

Minehead Area Panel

Notes of meeting held on 11 September 2013 at St Michael the Archangel Church Hall, Quarry Close, Minehead

Present:

Sandra Slade (Chair)	Member of the Public
Stephen Hooper	Minehead Vision Manager
Tony Murray	Magna West Somerset
Adrian Dyer	West Somerset Council
Penny James	West Somerset Council/Taunton Deane Borough Council
Cllr Mandy Chilcott	West Somerset Council
Cllr Maureen Smith	West Somerset Council/ Transition Minehead & Alcombe
Cllr Andrew Hadley	West Somerset Council
Cllr David Sanders	West Somerset Council
Cllr Richard Lillis	West Somerset Council
Cllr Karen Mills	West Somerset Council
Cllr Paul Grierson	Minehead Town Council/West Somerset Council
Cllr Gail Herbert	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Ron Bridle	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Marcus Kravis	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Roger Thomas	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Christine Lawrence	Somerset County Council
Cllr Terry Venner	Somerset County Council
David Peake	Somerset County Council Area Highways
PC Mark Curran	Avon & Somerset Police
Graham Sizer	Minehead Development Trust/Minehead Chamber of Commerce
Daniel Cross	Minehead Development Trust
John Clyde-Smith	Beach Hut Minehead Ltd
Clara Lawrie	About My Area website
Fay Dyke	Revive Minehead
Napoleon Wilcox	Webbers Estate Agents
Warren Eglise	Lorna Doone Guest House
Mr Ramsey-Read	Elliott Hyde Ltd
Mrs Ramsey-Read	Elliott Hyde Ltd
Anne Clarke	Manor Road/Staunton Lane Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
Tony White	Minehead Conservation Society
Jan Dawson	Resident
Dave Gardner	Resident
John Vicary	Resident
Brenda Maitland-Walker	Resident
Colin Isherwood	Resident
Cynthia Stevens	Resident
Cath Isherwood	Resident
Diane Partridge	Resident
Dave Voisey	Resident
Sarah Wilsher	West Somerset Council

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Sandra Slade welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr David Archer (Minehead Town Council), Jenny Gateau (Resident), Chris Jones (Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service), Jenny Lennon-Wood (Minehead Development Trust), Meigan Lyons

(Resident), Paul Rushforth (Minehead Middle School), Cllr Val Welch (Minehead Town Council).

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

A number of issues were raised as follows:

- (a) *Cynthia Stevens was concerned that the pavements either side of Staunton Road were very uneven, which caused problems for pedestrians particularly the elderly and disabled.*

ACTION: David Peake advised that a safety inspection would be undertaken and any defects found which were not up to the required safety standard would be repaired. Unfortunately, there was no budget at the present time for total resurfacing of the pavements.

- (b) *Cynthia also expressed her concern with serious/racing cyclists not using the cycle path between Carhampton and Dunster, which caused traffic to be held up as cars and lorries could not pass them.*

Mark Curran advised that cyclists could use the roads and that pressure could not be put on them to use available cycle paths. Motorists were able to overtake at Dunster straight.

- (c) *Cynthia expressed her disappointment at the lack of access points along the seafront to the beach and high seating to see over the sea wall.*

Adrian Dyer explained that there were three viewing bays along the seafront with entry to the beach. The sea wall enhancement work meant fewer entry points were available. Also, there used to be high seating but the Health & Safety Executive had authorised that it should be removed to prevent accidents.

- (d) *John Vicary raised the issue of the need for a hardstanding at the bus stop on Bircham Road near the West Somerset College, which he had raised at previous meetings.*

David Peake advised that he was talking to the 'Transporting Somerset' section of the County Council and if they could provide the funding the work would be done. Cllr Christine Lawrence asked David for a costing for the work.

ACTION: David Peake to provide Cllr Christine Lawrence with a costing for the work.

- (e) *John also raised the issue of the flood of water on ground close to the West Somerset College and the question of land ownership.*

David Peake felt that the water would have come from part of Manor Brook and the land would probably be owned by the College. Brenda Maitland-Walker informed the meeting that she had approached Peter Owen from Somerset County Highways on the matter of who owned the culvert and also felt that the College should be contacted in the first instance.

- (f) *Paul Grierson reported that the drains in Staunton Road had been blocked for five weeks and despite calls to the appropriate number, no action had been taken.*

ACTION: David Peake to investigate.

- (g) *Paul Grierson expressed concern that following the last meeting no action had been taken to return two parking bays to the use of residents in Staunton Lane following the completion of ditch repair works.*

ACTION: David Peake and Paul Grierson to talk about the issue after the meeting.

- (h) *Paul reported that the brook down Manor Road had collapsed in three places.*

It was noted that this would no doubt be linked to point (e) above. After a discussion it was agreed that:

ACTION: Cllr Christine Lawrence would look into the issue.

ACTION: David Peake to investigate ownership of the brook and whether it would affect the safety of the highway.

- (i) *Gail Herbert reported that the drains on the seafront were choked with sand.*

Terry Venner stated that he had informed both West Somerset Council and Somerset County Council of this but to no avail. Mandy Chilcott advised that it was a design fault with the drains that they were not constructed to take sand, and it was noted that the problem continued due to lack of funds to clear the drains.

3. Presentation by Stephen Hooper, Minehead Vision Manager

Stephen explained that there were a number of 'threads' to his vision, as follows:

Minehead Heritage Thread – The successful embryonic Harbour Festival was part of this thread. Between 2,000 to 3,000 people had attended the Festival and it had led to an increased turnover by businesses of 600%. Since the event traders had noticed that local residents were visiting the harbour more and the profile of the harbour was growing. An application had been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for monies to enable the interpretation of the harbour and its history. Heritage crafts, such as the Tall Ships, had not been in the harbour for many years and bringing in the Irene had proved that the shingle bank clearance was working, a very expensive museum piece could sit safely in the bottom of the harbour and the that the harbour could ably accommodate visiting craft. Talks were now being undertaken with Bristol regarding bringing other craft into Minehead harbour and the establishment of a coastal heritage trail.

John Clyde-Smith asked whether Stephen had approached any of the heritage craft owners in Wales that he had given him the contact details for. Stephen advised that this had been done and, although too late for the Harbour Festival, it was hoped to work with them in the future.

The ex-Visitor Interpretation & Information Centre (VIIC) on the seafront had been used during the Summer by ten artists in which to exhibit their work. This had led to an increase in footfall. The siting of the arts market at the Harbour Festival and on the forecourt to the old hospital, together with the exhibitions in the VIIC had doubled the confidence of local artists to engage with the local community and visitors.

Victorian Minehead Strand – This strand could be seen at an exhibition at the former VIIC from 15 to 29 September, where the town's architectural and social development in the Victorian era would be displayed as a 'pop-up museum'.

Horticultural Thread – This strand was taking place at Clanville with development work being undertaken at Clanville Nursery for the Clanville Secret Garden. Consent for husbandry/works to trees was awaited from the Council's Planning Department

and once approval had been obtained the work could be done. After the tree work pathways would be laid and community engagement take place to bring in volunteers to help develop the garden. It was thought that the Secret Garden would open in late Winter 2013 or early Spring 2014. However, Stephen felt that the evolutionary process itself was more important than the outcome.

Sandra thanked Stephen for his interesting and informative report and noted that Stephen's role was to look at the strategic long-term view for Minehead.

4. Magna West Somerset Update by Tony Murray, Director of Magna WS

Tony spoke to his report that had been previously circulated (see attached). He reported that Magna West Somerset operated from two offices in Williton and the 90 staff managed their 2300 homes, about 25% of which were in Minehead and Alcombe. A planned maintenance programme was undertaken on an annual basis. 160 properties were let per year, 38 of them in Minehead and Alcombe. In addition to maintaining properties, Magna also spent time trying to build new affordable housing – 400 new homes had been acquired or built in recent years.

Thirty-three affordable homes for rent would become available at the Brackensfield site in Alcombe (near Silvermead and accessed from Marshfield Road) between January and June 2014. These would be a range of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes, plus seven 2-bedroom bungalows to attract the elderly to downsize thus freeing up larger houses for families. Local people (ie Minehead and Alcombe and surrounding parishes) would get preference. During the construction period, etc. Magna was working to accommodate the concerns of neighbours in order to minimise the disruption to the local community and the 53 car parking spaces for the new homes would help to reduce the impact on parking in the area.

Unfortunately, Government grants for new housing developments had been cut from 50% of the cost of building a new home to nearer 15% so Magna had sold some empty properties in order to help build the new ones. An average rent for a Magna property was £83 per week, which was about 60% of rent in the private sector. However, in order to meet a condition of the Homes and Communities Agency grant the rent for the new homes would be £115 to £142 per week, which was about 80% of rent in the private sector.

The energy efficiency of Magna homes had been improved and where there was no gas connection, air source heat pumps had been installed. Gas supply was connected during 2012 to 108 homes on the Cuckoo Meadow estate and part of Marley Close in Alcombe with the aid of grants from Wales and West Utilities. This had greatly helped with the problems of condensation and mould and had reduced the tenant's running costs.

Tony added that neighbourhood inspection walkabouts with PCSOs, Councillors and a selection of tenants were undertaken on an annual basis and local interested people were invited to join in. (A schedule for September and October 2013 and February and March 2014 can be found attached to Tony's report).

Maureen Smith thanked Tony and Magna for getting the gas supply into Cuckoo Meadow and advised that the Energy Centre in Summerland Road car park, which was run by Forum 21 and Transition Minehead and Alcombe, tended to be visited by people who were living in converted flats with domestic heating which was not environmentally friendly or energy saving and thus increased fuel poverty.

Paul Grierson admitted that he had been opposed to the Silvermead development due to the parking issues, disruption to local people, etc. but did concede that the

contractors were very good and local people were generally happy with the development.

Karen Mills expressed concern at the reforms of 80% rent on a new development, which was 20% more than previously. Tony stated that 66% of tenants were entitled to full or part housing benefit and that private tenants paid more rent for poorer quality homes. Karen was also concerned that as some of the new affordable homes in Porlock with 80% rents were still vacant, the same could happen in Alcombe. Tony felt that this was unlikely as Porlock suffered from higher private sector rent values than Minehead and Alcombe.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 June 2013

Matters of Accuracy

Item 3 – “Eventually with the assistance of Cllr David Sanders, a SID was due to be installed in The Parks/Woodcombe area on 15 July 2013” – David Sanders advised that this should read Cllr David Archer. With this amendment the Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Item 2(d) – Sandra, on behalf of Minehead Area Panel, to send letters to the Post Office and ASDA in Taunton expressing the Panel’s concern: Sandra reported that she had written to both the Post Office and ASDA, but had received no replies. Anne Clarke advised that these delivery vehicles continued to speed through Alcombe Combe and Manor Road.

Item 2(d) continued – Sue Sanders to further investigate sleeping policemen/speed humps and a Speed Indicator Device (SID): Paul Grierson advised that a Speed Indicator Device would be installed at Alcombe Combe/Manor Road in October.

Item 2(f) - Adrian Dyer to look into the issue of closing the Warren Road car park later in the evenings or even keeping it open 24/7: Adrian informed the meeting that after speaking to Julian Highfield, Resort Director, Butlins were now responsible for opening and closing the car park. The car park would remain open until 10pm as long as the boy racers did not return.

Item 3 – Appearance of the SID at The Parks/Woodcombe: Following early problems experienced with the siting of the SID, which had been resolved, the results obtained by the device meant that the location would be included in Somerset County Council’s SID programme and therefore a SID would be installed on a regular basis for two weeks at a time.

Item 7 – David Peake to look into the lack of road markings at Tesco, Stevenson Way and Hawkmoor: David advised that there was no accident report for this area and hence road markings were not required.

6. Update from Cllr Christine Lawrence, County Councillor for Dunster & Alcombe (Electoral Division)

Christine reported the following:

- John Osman, the Leader of Somerset County Council, together with a team of Officers would be visiting Williton on 18 September and Wellington Square in Minehead on 27 September as part of the Council’s “Listening, Learning and Changing” tour. As £100 million needed to be cut from the budget they would be talking about budgetary issues and obtaining feedback from members of the public on service areas and the impact of cuts.

- A planning application for 35 dwellings at Townsend Farm, Carhampton (ref: 3/05/13/006) could be viewed on West Somerset Council's website. The application was due to be determined by the Council's Planning Committee on 26 September. Christine pointed out that such a development may seriously affect traffic along the A39 and urged those concerned to make a representation.
- Details of the Hinkley Point C Connection Project for the pylons were now available on www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk For those wishing to get involved further the nearest information hub could be found at 7 Fore Street, Bridgwater, TA6 3NF from Monday to Friday 12noon to 3pm and on Saturday 10am to 2pm.
- Cllr Terry Venner and Cllr Christine Lawrence could each provide a grant of up to £250 from the County Council's health and wellbeing pot. However, these grants could only be used to fund a new group or activity.

7. Minehead Visioning Group – an update

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

- Minehead Visioning Group (MVG) had discussed setting up a separate Town team sub-group of the Minehead Visioning Group to include a stronger community/commercial element. Following discussion it was thought that this could lead to duplication, and further stretching of resource, and that MVG already behaved like many of the Portas Town Teams, and more effectively than many. Therefore, instead, it was agreed to widen representation of the Group to include Revive Minehead (community) and Minehead Business & Tourism Association (commercial).
- Regular updates were provided at the MVG meetings from the Minehead Information Centre, Minehead Events and Minehead Development Trust.
- At the last MVG meeting a lengthy report and update had been given by the Minehead Vision Manager including a presentation on the impact of the Harbour Festival.

8. Police Report

PC Mark Curran reported the following:

- Minehead/West Somerset continued to be a low crime area. Recent activities included seven acts of damage, two thefts from shops, four assaults, two drug-related offences, two knife incidents, six noise disorders in relation to licensing and four thefts of parts of motor vehicles.
- Staffing levels were being reviewed. Changes had been proposed to Minehead Police Station but these would not now be implemented and instead the status quo maintained.
- Extra police officers were being made available for badger cull issues.
- The pubwatch and shopwatch schemes were to be merged and bans from pubs were to include off-licences. It was noted that there was no nationally set under-age pub ban and that the Queens Hall was the only public house in Minehead not a member of the pubwatch scheme.
- Road fatalities continued to be an ongoing concern.

Gail Herbert asked for further details on the recent vandalism to the Rose Garden. Mark replied that he did not have any information as yet as he had been unaware of the crime until he had read about it on Facebook. He would be investigating it shortly.

Mark further reported that:

- He and PC Charlie Fitzpatrick had recently visited the Beach Hotel in connection with the plans put forward by the YMCA. Steamers Bar would close and there would be no nightclub. There would be a restaurant run by West Somerset College. Accommodation at the back of the building would be available for YMCA use and at the front there would be hotel accommodation for guests. There would also be a community use/function area. The Police were in favour of these proposals, particularly as Lambrook House in Tregonwell Road had improved significantly under the change of ownership with the 24/7 care implemented by the YMCA.

NB: Planning application for the Beach Hotel has the reference: 3/21/13/077 and can be viewed on the West Somerset Council website as follows:

<https://www.westsomerset.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?jsessionid=30F92EC0E6D708710A7EBD3037CF3FFF?action=firstPage>

- There were problems with boy racers at Station Terrace, but unfortunately the Police had never caught them in the act and only seen the evidence of skid marks, etc. PC Mark Middleton-Smith would be collecting data on licence plates, etc. from the local residents.

Mark left copies of the local policing plan: 'Somerset West Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017: Supporting you to be safe and feel safe' for the meeting attendees. This Plan set out the priorities for the police, community safety and criminal justice services.

9. Minehead Development Trust (MDT) – an update

As Jenny Lennon-Wood could not attend the meeting she had sent a written report on MDT's Old Hospital campaign, which Sandra read out to the meeting, as follows:

At the end of August, Minehead 's Old Hospital was advertised for sale by its owners, NHS Property Services Ltd. Minehead Development Trust (MDT) had been working for more than five years to secure the Old Hospital as a community asset. This background work had led to a series of constructive meetings between the owners and the MDT Board, resulting in the inclusion of MDT's aims for the site in the marketing process. The Trust was now in discussion with significant local and regional partners and greatly appreciated the community's encouraging response to the funding pledges campaign. Now was the time to step up the momentum and seize this unique opportunity to regenerate Minehead's town centre. Pledges could be made online at <http://mineheaddevelopmenttrust.co.uk/> or a form picked up from Minehead Information Centre at 19 The Avenue.

Jenny also asked for the following event to be publicised:

"The Development of Victorian Minehead" - An exhibition at the former VIIC on the seafront from Sunday 15 to Sunday 29 September. This was a joint venture by the Minehead Museum Project, Minehead and District U3A and Minehead Development Trust. The exhibition would celebrate the town's architectural and social development in the Victorian era. Demonstrating the potential for a Minehead Museum, it would present heritage buildings and their architects, with the iconic Old Hospital as a focal point. Research by the U3A group had produced an illustrated timeline telling this building's story – first as a public hall, then a bank, then a wartime hospital for wounded soldiers and finally a public hospital. With the theme "The Old Hospital – what it was ... and can become", Minehead Development Trust would show architect's plans and illustrations of their proposals for the building as a community hub.

The West Somerset Archaeological and Local History Society would continue this theme with a talk on the History of the Old Hospital by Chris Wood, followed by an update by Minehead Development Trust on the current position now that the site had been put up for sale. These talks would be held at The Avenue Methodist's Hall on Saturday 28 September at 2.30pm.

10. **Highway Matters**

David Peake reported that from 1 October the Highways section would be preparing for winter conditions on the roads.

Completed Highway Works:

2013 surface dressing programme – many of the lanes and avenues on North Hill.

Ongoing Highway Works:

Kerbing and drainage repairs along Selbourne Place from 9 to 13 September, with a temporary road closure.

Winter training days – driving of precautionary salting network with snow ploughs fitted – on 11 September.

Future Highway Works:

Carriageway resurfacing along Selbourne Place with temporary road closure on 16 September.

Carriageway resurfacing on the A39 Porlock Road at Tivington with temporary road closure between 6.30pm and 11.30pm on the evenings of 18, 19 and 20 September.

Carriageway patching at the Alcombe mini roundabout with temporary road closure between 6.30pm and 11.30pm on the evening of 26 September.

Carriageway patching along the A358 High Street at Williton with temporary road closure between 6.30pm and 11.30pm on the evening of 26 September.

David advised that the various proposed Traffic Regulation Orders for Minehead: Holloway Street (east), The Close, Alcombe, Bernard Crescent (at the junction with Paganel Road), Station Terrace and Bampton Street (west) continued to be in their implementation phase.

Graham Sizer asked for a list of the Traffic Orders to be sent to the Chamber of Commerce and David agreed to do this.

11. **Burning Issues**

Chris Jones of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRS) had sent a written report as follows:

Operational News

- Minehead crews had attended over 45 operational calls during the last quarter, including property fires, farm related fire incidents, vehicle fires, road traffic collisions, and a small number of automatic fire alarms.
- There had not been any cases of deliberately ignited fires during the last quarter in the Minehead town area.

Community Safety News and Activities

- Minehead Fire Station's Community Facebook page continued to offer fire safety advice and incident news.
- Community safety officers and the education team had worked in both Minehead Middle School and West Somerset Community College. College students were involved in the 'Too Soon To Die' campaign, which aimed to educate and interact with 15-16 year olds before they embarked on driving.

- The local St John Ambulance cadets and instructors attended the Fire Station for a Road Traffic Collision reduction session and took part in a practical demonstration with the local crew.
- Dunster Show had a multi-agency community safety event this year. This included a large stand that had Road Safety advice from DSFRS, Avon & Somerset Police and the Somerset Road Safety Partnership; Rural, Farming and Home Safety advice from DSFRS; and Health and Well-being advice from the Ambulance Service. Motorcycles from all agencies were on show in an effort to help educate potential riders and those already using a bike.

News and Public Information

- The budget cuts and proposals had been agreed by the Fire Authority. Plans were being discussed on how to implement the changes and save the initial £5.5 million for 2013/14.
- The nearest changes at the moment were to adjust the crewing members of the full time crews at Taunton along with the crewing levels of the Ambulance Co-Responders that currently operate out of Porlock and Williton Fire Station. Minehead Fire Station currently had no co-responding element so was not directly affected by these changes.
- Public information could be sought from the website: www.dsfrs.gov.uk

12. Town Council Update

Paul Grierson reported the following:

- Congratulations to Maureen Smith for the award for Harefield Terrace allotments.
- A Speed Indicator Device (SID) would be installed in Alcombe Combe/Manor Road (see agenda item 5 above)
- Play equipment improvements were being made at the Irnham Road recreation ground and King George V playing field.

13. District Council Update

Adrian reported the following:

- With regard to the enhancement of the footpath at Morrisons, plans were being drawn up by Somerset County Council and work would commence in November when the West Somerset Railway was closed. There were still outstanding legal issues to be completed.
- A report on the Aquasplash site and the land between the Rose Garden and the new hospital would be going to Cabinet on 2 October, with a recommendation on a preferred bidder for both sites. It was noted that an expression of interest had been submitted for the land between the Rose Garden and the hospital for a community swimming pool and Cabinet would look this at along with the other bids.
- New advertising signs had been erected in the town funded out of S106 monies from the Morrisons development.
- Thanks were due to Veolia, the Council's contractors, for undertaking a massive clear-up following the raft race, for which there was no additional cost to the Council as this event was included in the Service Level Agreement.
- Government funding in respect of the Revenue Support Grant was to be cut by 25% over the next two years.

Adrian welcomed Penny James, who would become the joint Chief Executive Officer for Taunton Deane BC and West Somerset Council on 24 October 2013. He would be leaving West Somerset in very capable hands. As such this was his last

Minehead Area Panel meeting as Chief Executive and it would be up to Penny as to how the Area Panels would be serviced in the future.

Andrew Hadley advised that the Local Plan consultation on development in West Somerset over the next 20 years would end on 23 September and urged attendees to view the documentations on the website at: <http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Planning---Building/Planning-Policy/Current-Consultations>

John Clyde-Smith thanked West Somerset Council for allowing the gents and ladies toilets at the Carousel to be re-opened during the Summer. Over 1,000 people per day had used them. John asked whether they could be kept open with volunteer assistance plus Minehead Tourism and Business Association were prepared to pay for the electricity from 12noon to 4pm daily until 2 November 2013. Karen Mills, portfolio holder for Economic Regeneration and Tourism, replied that the Council would be able to advise of the electricity costs and Cabinet would be happy to look at their proposal. Adrian informed that the electricity and water meter readings for the past six weeks (including the two Council-maintained disabled toilets) came to £750.

Karen Mills and Maureen Smith thanked MTBA for looking after the toilets during the Summer and Karen felt that a longer conversation was required to review what needed to be done and who was able to have an input/support.

Ron Bridle thanked Adrian for all he had done over the years for the district.

14. County Council Update

Terry Venner reported the following:

- Somerset County Council would be looking to cut their budget by 50% over the next five years.
- Due to the poor state of the grass cutting in Minehead, he wished to call a meeting in November/December of those involved in the work to formulate a plan for who did what and when.
- Unfortunately, due to County Council funding being withdrawn and bus services not making money, the last bus from Taunton to Minehead had been withdrawn.
- The West Somerset Local Plan included 750 new properties on the other side of Hopcott Road. Those unhappy with the proposal should make comments as part of the current consultation exercise.

15. Any Other Business

Fairer Funding for Rural Areas - Petition

Mandy Chilcott advised that a grouping of about 100 MPs from all political parties (The Rural Fair Group) were lobbying Parliament for fairer funding for rural areas as less money per head of population in rural areas was received from Government than in urban areas. The MPs were asking residents in rural areas to sign a petition that would be formally presented to Parliament to support a backbench business debate in the Autumn. Locations where petitions for signing could be found included:

West Somerset Council Customer Contact Centre in Summerland Road, Minehead
Minehead Town Council offices at The Town Hall in The Parade, Minehead
Carhampton General Store
West Somerset Council in Williton

Business Support for Minehead

Napoleon Wilcox of Webbers asked what projects local businesses and the community could get involved in, where cash, manpower and other resources were needed and asked for a list of such projects. Napoleon's support was welcomed and Sandra suggested that the toilets in Blenheim Gardens were in need of refurbishment.

Marcus Kravis felt that many local businesses were already making a contribution to the upkeep of Minehead and that the national chain stores needed to do more, including maintaining and cleaning their outlets.

Open Homes: Homes fit for the future – 30 September to 5 October

Maureen Smith advised that Forum 21 and Transition Minehead and Alcombe had arranged for energy efficient homes to be made available for people to visit. Programmes were available from libraries, Council offices, visitor centre or www.forum21.org.uk or www.transitionmineheadandalcombe.org

Future Speaker

It was suggested that Martin Hodgson, Chief Executive of the YMCA Somerset Coast be asked to speak at a future Minehead Area Panel meeting.

ACTION: Sarah to invite Martin Hodgson to speak at a future MAP meeting.

16. Date & Venue of Future Meetings

Future meetings to be held on:

Wednesday, 11 December 2013 at St Michael the Archangel Church Hall, Alcombe
Wednesday, 12 March 2014