi Griffith & Georgie Grant (Onion Collective); Sue Gannon and Phil Gannon (Members of the public)

1. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

Holford PC representatives expressed concern about the charges levied by West Somerset Council for uncontested elections and how the figures had been arrived at. Brendan Cleere promised to get the matter looked into a response would be provided.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from S de Renzy-Martin (Watchet TC); A. Knight (WSC), P. Murphy (WSC); G. Bigwood & A Stivins (Williton PC); P. Gill (Kilve PC)

3. Notes of the Meeting held on 16 September 2014 and Matters Arising

The notes of the above meeting were confirmed as a correct record.

4. Police Report

A verbal report was received from PC Andy Ware as follows:

- There had been a number of burglaries from outbuildings in November, affecting Sampford Brett, Tower Hill (Williton) and more recently Allerford and Bossington.
- The recent drink drive campaign had resulted in only one positive result from 570 breath tests.
- Alcohol awareness week was also under way with a spotlight on alcohol related offences.
- The Police and PCSOs were working with others to deal with anti-social behaviour in Stogursey.

5. Magna West Somerset Housing Association

Tony Mann (Chief Executive of Magna) circulated reports and provided a useful update on the work of the Housing Association.

Tony explained that Magna was working to a 30 year investment and maintenance programme and worked closely with WSC on letting of homes via the *Homefinder Somerset* database. 64 properties were let to new tenants last year, representing 9% of total housing stock).

Demand for properties was particularly high in Minehead, compared to other areas in West Somerset.

Magna were looking at use of surplus land to build new affordable homes and market testing was currently under way on a number of sites in this Panel area, including Watchet, Williton, Holford and Stogursey.

Holford PC would be contacting Magna to see if ongoing issues relating to maintenance of a play area could be resolved.

6. Highways Report

David Peake provided an update on current works (the update is attached to these minutes).

Ross Edwards (EDF) also attended to provide an update on the planned works to construct a new roundabout at Washford Cross. Construction would begin in January 2015 and was scheduled to run for c. 12 months, with a pause in works during the summer period to provide an open route during the main holiday season.

Concern was expressed by Mr Gannon that plans for the works had not been seen. Mr Edwards provided these plans and committed to maintain open communication with interested parties throughout the construction period.

7. Watchet Regeneration Project

Naomi Griffith and Georgie Grant from Onion Collective attended to provide an update on plans for Watchet Regeneration.

Plans were circulated which focused primarily on the regeneration of East Quay and the Boat Museum area. The East Quay proposals had been costed at approximately £2.5 million and opportunities for external funding were being pursued. Discussions were also under way with the various owners of the site, including WSC and the marina operator. Subject to funding and satisfactory progress with discussions with land owners, the East Quay project could begin in 2 years. The Boat Museum project was anticipated to start in September 2015.

8. West Somerset Council

Brendan Cleere reported on the following:

Watchet Harbour Road – work has finished on repairs to the wall, which had recently been hit by a vehicle.

Watchet Harbour/Marina – WSC was working closely with the marina operator to resolve issues with the dredging of the old harbour. Works to repair the bracket fixings on the impounding wall would commence shortly.

Roughmoor Enterprise Centre – all units currently occupied.

Williton Public Conveniences – the adjoining workspace was now rented following refurbishment.

9. Date of Next Meeting

4th March 2015, 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.