

Williton, Watchet & Quantocks Area Panel

Notes of Meeting held on 8 December 2015

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

Present

Cllr D. Westcott (Chairman)	West Somerset Council
Cllr R. Woods	West Somerset Council
Cllr I. Aldridge	West Somerset Council
G. Tizzard	West Quantoxhead Parish Council
P.H. Gill	Kilve Parish Council
J. Foster	Watchet Town Warden
B. Cleere	West Somerset Council (Director)
D. Peake	SCC Highways
Tony Murray	Magna Housing Association
G. Austin- Thompson	Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
M. Kravis	
Apologies	
Sgt Daly	Avon & Somerset Constabulary
L. Whetlor	Watchet Town Council
Cllr H.J.W Davies	West Somerset Council
Cllr S.Y Goss	West Somerset Council
L. Whetlor	Watchet Town Council

1. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

A question was raised over whether the Washford Cross roundabout was now completed. It was confirmed that works were substantively complete and that EDF would be responsible for the works for 12 months, when any 'snagging' issues would be dealt with.

2. Apologies for Absence

These were noted as above.

3. Notes of the Meeting held on 15 September 2015 and Matters Arising

Noted. There were no matters arising

4. Magna Housing Association – update from Tony Murray (Director)

Mr. Murray reminded the audience that approximately one third of Magna properties were in the area covered by this panel. 47 properties were let last year and so far

this year another 40 had been let. There was a turnover of approximately 9% of properties per year.

A 3 year survey showed 89% satisfaction with services provided by Magna.

Mr Murray reported that rents could fall by 10-15% over the next 3-4 years as a result of changes made in the Chancellor's recent budget. Whilst good for tenants' personal finances, this would impact on Magna's maintenance programme for properties. The introduction of 'right to buy' for social housing tenants was also a significant announcement that would likely impact on availability of social housing in the years ahead.

Mr. Murray mentioned that he would be conducting four 'walkabouts' over the year to end of April 2016. Members of the panel were invited to join these and contact Mr. Murray if they wished to do so. Contact details were provided in the report circulated by Mr Murray.

My. Murray was thanked for his report, attendance and useful update.

5. Police Report

Avon & Somerset Constabulary had tendered apologies as noted above.

6. Highways Report

David Peake provided a written update on current works, which had been circulated to all attending.

7. Devon & Somerset Fire Service Report

Mr Austin Thompson updated on recent issues affecting the service

8. West Somerset Council

Brendan Cleere updated on maintenance and lighting works that had been carried out recently in the East Quay and esplanade areas of Watchet, and on works to convert the disabled public conveniences in Williton to a unisex facility.

9. Date of Next Meetings

7 March 2016, 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

(The meeting ended at 8.15)