

**WILLITON, WATCHET & QUANTOCKS AREA PANEL
NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2012 AT
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WILLITON AT 7.00p.m.**

Present

Terry Ayre (representing David Talling) – Holford PC

Karen Keane – Kilve PC

S. Saunders – Sampford Brett PC

G. May – Sampford Brett PC

Val Boxall – Stogursey PC

Sally de Renzy-Martin – Watchet TC

Janet Ransom – West Quantoxhead PC

Jenny Koch – Williton PC

John Richards – WACET

David Masters – Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Richard Newby – SCC

Stuart Dowding – WSC

Dave Westcott – WSC

A Knight – WSC

Eddie May – WSC

Adrian Dyer – WSC

No members of the public were in attendance.

Item 4 of the agenda was brought forward.

4. Presentation on behalf of Alzheimer's Society by Steve Haigh

Mr. Haigh informed us that the brain is at the peak of its performance at the age of 22 – from then on, we lose more brain cells. If we have more than 15 – 20 periods of forgetfulness per day, this is a sign that we may have Alzheimer's disease. It is at this point that we should visit our GP. In Somerset, people are less inclined to visit their doctor, particularly with regard to mental problems. This is a challenge for West Somerset. People feel that there is a stigma if one is known to suffer dementia. However, these days there are tablets which can significantly improve health and, in addition, support is available.

It is important to get symptoms identified as soon as possible as early diagnosis is the key. Therefore, there is a need to raise awareness. Alzheimer's is a disease of the brain which causes dementia. 1 in 4 cases of dementia is caused by Alzheimer's. Although we are living longer, our brains are not able to keep up with the increase. The NHS believe that the numbers of sufferers will rise and this will become a problem. We need, therefore, to address these problems now and put in place support to help people to continue living in their own homes.

Within the Alzheimer's Society there are two types of personnel available to help – Dementia Support Workers who advise and provide physical support, and Dementia Advisors who can help with entitlement to financial benefits. Anyone can contact the Alzheimer's Society free of charge if there is a problem in their family.

One of the projects which has been very successful is the Singing for the Brain group which is based in Minehead. This is a social occasion as well as aiding breathing and physical movement by singing together as a group. Volunteers are available to encourage members and to offer any advice which might help to solve problems. If the Williton area wanted to have a group based locally, the Alzheimer's Society would be pleased to help with the organisation. The Society would like to ask parish councils to consider the need for dementia services when putting together their parish plans.

In Somerset, 8,500 people have been diagnosed. However, it is estimated that there are 17,000 people walking about undiagnosed.

1. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

Karen Keene raised concerns regarding the number of parties/raves which have been taking place in the glens locally. These have been going on into the early hours of the morning and, in addition to drinking, are creating considerable noise. The police are now aware of the location of these incidents and, if they occur again and the public let the police know, they will respond.

Terry Ayres said that speeding is a concern to Holford residents. The road into the village is steeper than it looks and, therefore, motorists do inadvertently break the speed limit. The police have been doing checks. They are trying to liaise with Holford and Kilve to get people involved in carry out speed checks. Terry suggested that it might help if there were signs placed at 100 and 200 yards, indicating that the motorist is approaching a 30 mph zone.

2. Apologies for absence

J. Tap – Watchet TC
C. Bigwood – Williton PC
Iain Porter – Quantock Hills AONB
Laura Johns – Somerset Rural Youth Project
Sue Goss – WSC
Chris Morgan – WSC
H.J.W. Davies – WSC
Antony Trollope-Bellew – WSC and SCC
Chris Warren

3. Notes of the Meeting held on 6 December 2011 and Matters Arising

The notes of the meeting held on 6 December 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

5. Police Report

PC David Masters gave his report as follows:

Hinkley Point

A recent protest took place at Hinkley Point on 9/10 March. This was to protest against the building of HPC and coincided with the anniversary of the Fukushima disaster. Police applied large resources to the event which went on throughout the night. Only two arrests were made. This was a huge success as approximately 60 people turned up following large media coverage.

Op Grasp

With the lighter nights, we continue to spread the word about home security, especially sheds and outhouses.

Property marking scheme is open to all and can be arranged by appointment with local stations or beat teams. Contact via phone number 101.

Strategic points have been set at various locations around the West Somerset area which cover the arterial routes, rural locations and villages. Stop checks and searches have provided useful intelligence reports on suspect nominals and movements.

ASB

With the onset of lighter nights, we expect to receive an increase in reported ASB. We will continue to deal with issues and look to involve the local communities and partner agencies as a long term solution.

The Croft – Williton

The old care home site, Croft House, has a number of squatters. This problem does not have a quick fix. Police have no powers to evict. However, extra attention is being made to the site and surrounding area. SCC has issued police with permission to go on site in order to prevent and detect crime. As this is private property, legislation is restricted. The beat team are aware and deal robustly with any reports. Police are being updated by county and are aware that they are dealing through civil routes.

Longlakes – Williton

Non-dwelling burglary was reported and one male was arrested and is on bail, pending further enquiries.

Watchet

Over the weekend, Watchet suffered a serious assault within Swain Street. This had crime implications and police arrested 4 persons following investigations. All 4 are on police bail pending further enquiries. All 4 have bail conditions that they are not to enter Watchet.

Community Speed watch

Speed watch has been undertaken in the Holford area with offenders being dealt with appropriately. Kilve community speed watch is to be given a rebirth and is currently work in progress. Speed detection has been set up at various sites and one motorist was clocked at 92 mph on the Blue Anchor to Watchet coast road.

Crime

Detection rates are currently running at 40.4% - which is up from 36.9%, year to date.

Members of the Panel had several questions as follows:

Jenny Koch asked whether the several thefts which had occurred recently in Williton were connected. PC Masters said that the police were aware of this possibility and were pursuing enquiries.

John Richards voiced his concerns regarding troublesome youngsters in Watchet. PC Masters advised him to contact the local beat team.

Sally de Renzy-Martin said that many events, including the Music Festival, take place annually in Watchet. She was concerned that last year local police leave coincided with the festival. She

asked that this could be better co-ordinated this year as she felt that such events need coverage from people with local knowledge of the area.

Janet Sansom raised her concerns regarding the diversions which have been put in place as a result of the roadworks at Washford Cross. PC Masters said that he was aware of the long delays which had been caused in Watchet and that the diverted route was very long. He said that motorists' satnavs will always take people back to the A39. In addition, many of our local lanes are not able to take such large amounts of traffic. He said that a lot of work had gone into this potential traffic problem and, unfortunately, the long way round was the best that could be done, given the local roads.

Dave Westcott felt that a sign was needed at Blue Anchor to Dragon Cross. There was no police presence during the first week in order to move the traffic and, consequently, many people drove on to Watchet which caused lengthy waits.

Richard Newby stated that when there are planned closures, local people often ignore the diversions and use the routes they know. This can help to alleviate traffic built up. However, he said that when there are emergency closures, the issue of life and limb is paramount and diversions are set up according to circumstances. Mr. Newby said that there is now a dedicated team at County Hall which is run by Steve Blackmore. They are preparing a "master plan" and he will present drawings and plans at the next meeting as they should all be completed by then and money has been earmarked for this project.

Stuart Dowding questioned why major incidents on A or B roads are not always shown on the motorway. Such decisions are taken by the police and are only indicated for major or life threatening incidents.

Planned closures are not usually signed on the motorway unless the closure will cause major problems.

Mr. Dowding said that there used to be an active working party which was very successful in dealing with such issues. However, this has now been allowed to cease.

6. Highways Report

Planned Works in Watchet, Williton & Quantocks Panel Area West Somerset House, Williton 27 March 2012

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Completed						
SCC	Williton	A39 Bank Street	Footway resurfacing outside Nat West Bank	Feb	Feb	1 day
SCC	Watchet	Mill Lane	Drainage works.	Feb	Feb	2 days
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Minehead Road, Bilbrook	Drainage work. Temporary road closures between 09.00 and 15.00.	6 Mar 7 Mar 8 Mar 13 Mar 14 Mar	6 Mar 7 Mar 8 Mar 13 Mar 14 Mar	6 hours 6 hours 6 hours 6 hours 6 hours
SCC	Williton	A39 near Washford Cross	Carriageway repairs. Temporary traffic signals.	12 Mar	16 Mar	1 week
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 east of Washford	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in evening/at night.	20 Mar	22 Mar	2 nights
Ongoing						
SCC	Williton	Doniford Road	Embankment and verge repairs. Temporary road closure.	26 Mar	30 Mar	1 week
Future						
SCC	Watchet	Kingsland	Kerb and drainage repairs.	2 Apr	5 Apr	1 week
SCC	Watchet	Kingsland	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures.	19 Apr	20 Apr	2 days
SCC	Sampford Brett	A358 Taunton Road	Drainage works. Temporary traffic signals.	23 Apr	10 May	3 weeks
SCC	Crowcombe	A358 Crowcombe Bypass	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in evening/at night.	29 June	30 June	1 night
SCC	Williton	A358 High Street	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in evenings.	27 Sept	29 Sept	2 evenings
SCC	WW&Q Area	Various	2012 Carriageway Surface Dressing Programme.	May	Aug	4 months
SCC	Sampford Brett	A358 WSR Black Arch Bridge	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in evening/at night.	To be arranged		2 nights
Other						
SCC	West Somerset Area	West Somerset Area	2013 Carriageway Surface Dressing Programme. Please be thinking about suggestions and let us know at the next Watchet, Williton & Quantocks Area Panel Meeting in June.			

7. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

No-one was available to attend.

8. West Somerset Council

Adrian Dyer covered the following topics:

East Wharf, Watchet

A proposed meeting with the marina operator had not been successful. WSC will endeavour to "sanitise" this site either with or without the consent of the operator. This is prior to development of the site and WSC is looking to demolish the existing warehouse.

Hinkley Point C

The preliminary meeting of the IPC was held on 22nd March. The issues which WSC would like to see addressed are:

- a) An open floor hearing in Stogursey.
- b) IPC inspectors to make site visit before works start.

- c) EDF will no longer fund the two district councils to carry out their investigations regarding the proposals listed in the DCO application. As a result the district councils will be unable to do a good job without funds. The district councils have, therefore, asked for an extension to the time period.

WSC has been speaking with agents regarding the proposal for a supermarket in Williton.

Smithy Close site has been constructed with 3 affordable houses. There has been a considerable amount of interest in these.

Talks are taking place regarding the provision of affordable housing in Crowcombe.

The Rural Housing Survey will look at the housing needs of West Quantoxhead.

On 4th April, a report will be submitted to cabinet of WSC. District councils will no longer be obliged to maintain land owned by SCC. The SCC will not fund this land to the full extent.

9. Note taker for the next meeting

No one volunteered to take notes at the next meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Despite the agenda stating that the next meeting would be held on 12th June 2012, the Chairman said that this was not confirmed and that the date of the next meeting was unknown. He said that when this had been arranged, everyone would be informed.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.