

Minehead Area Panel

**Wednesday, 11th March, 2020,
6.30 pm**

The Hub - Hopcott Road, Minehead

Agenda

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies | |
| 2. Somerset Climate Change Emergency – Somerset West and Taunton Council Plans – Robert Downes, Project Manager, SWT | |
| 3. Have Your Say - Community Issues/Concerns | |
| 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 2019 and Matters Arising | (Pages 3 - 8) |
| 5. Minehead BID | (Pages 9 - 12) |
| 6. Minehead Coastal Communities Team – An update | |
| 7. Minehead Development Trust – An update | |
| 8. Police Report | (Pages 13 - 14) |
| 9. Highway Matters | |
| 10. Burning Issues (Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service) | (Pages 15 - 16) |
| 11. Town Council Update | (Pages 17 - 18) |
| 12. District Council Update | |
| 13. County Council Update | (Pages 19 - 24) |
| 14. Any Other Business | (Pages 25 - 28) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Somerset West Lottery ReportMinehead Museum Report | |
| 15. Future meetings | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thursday, 11 June 2020 – The Hub, Hopcott Road, MineheadThursday, 17 September 2020 – The Hub, Hopcott Road, MineheadThursday, 3 December 2020 The Hub, Hopcott Road, MineheadWednesday, 3 March 2021 – The Hub, Hopcott | |

Road, Minehead

16. Minutes of the meeting held on 11.03.2020

(Pages 29 - 46)

Minehead Area Panel

Notes of Meeting held 11 September 2019
In The Old Hospital, The Avenue, Minehead

Present:

Cllr Andy Kingston-James	Chair (part of meeting) Minehead Town Council
Cllr Mandy Chilcott	Somerset County Council
Cllr Paul Bolton	Somerset West and Taunton Council and Minehead Town Council
Cllr Benet Allen	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Craig Palmer	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Mimi Palmer	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Anne Lawton	Minehead Town Council
David Peake	Somerset Highways
Chief Inspector Lisa Simpson	Avon & Somerset Police
Mark Shields	Community Council for Somerset
Bill Howard	The Old Hospital
Ray Tew	Minehead Development Trust
Mark Kingston-James	Resident
John Vicary	Resident
Peter Broom	Resident
Stephen Brown	Resident
Paul Johnson	Resident
Rosemary Lawson	Resident
Ann Jackson	Resident
Daphne Barr	Resident
Martin Wilsher	Resident
Harold Compton	Observer
Samantha Murrell	Somerset West and Taunton Council (Chair for part of meeting)
Sarah Wilsher	Somerset West and Taunton Council

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Samantha Murrell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself as a Localities Engagement Lead for Somerset West and Taunton Council.

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Dabner (Butlins), Anne Clarke (Manor Road Neighbourhood Watch/Resident), Cllr Andrew Hadley (Somerset West and Taunton Council), Andrew Hopkins (Minehead BID), Colin Isherwood (Resident), Chris Jones (Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service), Cllr Marcus Kravis (Somerset West and Taunton Council), Cllr Christine Lawrence (Somerset County Council), Lewis Lintern (MATA/The Avenue Methodist Church), Sue Lloyd (Resident), Katrina Midgley (Engage/Minehead Coastal Community Team), Bridget O'Brien (Resident), Doug Ross (Resident), Elaine Ross (Resident), Graham Sizer (Minehead BID), Maureen Smith (Transition Minehead and Alcombe/Forum 21).

2. Election of Chair

Samantha reported that Jean Parbrook had decided not to stand as Chair and Sarah read out a letter that Jean had written to the residents of Minehead, giving her reasons for not standing for re-election, thanking Sarah and all those who had shown her kindness and support over the last 18 months and wishing the Panel continued success under the new Chairman.

Mandy Chilcott asked for appreciation of Jean's work as Chair to be minuted.

Samantha explained that nominations for the post of Chair were accepted until 31 August 2019. Only one nomination had been received before the deadline, from Andrew Kingston-James, Minehead Town Councillor, who had been proposed by Cllr Craig Palmer and Cllr Paul Bolton. As the only person standing Cllr Andrew Kingston-James was duly elected as Chair and chaired the meeting from this point on.

3. **Somerset Village & Community Agents Service – Mark Shields, West Somerset Village & Community Agent, Community Council for Somerset (CCS)**

Mark Shields explained that Village Agents offered free confidential and non-judgemental support to people in the community who needed advice, help and support on a range of issues from health and wellbeing to financial and practical. Village Agents and other support organisations/agencies could be found at the Talking Café every Monday from 10am to 1pm at the Beach Hotel in Minehead, in Porlock once per month and in Williton every Tuesday. The Agents also did home visits. Mark advised that he would be available at the end of the meeting if anyone wanted to have a chat with him or pick up a leaflet/business card.

4. **Have Your Say**

Issues for Have Your Say, were as follows:

- (a) *Stephen Brown advised that there was Japanese Knotweed along the Culvercliffe walk:* Mimi Palmer offered to have a look and Sarah contacted the Grounds Maintenance team at SWT.

ACTION: Culvercliffe to be checked for Japanese knotweed.

The grounds maintenance team at SWT have advised that there is an issue of Japanese Knotweed at Culvercliffe due to it having been dumped there many years ago when the area was a former landfill site. The team do their best to control it on an ongoing basis. The details of where Mr Brown spotted the plant has been relayed to the team and action has been taken towards its eradication.

- (b) *Stephen Brown also raised the issue of a tree at the bottom of Marshfield Road, which was damaging the pavement:* Andrew Kingston-James to look into it.

ACTION: Andrew Kingston-James to investigate the tree damaging the pavement in Marshfield Road.

After investigations it appears that the roots of a tree on land next to 87 Marshfield Road is damaging the footpath that runs from the bottom of Marshfield Road to Seaward Way (alongside the Rose Garden). This path is believed to be owned by Minehead Town Council. The owners of the tree have been contacted and an assurance received that they will remediate the issue as part of the construction works for the two dwellings that have received planning permission on this land.

5. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 June 2019**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Item 8 – A resident had advised that on Saturday 22 June during the Cycle Grand Prix the bus stop outside the Co-op in The Avenue had been closed but there was no signage to alert passengers. The Chair reported that Andrew Hopkins, Minehead BID Manager, had advised that both he and Buses of Somerset had put up posters on the bus timetable information pole to say that the stop was closed and where the alternative stops were. However, if these posters would have been better placed on the bus shelter then he would be happy to do this in the future, for events with a BID input and involving the closure of a bus stop(s).

6. Minehead BID

A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

7. Minehead Coastal Communities Team – An Update

A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

8. Minehead Development Trust – An Update

Ray Tew reported that the Minehead Development Trust were responsible for the Minehead Information Centre, which was a limited company. The end of the financial year for the Information Centre was 30 September 2019. There had been an increase in footfall to the Centre of about 5% compared to the same period in 2018. This was measured by a counter on the main door, but as customers could exit through the main door as well as enter, and also use the museum entrance, figures obtained were approximate.

Sally Turner was the current Centre Manager, and was working with local Centres in Somerset and Devon. The Minehead Bay brand was employed and reports on the use of the brand would be produced in October. The website was constantly updated including regular blogs and there was a need for more locally produced photos for the website, which were not subject to copyright. A regular newsletter was produced which included such details as where journeys could be disrupted by Hinkley traffic. The Centre would move to Winter opening hours in November.

9. Police Report

Lisa Simpson introduced herself. She had previously been an Inspector based in Minehead and was now Chief Inspector for the area from Simonsbath to Weston-super-Mare. She reported that the Police wished to engage more with the public and she saw the Area Panels as important engagement opportunities. With £20m lost and 700 fewer officers it was difficult for the limited number of officers to make contact with the community and they were no longer able to report direct to the 150 Town and Parish Councils in the area. However, they would commit to attending the Area Panels. The programme of Area Panels therefore needed to be extended to ensure that they were opened up to all the parishes and towns in the district area. Police officers were happy to give reports at Area Panel meetings as well as discuss issues, as required, after the meetings.

The Chief Constable or Deputy Chief Constable plus the Police and Crime Commissioner would be attending a public forum on Tuesday, 24 September from 7 to 9pm in the Exmoor Meeting Room at the Beach Hotel in Minehead. The forum would be opened by Frederica Smith-Roberts, Leader of Somerset West and Taunton Council, before a welcome from the Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy/Chief Constable. Lisa would be giving a presentation

on local policing. Local people would be able to take part in an open question and answer session. To attend it was necessary to register for a free ticket. This could be done online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pcc-police-public-forum-minehead-tickets-68277847881> or emailing pcc@avonandsomerset.police.uk or tel: 01278 646188. Questions needed to be emailed to the above email address in advance so that any necessary research could be carried out beforehand.

Mandy advised that unfortunately the Annual General Meeting of Minehead BID was also on the evening of 24 September.

Lisa explained that the police wished to make themselves more visible within the community including via social media. The meeting noted that PC Sam Donati made good use of Facebook to keep the public updated on incidents/activities.

Beresford Mandley asked whether new PCSOs or special constables were being looked for at the moment. Lisa advised that according to the PM, Boris Johnson, 20,000 police officers were to be recruited, which would lead to a massive PCSO recruitment programme, including about 500 in Avon and Somerset over the next three years. Voluntary special constables were also needed and were required to do a minimum of 16 hours per week. Details were available on the website: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Paul Johnson asked for Lisa's opinion on the police using bicycles. She stated that cycling increased the officers' engagement with the community and provided a more friendly, visible and accessible approach. Paul agreed and said that he thought cycling enabled officers to see, hear and smell more.

10. Highway Matters

David Peake reported the following:

- Tree pruning had taken place at Dunster Steep so there were no longer overhanging branches obscuring the left hand pole of the traffic lights. These works had unfortunately caused some traffic disruption for which Somerset Highways apologised.
- Combeland Road had been resurfaced.
- Surface dressing at Bilbrook had taken place with an associated evening road closure.
- Future evening closures from 6.30pm to 11.30pm were planned to enable resurfacing works to take place at Dragons Cross in Bilbrook. No dates were currently available for the works. *Since the meeting information has become available on dates and times. The A39 will be closed from 6.30pm to 11.30pm from Monday 7 to Friday 11 October and then will be closed from 6.30pm to 11.30pm from Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 October.*

Beresford Mandley asked for the number of highway Ash trees in Minehead and the number of Ash trees with Ash dieback. He was advised that such statistics were not currently available but Ash dieback was an issue in Minehead and trees were regularly checked. Two trees with Ash dieback had been felled as part of the Dunster Steep operations. Mandy Chilcott added that there were about 22,000 highway trees in Somerset so monitoring was not an easy or quick process.

A resident asked whether there were any plans for road improvements at Fownes Road in Alcombe. David replied that there were no plans at the current time.

Craig Palmer asked if there was a programme in respect of roadside drainage. David replied that there was a routine schedule of every four years in urban areas and every two years in rural areas. Roads with frequent blocking up issues were checked more regularly. If there was a 'ponding' problem reactive works were undertaken, otherwise works would be fitted into the maintenance programme. Problem issues of roadside drainage could be phoned in on 0300 123 2224 or emailed to: countyroads-westsom@somerset.gov.uk

Paul Johnson reported that the east facing red light at Dunster Steep needed looking into as it was dimmed.

ACTION: David Peake to check the traffic lights at Dunster Steep.

11. Burning Issues

A written report had not been received for circulation from the Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and there was no officer available.

Paul Johnson asked if people were filling in the surveys, which were due in by 22 September. Residents were encouraged to do so.

12. Town Council Update

A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

13. District Council (SWT) Update

A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Mimi Palmer enquired about the location of the land SWT were selling to McDonalds and how McDonalds proposed to use the land. Sarah thought that the land in question was to the rear of McDonalds between their restaurant and the footpath running from the station to Seaward Way. She did not know what it was intended to be used for, but any building works would require planning permission and planning applications were in the public domain.

Mimi also asked about the commercial units mentioned in the report. Sarah explained that two commercial units had been granted planning permission on land off Seaward Way next to the forty dwellings approved for Magna Housing. These units would enable existing businesses to expand. The meeting asked who Greenside were and it was thought that it probably referred to Greenslades who were a grounds maintenance business based in Cannington.

Paul Johnson asked for news on Blenheim Gardens. Andrew explained that at the moment there was nothing to add to the updates in the District and Town Council reports.

14. Somerset County Council Update

Mandy Chilcott reported the following:

- She had recently attended a Scutiny Committee meeting with the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Minehead Hospital's Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) had been discussed. There had been an impromptu overnight closure of MIU due to lack of staffing, but there had been little publicity of this to the community. Information on the closure could have been made available on Facebook and via West Somerset radio. Minehead's MIU was one of a few in Somerset that was open 24/7 and Mandy considered it essential that it remain open. 12,462 incidents/injuries had been dealt with over the last year. The NHS were

actively recruiting and two nurse practitioners had recently been appointed for the West area.

- The performance of ambulances had declined and this was being monitored by the Quality Care Commission.
- The 111 telephone service was currently being run by Devon Doctors.
- Figures relating to stroke treatment had improved.
- Apprenticeships were seen as very important by Somerset County Council and over 300 apprenticeships were being run by the Council. Social workers were very difficult to recruit so twelve existing officers were being upskilled and trained to degree level to become social workers.
- She had recently undertaken excellent mental health first aid training. This was open to all and although there was a cost Mandy considered it to be worthwhile. Mental health care was under funded by the NHS and at the Scrutiny Committee meeting the NHS had stated that they were aware of this deficit and planned to improve the service. Mark Shields advised that the Community Council for Somerset were rolling out a mental health village agents scheme in October. Tracey Bland was the mental health village agent in West Somerset, working in conjunction with local GPs.

John Vicary asked for an update on the pedestrian crossing for Bircham Road. Mandy advised that this project had been costed and put forward for the County Council's Small Improvement Scheme (SIS). It was one of 90 SIS projects throughout the County. Monies had recently been put in place for the delivery of these projects within the next two years.

15. Any Other Business

Somerset West and Taunton

Paul Johnson had received a compliments slip from SWT. It had their name on it but there was no mention of the word 'Council'. Were they really a Council? Also, only a PO Box address was given. Why was this only given and not the addresses of physical offices. David Peake explained that it was the same with the County Council. Post was scanned in centrally and then distributed electronically to officers who could be working at a number of different locations – offices, depots, homeworking, etc.

16. Dates & Venues of Future Meetings

Future meetings to be held on:

- Thursday, 12 December 2019 at 6.30pm at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead.
- Wednesday, 18 March 202 at 6.30pm at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead.

Minehead BID update – March 2020

Minehead BID is now 20 months in to its first term of operation, we are currently supporting or carrying out the following within the town:

Events:

- Provided entertainment and entertainers at the Artisan Markets during the summer, Christmas Festival in November and in the town centre before Christmas
- Supported the expansion of the 1940's weekend from the railway station in to town centre with a vintage vehicle parade, singers and displays at the Old Hospital
- Hosted the first eat:Minehead event with in 2020 three further planned in April, October and a Christmas version in December
- Funded the Steam Bus to run on Summer Saturday's taking passengers from the Railway Station, Harbour and Town Centre
- Supported 2 evening events which celebrated women who run businesses in the town centre
- Plans for 2020 include the return of the May Day event in Wellington Square, the Minehead Steampunk Festival, support for the VE Commemorations being led by the Town Council, a 1960's day to link in with a similar event taking place at the Railway Station, entertainers at weekends in August and the return of the steam bus
- The BID will also be taking an active role in the Christmas events in Minehead in 2020 following the Town Council's lead on this

Marketing and Communications:

- A new Marketing group has been formed and chaired by Ryan Boulton (one of the BID Directors), the group includes the BID, Butlins, Channel Adventures, Minehead Information Centre, Museum, Somerset West and Taunton, Visit Exmoor, Visit Somerset and West Somerset Railway. An invite will also be extended to the Regal Theatre and accommodation providers to join. This group will help direct the marketing activities of the BID
- Current activities include the production of Banners and the purchase of a branded Gazebo to both promote the BID and act as a focal point at events and activities supported by the BID
- Supported the free car parking initiative in conjunction with Somerset West and Taunton producing promotional material and funded free car parking on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th December
- Appointed Les Barber to achieve Coach Friendly Status for Minehead
- Commissioned a 4 page insert in the new Visit Somerset brochure for 2020 to promote the town, this will also be a stand-alone leaflet distributed to customers of Butlins and the West Somerset Railway, as well as being distributed through the region
- Regular adverts in the Exmoor Magazine, What's on Somerset and Word Gets Around to promote events and activities taking place in Minehead
- Refreshed the trader's boards and maps in Minehead Town Centre and will be updating website details and social media on all notice boards in due course

- Produced regular printed newsletters which continue to be hand-delivered to all businesses within the BID area and it is hope to introduce an e-newsletter during this Spring to provide news flashes and partner updates
- Have become members of both Visit Exmoor and Visit Somerset which includes coverage of Minehead on their respective websites, brochures, on social media, in features and articles and inclusion in press and familiarisation visits
- Part of the Coastal Summit that is being led by Visit Somerset and Visit Exmoor which will include a showcase event in London on Somerset Day which will be attended by travel journalists and travel operators and buyers
- Future initiatives for this year include an online directory of all BID Businesses and the appointment of a third-party person/company to maintain and update the Visit Minehead channels on Facebook and Instagram and Minehead BID on Twitter. The Facebook page will promote events, special offers and retail promotions in the town. An agreed set of hashtags will be produced and it is hoped all channels in Minehead will share these in the future.

Public Realm

- The new bunting in the Parade with hanging baskets in Friday Street and Park Street received many plaudits from visitors and locals alike. In 2020 bunting will also be added in Holloway Street and an additional 60 hanging baskets funded by the BID will appear in Bancks Street, Holloway Street and Summerland Place/Road this summer. This will include 5 new flower towers and new bunting at the Harbour
- It is hoped if the suitable permissions are secured by 2021 hanging baskets will also appear in the Avenue with the hope of returning the globes to the trees. The BID also has aspirations to tidy up the roundabouts within the BID area and wants to look at the introduction of winter flowers in the Harbour
- Provided an extra Christmas tree at the Beach Hotel and a series of lit trees on brackets that can also hold flags and hanging baskets was added as a trial to a number of shops in the Lower Avenue
- Permission is still awaited from SCC to locate 2 benches and a flower tower at the junction of The Avenue and Esplanade
- A project to repaint the signage on the footpath at the start of the South West Coast Path supported by the Coastal Path Association and Somerset West and Taunton will start later this spring prior to the Association's Annual AGM which will be taking place in Minehead in June
- During 2020 we hope to have a small pot of money available to repaint items of public realm such as lampposts and electric boxes that haven't been tidied up for many years

Reducing Overhead Costs for BID levy payers

- Meercat Associates continue to meet with BID levy payers to help save them money
- It is hoped during 2020 to work with the Plastic Free Minehead campaign on an initiative that will encourage more businesses to become Plastic Free

BID Meetings, AGM and Directors

- Open Forum meetings continue to take place each quarter
- A new team of 8 Ambassadors have been appointed, these are businesses who look after a small number of BID levy payers delivering newsletters and acting as our eyes

and ears. Vacancies for Ambassadors exist in the Top of The Avenue, Harbour and Seaward Way.

- A private members group has been created on Facebook to enable BID members to exchange thoughts and ideas, plus it enables the BID to promote activities taking place
- Alison Prior from Wombledon was appointed as a new Director at our AGM in September, vacancies remain for directors to be appointed from the Unlicensed Hospitality and Tourism sectors
- Councillor Terry Venner from Minehead Town Council is the Local Authority Director for Year 2. It was agreed when the BID was created that the formal local authority directorship would rotate between District, Town and County Councils each year, with this year being the turn of the Town Council.
- Councillor Andy Hadley was appointed by the Leader of Somerset West and Taunton Council as its representative
- Councillor Mandy Chilcott is the representative of Somerset County Council
- Both Councillor's Hadley and Chilcott sit on the board as advisors and don't have a formal vote
- Other advisors include Bryan Howe, Minehead Town Council Acting Clerk and Sam Murrell Locality Engagement Lead at Somerset West and Taunton Council

We remain committed to working with partners to deliver the best for Minehead. If members of the Area Panel would like to know more about the BID or wish to discuss any of the projects listed, please contact Andrew Hopkins, the BID Manager on 07703 668928 or manager@mineheadbid.co.uk

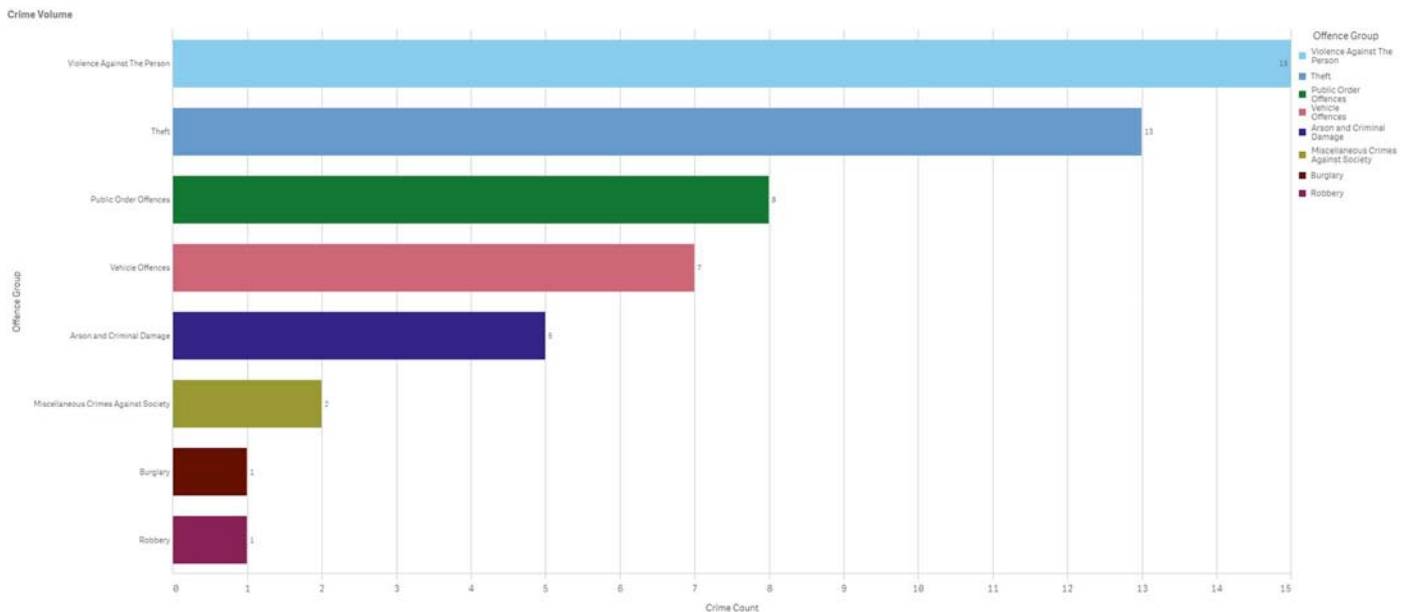
6th March 2020



Police Report February 2020

Minehead Town

Crime statistics for Minehead town for the month of February 2020.



Reports of Antisocial Behavior

There were 14 calls to police for ASB across the whole of the town beat in February. 7 more calls than last month and 4 more than February 2019.

Other News:

Katherine has held 2 of the Resilience Voyage workshops including a visit from the drugs bus and has one remaining next week – she was very pleased and grateful to the Councilors that attended. Katherine along with Sam Murrell is still exploring other options for funding to try and secure further visits to enable a lot of our young people to access this within our area. Along with this element of education, Katherine and her colleague Sue at Williton have secured a visit from the St. Giles Trust who specialise in talking to young people to de-glamorise gang and knife crime culture, they are due to attend the West Somerset College in early May. A further educational session has also been secured for the Middle School from Stand Against Violence.

We are looking at carrying out a Road safety week again within the schools and are working on a few projects there.

We have been carrying out further Bike Register Bike Marking sessions and are working hard to get as many marked in the area as possible.

Joe our new PCSO has started, he has met some of you which is great and I'm sure he will get to know the rest of you as he gets to know the area.

We had a small spate of vehicle crime that targeted some work vans and cars in the Poundfield Road area, we are visiting the victims of that spate to offer reassurance and advice.



Area Panel Meetings (Minehead) items for discussion / community information.

Planned Meeting Date: 11th March 2020 at 6.30pm at the Hub, Hopcott Rd

Operational News relevant to the areas covered by Minehead area panel meeting:

Since the last update submitted for the meeting held in September 2019, and 25th February 2020, Minehead crews have responded to 101 operational calls.

These have included Road Traffic Collisions, 6 vehicle fires, 14 property fires, and 16 fires in the open including, heathland, stubble fields or unattended/out of control fires on open land.

There have been an increased number of special service calls. These included assisting ambulance to forced gain entries for critical medical calls, assistance at moving and carrying patients in difficult situations. Crews have also attended a number of Chemical and hazardous materials exposure incidents, lift rescues. These also include a number of incidents considered too sensitive for public discussion.

Crews have responded to a number of weather related flood calls due to vehicles entering flood water or water entering property and a risk of involving electrics etc.

Cover has also been provided at other fire stations whilst they were attending different protracted incidents.

We have also attended a number of domestic and commercial smoke alarm calls and other calls made with good intent that were often fires out on arrival.

Community Safety news and other fire safety activities within the areas covered by the relevant area panel meeting:

Since the last area panel meeting, community safety work has been carried out at various events in and around Minehead.

These have included:

- Home fire safety visits to those requesting a visit and being considered at higher risk.
- Regular talks for vulnerable groups at the local hospital.
- Continued business compliance visits and safety checks. Some have resulted in action being taken and others have been given advice where necessary.

- Crews continue to raise awareness about our Home Fire Safety Check and Visit Service locally. **Please see below for full details:**

FREE Home Fire Safety Checks and Visits

Did you know you are entitled to a **FREE Home Fire Safety Check** and may also be entitled to a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit**?

Do you know or care for someone that may benefit from this service?

All residents that live within Devon or Somerset are entitled to call our **FREEPHONE** advice number and receive **FREE home safety advice**.

It will take no more than 5 minutes and you will be asked some simple questions that will help our advisor decide if you need a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit**.

Home Fire Safety Visits, take around 30 minutes and are bespoke to suit the circumstances of the individuals and homes we visit.

If a Full **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit** is considered appropriate, it may also include fitting **FREE** smoke detectors or other equipment should you require them. You would also be offered all the advice you may need to make you safer in your home.

Visits are arranged to suit your circumstances and at times to suit you.

Calls can also be made on behalf of others that you care for, and arrangements made via a preferred third party contact.

If a visit is not considered appropriate following your telephone call, our team will ensure you are sent all the relevant **FREE advice and literature** to help you carry out the checks in your own home.

To receive the **FREE Home Fire Safety Check** and seek advice about a **FREE Home Fire Safety Visit**, please call **0800 05 02 999**.

Or Text info line: 078 00 00 2476

Further details can be found on our website at
www.dsfire.gov.uk/YourSafety/SafetyInTheHome

Minehead Town Council Report for the Minehead Area Panel Meeting 11-3-20

Minehead Town Council is in a transitional period with a modernisation plan that includes upgrading equipment, vehicles and plant. It is also improving its services such as litter and waste collection, and increasing floral displays,

It has budgeted to seek new land for a cemetery, provide new council offices, a new community building, works depot, improved sports facilities and outdoor gym at the recreation ground. It is also refurbishing the Summerland car park toilets and improving the other four toilet it operates.

These and many more improvements are listed in the top ten priorities of the Minehead Town Council (see below).

The balanced budget for 2020/2021 will be published on the website in April 2020



MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

TOP TEN PRIORITIES MARCH 2020


1. Upgrade Summerland Road **Toilets**
2. Provide new **Community Hall/Sports changing rooms** on Irnham Road Recreation Ground, including all fittings and finishing costs
3. Source **larger Depot** for staff/equipment and storage
4. **Council Offices** - Review and recommend options for the future
5. Make Minehead a "**Green Town**" by using environmentally-friendly products, environmentally-friendly allotments, weed control, promoting cleaner streets, recycling, low carbon practices, better litter and dog bins and provision of electric vehicle charging points
6. Budget for and purchase **new Cemetery land**
7. Enable **improved public technology** in the parishes of Minehead and Alcombe, eg free wi-fi
8. New community outdoor recreational facilities for all ages
9. Create a Community Orchard
10. To encourage and support events, activities and projects which best foster a sense of community spirit and resilience in Minehead



Somerset County
Councillors Update
February 2020
Mandy Chilcott – Minehead
Christine Lawrence – Dunster



Useful Contacts, Resources & Websites

Councillor Mandy Chilcott	 Councillor Mandy Chilcott E - mjchilcott@somerset.gov.uk	07969 794244
Councillor Christine Lawrence	E - cmlawrence@somerset.gov.uk	01643 707889 07500 606800
Report Pothole/Road Defects	https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect/	0300 123 2224
Report Risk to Adult	adults@somerset.gov.uk	0300 123 2224 Emergency 999
Report Risk to Child	childrens@somerset.gov.uk	0300 123 2224 Emergency 999
Refuse Collection etc	Enquiries@somerstwaste.gov.uk https://www.somerstwaste.gov.uk/	00823 625 700
Interested in Fostering or Adoption	Fosteringinsomerset.org.uk	0800 587 9900
Road Works/diversions etc	Travelsomerset.co.uk One.network	
Talking Café Multi Agency Drop ins for help & advice Beach Hotel Mondays 10am –1 pm	Somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/ E – info@somerstrcc.org.uk	01823 331 222

COMMUNITY CONNECT - www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk - This is a website about your **care, health and wellbeing**. It is a website that has been created to help create awareness for the people in Somerset of what is available in the community.

This website has lots of **information and advice** and a **directory of providers, local groups and activities and information drop-ins** for adult residents in Somerset to find information, advice and services to manage their own care and wellbeing.

Current Consultations

Somerset West & Taunton Council - Closes 16 March	Local Plan for next 20 years to 2040	https://yoursay.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/
For whole of Somerset, District & County Council Closes 25 Feb Adults, 18 th for 11-18 year olds	Climate Emergency	https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/climate-emergency/
Council Fit for my Future – Closes 12 April	Community Health and Care Services	https://response.questback.com/isa/qbv.dll/ShowQuest?QuestID=5439572&sid=svGXw5jSKz Or search Fit For My Future - Community Health & Care Services Engagement Questionnaire

The Future of Local Government in Somerset – ONESOMERSET

The debate on the potential of a unitary authority for Somerset is to be started. The report that was commissioned to look into various options for the County can be viewed here:- <https://onesomerset.org.uk/>

Town and Parish Councils would remain exactly as they are - the report considers different ways of working for Somerset Districts and the County Council.

FIT FOR MY FUTURE - Minehead library engagement is on February 17th at 2.00-3.00 pm.

The NHS want to make it easier for people to get support and care where they live. This means they are looking at how we use our community health and care services. Details of the current online consultation questionnaire can be found in the consultation table above.

Community Connect

Somerset County Council's Adult Social Care team have implemented a new website www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk

Some of the key things on the site include:

- A directory of Micro-Providers - the growing network of small-scale, often single-person, care providers who can help with care at home.

- A list of drop-in events being run by a huge range of community and voluntary organisations in your local area
- Information about support for carers
- Help to access equipment through the county's two Independence and Advice Centres
- A directory of registered home care and care home providers

Talking Cafes

Adult Social Care now have 17 Talking Cafes and a network of Community Agents and village agents who work closely with SCC's social work teams to ensure that people are able to find solutions that help them live as independently as possible in their own home and community. To date 5,519 people have been supported through the Talking Cafes. Mineheads talking café is at the Beach Hotel on Mondays from 10 am – 1 pm.

Free Health Checks

Nearly 7,000 people benefitted from free health checks last year thanks to the service delivered for Somerset County Council and the NHS. And the checks will continue this year, giving anyone over 40 with the chance to have a free check-up every five years, helping identify those at higher risk of certain health problems, such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease or stroke. During the 30-minute check, healthcare professionals assess blood pressure, cholesterol, BMI and lifestyle. With these results the practitioner can advise patients about small changes that they can make which could have a huge impact on their future health. You can find out more about health checks here <https://somersethealthchecks.co.uk/about-nhs-health-checks>.

Caring about childrens mental health in Somerset.

This is a great initiative to help our young people improve their mental health.

In February, Somerset Libraries will be part of a national launch of a new Books on Prescription collection aimed at Children's mental health. Books on Prescription is delivered by The Reading Agency and aims to provide collections of self-help books that have been chosen by health professionals and endorsed by those living with the relevant health condition. This latest collection is targeted at children in Key Stage 2, and addresses topics that include how to stay mentally healthy, dealing with worries and emotions, and dealing

with tough times e.g. bereavement or trauma. One in eight 5-19 year olds had a mental health condition when assessed in 2017 and over one third of parents worry about their children's mental health (4 – 11 years) at least once a month, demonstrating that this collection will be a well needed provision.

The complete collection is available from Minehead Library.

Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Well Rehearsed Plans in Place Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.

Every winter health and care professionals gear up for a busy winter in preparation for flu and norovirus, and now there's a new virus on the block – Coronavirus (or COVID-19 it as officially named by the World Health Organisation).

There are at the time of writing no positive COVID-19 cases in the South West, but local health and care services are well prepared with well-rehearsed plans are in place to deal with any potential outbreaks.

So, what do we know about it? It's such a new illness that health professionals are learning more and more each day. It's believed to be spread from person to person through cough droplets. We also know simple basic hygiene measures (which we should be doing regularly anyway) can help prevent its spread. This includes washing your hands regularly with soap and water and using a tissue when sneezing or coughing and throwing it away – the familiar 'catch it, bin it, kill it'. Without a tissue, then use the crook of your arm rather than your hand.

For the latest information, advice and guidance, check out <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>.

Minehead Parking Review

A piece of work is underway looking at the parking and lining in Minehead and Dunster. The town and parish Councillors have been consulted, and moving forward there will be discussions with the businesses and residents. Please get in touch if you have any issues that you wish to raise.

Update on Local Improvement Schemes

There are several Councillor small improvement schemes that are under consideration for Minehead.

- Drop Kerbs from Cher to Shops at Alcombe – these are about to be constructed.
 - Review of parking and Safety along Townsend Road between Minehead First School and Minehead Middle School – this is due to take place later in the year
 - Project to Allow Pedestrians to cross Bircham Road - this project is still in planning.
- All current projects are due to be completed by May 2021.

Somerset County Council Annual Budget

Budget plans set out thriving and ambitious future for Council

The annual budget meeting took place on 19 February and this is the link to the papers:-

<https://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=1026&Ver=4>

New schools, investment in roads, a boost to local jobs and a dramatically improved financial outlook from a year ago have been outlined in the Somerset County Council budget.

As well as the investment in services, there was a repeated commitment to no further frontline job cuts.

Council have agreed a net budget of £338m and total spending in excess of £775m on services in 2020/21, as well as £319m of investment in capital projects – including school buildings – across 2020 to 2023 – including £133m in the next financial year.

A balanced budget which takes on board the challenge of rising Adult Social Care demand and costs - achieved without additional service cuts, but instead through efficiencies and service transformation has been presented.

An increase of 1.99 per cent of the County Council's element of the Council Tax is proposed, along with a 2 per cent ring-fence for Adult Social Care. The total 3.99 per cent rise equates to a 95p a week increase for a Band D property*, and makes available an extra £4.9m for services in general, plus a further £4.9m which will support the demand for growth in Adult Social Care services.

The proposed £133.5m capital programme for 2020/21, funded by government grants, borrowing and capital receipts, includes nearly £47m spent on school builds and expansions, £18m on highways and engineering, £33m on highways and traffic management, and £9.5m on economic development.

The headlines are:-

- Agree a net revenue budget of £338,370,800
- Agree to increase general Council Tax by 1.99%
- Agree to increase Council Tax by a further 2% for adult social care
- Agree the precept requirement of £257,292,090 for 2020/21 and set the County Council precept for Band D council tax charge at £1,289.20 for 2020/21. This is a rise of £0.95 per week for a *Band D property
- Contribute £1m to Climate Emergency Reserve.

The massive £1m climate emergency reserve has been created by Somerset County Council. (thought to be the biggest single investment of its kind in the country). The £1m pot will be available for parish and town councils to bid for green initiatives in their local area. SCC is acting on its decision to sign the national Climate Change Emergency Declaration which aims to make Somerset carbon neutral by 2030.

And the £1m fund is not the only good news for climate change. A motion to plant a tree for every baby born in Somerset next year was also agreed by councillors.

*over 2/3 of the homes in Somerset are Band A-C (which pay less than a band D).

Somerset West Lottery Report

Following on from the success of the 2019 national bolt-on prizes, courtesy of Gatherwell the external lottery management company (ELM), the Somerset West Lottery will be taking part in the 2020 national bolt-on prize initiative. Between 08th January and 21 March everyone who signs up to purchase one or more Tickets will be in with the chance to win a Fit Bit and Google Nest Mini-see attached pics. All tickets bought during this timeframe will be entered into the New Year bonus draw on March 21 to win one of five bundles.

Every ticket purchased between now and 21 March will automatically be entered in to the bonus prize draw, as well as being in with a chance to win up to £25,000 in the weekly lottery run by Somerset West and Taunton Council.

Further bolt on prize draws are planned for spring, summer and autumn with details to be announced.

The Somerset West Lottery offers registered good causes the opportunity to raise income for their organisation by selling tickets to members of the public.

It gives 50p from every £1 ticket sold to local registered good causes with 10p from every ticket sale going into a community grant fund for which local good causes can apply.

Cllr Chris Booth, Executive Member for Community, said: "The local lottery makes it easier for us all to support charities, the voluntary sector and not-for-profit organisations in the SWT area, and gives organisations the opportunity to promote themselves through ticket sales. I hope this bonus draw with these great prizes will encourage more people to buy tickets and help our local communities."

The Council wants to make sure as many good causes and local charities as possible can receive financial support from the Somerset West Lottery.

Somerset West Lottery currently has 84 live Good Causes and 525 players. The amount raised since its launch in 2017 is £171,884.00 with a predicted revenue for 2020 of £52,104.00

If you know of a good cause wishing to raise funds or would like to buy a ticket contact the Somerset West Lottery on 0300 30 20 666; support@somersetwestlottery.co.uk or visit www.somersetwestlottery.co.uk

WIN

**1 of 5 FITBIT
& Google Nest
Mini Bundles**

Make steps to
support your
community today!

Minehead Museum - Registered Charity 1169355

Report for Area Panel meeting 11.3.2020

Julian Luke (Curator / Trustee)

The 2019 season saw another record breaking season with over 11,600 visitors to the museum. The museum continues to provide a cultural and heritage resource for locals and tourists alike. It also provides a wet weather facility for holidaymakers and an educational resource for the town. Publicity both in leaflet, advertisements and online continue to help promote both the museum and town.

Public response remains very positive, with the main criticism being on its small size. Comments are generally based on how much can be crammed into a small area. There is a steady flow of new items being donated. This year has seen a number of class and group visits, always a logistical problem given the space. The feedback has been very good and this was aided by our production of a number of age related quizzes for children visiting the museum. The museum is also registered with the Children's University scheme as a learning destination.

Over the winter we have been revamping the displays with new features on the photographer Alfred Vowles and "Growing Up in Minehead". The museum held its annual Charity Quiz evening in January, raising over £300 towards the museums running costs. A coach trip to Barnstaple Museum for "Friends of the Museum" was fully booked and at least one further trip is being planned.

The museum's publication programme continues with the launch of "Minehead's Fallen" the story of those who died serving their country in World War Two by Ian Davidson & Geoff Lloyd. A follow on to the highly successful WW1 publication "Minehead's Sacrifice" last year. The launch and talk will be in on the evening of April 15th at the Beach Hotel. A booklet of local reminiscences is scheduled for publication in the summer.

The Y.M.C.A. Beach Hotel continues to be very supportive and the location of the museum, next to the Tourist Information Centre draws people into both. The museum remains a member of Museums in Somerset and as such benefits from professional advice on matters such as conservation and training.

The museum is totally volunteer run and managed. These volunteers keep the museum open six days a week. The museum reopens on Saturday 21st March and is open to 1st November. Closed Mondays but open seven days a week during the six week school summer holidays.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help with stewarding, research, administration, fundraising or publicity, so anyone interested in helping the museum develop further, is welcome. Please telephone 01643 704683 or e-mail us at mineheadmuseum@btconnect.com if you would like to help or you have material that would help tell the history of Minehead and Alcombe.

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 to 4.00. Sunday 11.00 to 4.00

Minehead Museum, Beach Hotel Complex, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5AP

Minehead Area Panel

Notes of Meeting held on 11 March 2020
In The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead

Present:

Cllr Andy Kingston-James	Chair, Minehead Town Council
Cllr Mandy Chilcott	Somerset County Council
Cllr Frederica Smith-Roberts	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Peter Pilkington	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Marcus Kravis	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Craig Palmer	Somerset West and Taunton Council and Minehead Town Council
Cllr Mimi Palmer	Minehead Town Council
David Peake	Somerset Highways
Sharon Baker	Avon & Somerset Police
Graham Sizer	Minehead BID
Ray Tew	Minehead Development Trust/Minehead Coastal Community Team
Julian Luke	Minehead Museum
Mark Kingston-James	Resident
John Vicary	Resident
Pete Broom	Resident
Stephen Brown	Resident
Paul Johnson	Resident
Martin Wilsher	Resident
Harold Compton	Observer
Samantha Murrell	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Sarah Wilsher	Somerset West and Taunton Council

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Andy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andrew Hadley (Somerset West and Taunton Council), Andrew Hopkins (Minehead BID), Colin Isherwood (Resident), Chris Jones (Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service), Cllr Christine Lawrence (Somerset County Council), Cllr Anne Lawton (Minehead Town Council), Bridget O'Brien (Resident), Cllr Sandra Slade (Minehead Town Council), Maureen Smith (Transition Minehead and Alcombe/Forum 21),

A change was made to the order of the agenda, as follows:

2. Minehead BID

Graham Sizer spoke to the report which had previously been circulated, as follows:

- The BID had three main themes: Public Realm, Marketing and Events. £20,000 was being spent in each of these areas.
- Marketing had been slow to take off, but was now improving and they were working with the Town and District Councils.
- Coach friendly initiatives were being looked at based on the experiences of Burnham-on-Sea.

- Minehead was being promoted in the Visit Somerset brochure, the Exmoor Magazine, What's on Somerset and Word Gets Around.
- More bunting would be set up around the town this year and it was intended to put it up earlier – last year it did not go up until July – in order to offset the doom and gloom of current events.

3. **Somerset Climate Change Emergency – Cllr Peter Pilkington, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT)**

Peter reported that SWT and Somerset County Council (SCC) had declared a climate emergency and were committed to working towards making the Council and the area of the district carbon neutral by 2030. They had been working with Somerset County Council and other district councils to develop a draft countywide Climate Change Framework which had gone through consultation in January and February. 350 people had been to these consultation events. The Framework would be finalised later this year. SWT were also drafting their own Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan and it was proposed for the SWT strategy to be ratified in the Summer. They were slightly behind with data gathering at present, but were working through this. Consultation on both the SWT's climate change strategy and the Issues and Options paper of the new Local Plan were currently ongoing and seven joint roadshows for Climate Change and the Local Plan had taken place within the District in January and February. 60 people had attended the Minehead event. The online survey for the SCC climate change strategy had now closed and had received a very good response. Young people particularly had been targeted.

Three main themes were emerging from the feedback:

- Transport including public transport availability and the reality of whether electric vehicles were financially feasible in rural areas. SWT were providing grants to parish and town councils for the installation of electric charging points and these were proving to be popular.
- Housing – a strategy was being built for housing, but there was already a retrofit programme in place for making Council housing in Taunton more environmentally friendly and efficient and Magna and other housing associations had similar plans.
- Natural Environment including a tree planting strategy and wildflower meadow initiatives.

These themes would be fed into the strategy moving forward. The strategy would be a flexible and working document. Local environmental groups, such as Forum 21 and Somerset Climate Action Network were providing evidence to back up the strategy.

4. **SWT Local Plan Issues and Options Document – Martin Wilsher, former Principal Planning Policy Officer for West Somerset Council**

Martin explained that a new Local Plan was being prepared that would cover the period up to 2040 for the whole of the Somerset West and Taunton area, thus replacing the West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 and the various Plans for Taunton Deane. It excluded the Exmoor National Park as the Exmoor National Park Authority were responsible for their own Local Plan. The result would be one consistent policy document for the whole district.

The Issues and Options document was currently being consulted on. It highlighted a series of elements that it proposed the Local Plan should focus on, including climate change, sustainability, transport, and future development to 2040. As well as answering the questions put forward in the questionnaire,

participants could ask questions in their answers too. Martin urged everyone to get involved in all the consultation stages of the Local Plan as once adopted it would be too late to influence policies, which would be used to determine future planning applications.

The aim was to adopt the Local Plan by 2021. Martin considered that this timescale would be unlikely to be achieved as in his personal experience it takes the best part of five years to go from the initial stages to adoption. The consultations from the Issues and Options document would need to be studied and a draft Local Plan produced. This would have a six week consultation period and the responses thereto would form part of the submission version, which would go to the Planning Inspectorate and be examined by an independent Planning Inspector. A hearing/inquiry would be held to discuss the representations arising out of this, leading to modifications, consultations on the modifications and finally adoption. Government directives could also change the direction of travel. It had taken 13 years to get the West Somerset District Local Plan (2006) adopted and 6.5 years for the West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 to be adopted.

In terms of future housing developments, the Strategic Housing Land Assessment was being currently looked at. This would form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and would inform future allocations.

Graham Sizer felt that the Issues and Options document was very Taunton and Wellington and M5 corridor biased and was concerned that Minehead was classed as a third tier in importance. Martin advised that the document made reference to the coastal strip but agreed that he would put Minehead before Wellington in significance. He urged everyone to read the document and to agree/disagree with the contents in their representations. In addition, if you participated in this consultation then you would be automatically contacted about future Local Plan consultations.

Mimi Palmer expressed concern about the poor facilities in Minehead, such as the loss of a GP surgery meaning one doctor for every 1,000 people. The hospital and schools were struggling too. There was a need for employment and social housing to keep people in Minehead. Peter Pilkington said that SWT were keen to get more social housing into the area and Frederica Smith-Roberts encouraged people to feed the need for social housing and land for development into the Local Plan. Marcus advised that two commercial units were being built on Council land at Seaward Way and there was planning permission for 40 affordable homes on the same site. Mimi also added that the 50-year plan showed Minehead having areas of heavy flooding and it was important that building did not take place on a flood plain.

5. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

Issues for Have Your Say, were as follows:

- (a) *John Vicary expressed concern that on the A39 at the Williton roundabout on 5 March at 10.10am there had been a road sign notifying motorists of a road closure and signposting a diversion for Taunton. He had followed the diversion only to find out later that the A358 had not in fact been closed. David Peake advised that the road closure had been between Crowcombe and West Bagborough in the evenings from 6.30pm to 11.30pm on 5 and 6 March. The road closure sign should have been set aside during the day and only put out during these times. He apologised to John for the inconvenience caused.*
- (b) *John Vicary advised that the road at the entrance to The Shires at the junction with Bircham Road was breaking up and needed to be filled in. David reported*

that it would be monitored and risk assessed according to the amount of traffic using the road.

- (c) *Craig Palmer reported that work needed to be carried out on some of the limbs of the Lebanon Cedar tree outside the Texaco Garage on Townsend Road as they were at risk of falling and causing an accident. However, it was not known who was responsible for the tree -Texaco, Somerset County Council or SWT. David Peake agreed to ask the County Arboriculturalist.*

ACTION: David Peake to ask the County Arboriculturalist about the ownership of the tree outside the Texaco Garage in Minehead.

- (d) *Pete Broom said that the 100th anniversary of Blenheim Gardens was to be celebrated in 2025. A large rose bed had been put in place and he asked whether there were any plans to bring the café back into use. Marcus Kravis replied that SWT wanted the café sorted out before 2025. A full asbestos survey had been done on 9 March and the report on this was awaited. There were also plans to re-paint the bandstand.*
- (e) *Pete Broom reported that despite all the heavy rainfall Minehead had recently experienced The Parade and Park Street had not flooded. He gave thanks to everyone involved. David Peake informed that this had been a multi-disciplinary approach in that much work had been done over a number of years by different organisations, eg, Environment Agency, SWT, Wessex Water, Somerset Rivers Authority.*

Drains needed to be kept unblocked to prevent flooding issues but it was noted that there were blocked drains in Bampton Street. Mandy Chilcott advised that it was best to report such issues online on the Somerset County Council's website at: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect/> (as per the Somerset County Council Update report circulated with the agenda). Reporting online provided a better response as the customer was notified when the work had been done.

The meeting were advised that the Government were providing funding to undertake preventative work on the roads – patching, gully work, potholes, etc. The sum was less than last year when much work had been done on the A39 to strengthen/repair the gullies. Mandy reported that there were 10,000 less potholes in Somerset than ten years ago.

Paul Johnson asked if roadside gullies were cleared as there was much flooding due to blocked drains at the garage at Nether Stowey on the A39. Mandy advised that the County Council had a programme of works to address this. A resident reported that there were blocked drains in the Middlecombe/Periton area. David Peake said it would be investigated.

ACTION: David Peake to arrange for the blocked drains in Middlecombe/Periton and Bampton Street to be investigated.

- (f) *Mimi Palmer asked who owned the gullies in front of Morrisons. Mandy advised that Morrisons was the owner, but that there were many gullies around Minehead with different riparian owners. All the owners needed to maintain their waterways in order to keep the water free flowing. Concerns should be raised with the Somerset Drainage Board Consortium who could enforce the clearing of gullies. Peter said that SWT ensured theirs were kept clear.*

6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 2019

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Item 4(a) – Stephen Brown asked if there were any updates regarding the Japanese knotweed on Culvercliffe. Mimi advised that SWT were monitoring its presence on a regular basis.

Item 4(b) – Stephen Brown asked if there was an update on the tree which was breaking up the road surface in Marshfield Road now that the construction works were ongoing for the new houses. Sarah to find out what was happening about the tree.

ACTION: Sarah to find out what was happening about the tree at Marshfield Road.

Since the meeting Sarah has been in touch with the planning agent for the new houses who will be getting the developers to address the tree issue.

7. Minehead Coastal Communities Team – An Update

Ray Tew reported that he had taken on the Chair of MCCT when Katrina Midgley could no longer continue as Chair due to her work commitments with Engage.

Ray explained the background to MCCT in that a Coastal Communities fund had been set up by the Government. Minehead had set up a Team and applied for funding. 70 different Coastal Communities Teams had been set up in the UK. There were Teams in Porlock and Watchet and there was a need for the three Teams to engage with each other for the benefit of the coastal strip.

Representatives from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had chosen Minehead as one of a number of areas they wished to visit to see how the funding was being spent. They had been taken on a steam bus tour of Minehead and given a map highlighting key areas. Ray would provide Sarah with a copy of an informative document and the map produced by MCCT, to be circulated with the minutes.

ACTION: Ray to provide Sarah with an MCCT information document and map to be circulated with the minutes.

8. Minehead Development Trust – An Update

Ray Tew reported that Minehead Development Trust ran Minehead Information Centre. Electronic counters were used to monitor footfall but as the Centre shared space with the Museum at the Beach Hotel there were a number of access/entrances so the data collected was unlikely to be accurate. In 2018 footfall was 27,193 and in 2019 footfall was 30,135.

Summer opening hours would commence at the end of March. Staff attended local tourism events and had social media training. A new map for 2020 would shortly be published.

9. Police Report

A report had previously been circulated. Sharon Baker reported that the pilot model for policing had highlighted the need for an extra sergeant to cover the area from Exmoor to Wellington. Sergeant Dan Bishop would therefore share

the area with Sgt Hugh Jenkins from 1 April 2020, with Hugh looking after Williton to Exmoor. He would divide his time between Williton and Minehead and would supervise the PCOs and PCSOs in his patch. Sharon's current post would be ending and she was being promoted to PCSO Supervisor in Taunton.

A new PCSO had been appointed for Minehead – Joe Norris. He lived locally, had been on local radio and was looking at issues such as road safety, homelessness, etc.

There had been incidences of thefts of lead in the rural Wellington and Taunton areas, in Wellington town centre and in Pitminster. It was believed to be part of a national crime. Messages had been sent out to all churches asking them to be aware of the issue. The word was also being spread via social media.

Issues closer to home included the recent shooting at Winsford.

Community speedwatch schemes had been set up in the last six months in Blue Anchor, Carhampton, Exmoor and Holford. Three volunteers were required to run each scheme. There was no current scheme in Minehead. The schemes were restricted to 20, 30 and 40mph, data was collected on a regular basis and repeat offenders would get a visit from a police officer.

The local police would be moving into the Council Offices in Williton and there would be a hub in Minehead. Sharon reassured the meeting that Minehead/West Somerset was still a low crime area.

10. Highway Matters

David Peake reported the following:

Completed Highway Works:

- Carriageway resurfacing at Green Hill on the A358 at West Bagborough.
- Tree works on highway verges along Bratton Straight and at Middlecombe Cross to restore sight lines and attend to dead and diseased trees.
- Tree works on highway verges on the A39 at the Dunster Steep junction to restore sight lines to traffic signals and attend to dead and diseased trees.

Ongoing Highway Works:

- Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) to install dropped crossing points across side roads in order to improve accessibility for wheelchair and pushchair users on Hopcott Road from 2 to 13 March 2020.

Future Highway Works:

- Carriageway resurfacing on the A39 at Cannington from 20 to 21 March with a temporary road closure for one night between 6pm and 7am.
- Carriageway resurfacing at Allerford with a temporary road closure between 6.30pm and 11.30pm on 2 and 3 April (two evenings).
- Carriageway resurfacing on Sainsbury Close with a temporary road closure on 7 May.

Storm Ciara caused 90 trees to fall down across the County and Storm Dennis resulted in 70-80 fallen trees. When the trees close to the traffic lights on the A39 at Dunster Steep were cut back to make the traffic lights more visible it was found that some of the trees had ash dieback. These were recently removed on highway safety grounds. There had also been works to trees along Bratton Straight and at Middlecombe Cross to increase road visibility (as above).

Investigative works following the recent floods had been undertaken on the B3190 between Stickle Path and Raleigh's Cross on 6 March and remedial works would need to be done in the new financial year when funding would be available. Until then the site was being protected.

In response to a query from a resident regarding replacement highway trees, Mandy advised that the SCC's usual policy was not to replace trees. However, for climate change it had been agreed to plant a new tree for every baby born in 2020. In addition the Council had created a one-off £1million climate and emergency reserve fund which would be open to bids from town and parish councils for green initiatives in their areas, such as community orchards. Peter added that where Exmoor National park Authority had to cut down trees in a wood because of ash die back, they would be replacing the removed trees plus increasing planting where possible. SWT were working on a Tree planting strategy including a Parish tree give away and larger woodland projects. This would be announced in the near future.

As a point of interest at the meeting David advised that the cattle grid at Crowcombe Combe was where the boundary sat between SWT and Sedgemoor District Council.

11. Burning Issues

A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

12. Town Council Update

A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no comments or queries from the meeting.

13. District Council Update

Frederica Smith-Roberts, Leader of SWT, reported that a balanced budget had been achieved for 2020 and there was no plan to cut services. The transformation put in place by the previous administration had cost £10m including £6.4m in redundancies. When SWT first came into being it had taken 45 minutes for a call to the Council's general tel. no. to be answered as there was insufficient staff on frontline customer service. Work was being done to stabilise the Council. New Directors had recently been appointed and a new organisation structure set up. There had also been an increase in the number of Council meetings. It was hoped that this would result in an improved service to the public.

The District was large with a journey of 1 hour and 25 minutes from Porlock to Burrowbridge. There were ongoing projects in Taunton including Firepool, which was a £100million+ project. A Cleansweep scheme was to be set up to spring clean and brighten up towns in conjunction with the town councils. This had happened in Taunton in the lead to the World Cup and would now be introduced to all towns in the district. SWT were also setting up a commercial investment programme

About £1million was needed to fix the hole in the harbour wall at Splashpoint in Watchet following the flooding and storms in December 2019 and February 2020. Insurance would not cover this and there was no money from Central Government. SWT would have to find the funds.

There had been a 64% cut in funding from Central Government. The future of local government in Somerset was being looked at. The District Councils wished to work together in collaboration across party lines and did not believe that one

Council would work for the community of Somerset, whilst the County Council believed a unitary council was the best option for Somerset.

Minehead

Frederica reported that two commercial units were being built on land at Seaward Way and agreed with the meeting that there was a need for social housing for those people who could not get on the property ladder. In this respect there was the need to get involved in the Local Plan which looked at all types of housing.

A resident asked if new homes in Minehead would be for local people. Frederica explained that Homefinder was for all people across the County and there were currently 4,000 people in the SWT district area on Homefinder. Affordable housing meant 80% of the rental cost. Social housing meant 60% of the rental cost.

Frederica had enjoyed a walk around Blenheim Gardens and wished to see a café up and running in the future. Other issues included the removal of sand from the seafront and wildflowers being planted at Culvercliffe. Andrew Pritchard, the new Director for External Operations, would be visiting Minehead on 17 March.

SWT were working with Sedgemoor District Council and North Somerset Council on a coastal management strategy.

Frederica advised that she lived in Taunton and did not wish the Council to be Taunton-centric in its focus, however, as it was the county town funds needed to be used to ensure that it flourished and prospered economically.

A resident asked about the increase in car parking charges. Frederica explained that this was to help fund the Taunton Park and Ride which had moved from County's control to SWT's. The Park and Ride benefitted all vehicle users, particularly those outside of Taunton.

14 . Somerset County Council Update

A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Mandy Chilcott reported the following:

- There were some helpful telephone numbers and websites in the report. A copy would also be given to Minehead Town Council.
- She would like to see all doctors working out of the hospital with consultants. The hospital system in the County was being looked at.
- A Fit for My Future event had been held on 7 March at the Beach Hotel in connection with the public consultation on the use of community and health care services. Sadly this had been poorly attended. The consultation would end on 12 April. Mandy encouraged everyone to participate (online link to the consultation in the County Council Update report).
- It was hoped to get the buses running between Minehead and Taunton to go via Musgrove Park Hospital.
- Public health sat with Somerset County Council. In respect of covid-19, please ring 111 and self-isolate if suffering. Do not go to the surgery or hospital.

On the issue of coronavirus, Mark Kingston-James stated that there would be problems for small businesses if Easter didn't happen due to Covid-19 and asked if there would be any financial assistance for them. Mandy

advised that help for small businesses had been outlined in the Government's new budget.

Mandy further advised of the following:

- Minehead's parking review was ongoing.
- There would be an advisory speed limit of 20mph put around every school in Somerset over the next two years.
- Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission were looking at children's services in Somerset.
- Village agents with responsibility for mental health had been introduced into the service run by the Community Council for Somerset.
- A unitary authority for Somerset was a huge issue. The County Council had written to the Secretary of State asking if SCC would be invited to put forward a business case. Mandy offered to arrange for a speaker from the County Council to talk about a unitary authority for Somerset at the next Minehead Area Panel meeting.

ACTION: Mandy Chilcott to arrange for a speaker on a unitary authority for Somerset to attend the Minehead Area Panel meeting to be held on 11 June 2020.

15. Any Other Business

Minehead Museum

A report had kindly been provided by Julian Luke for the Minehead Museum and had been previously circulated. Julian advised that the museum would re-open on 21 March.

EAT Festival

Sam Murrell advised that the next EAT Festival, organised by Minehead BID, would take place on 4 April along The Avenue from the junction with Blenheim Road to The Esplanade.

West Somerset College's Spring Concert

Sam advised that this inaugural concert would take place at the Regal Theatre on 18 March. Arts had been cut back at the College this concert had been organised to enable the students to technically manage and participate in their own artistic event. Monies raised would go back to the College. Sam asked everyone to support it.

16. Dates & Venues of Future Meetings

Future meeting to be held on:

Wednesday, 11 June 2020 at 6.30pm at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead.
Thursday, 17 September 2020 at 6.30pm at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead.
Thursday, 3 December 2020 at 6.30pm at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead.
Wednesday, 3 March 2021 at 6.30pm at The Hub, Hopcott Road, Minehead.

Minehead Bay

Discover Hidden Treasure

and beyond...

Minehead Coastal Community Team

was established in 2015 in response to the Government's launch of specific funding for coastal communities.

The Coastal Community Team brings together the commitment of local businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, the BID, the Voluntary & Community Sector together with Town, District and County Councils.

Following a successful bid to the first round of Coastal Communities Funding, MCCT worked with PerConsulting to create

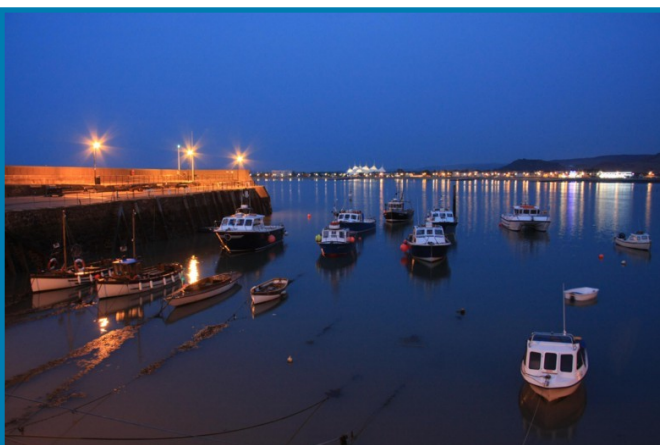


an economic plan to inform the development of future projects for the town.

Elements of the initial plan were further developed and in March 2016 a feasibility study into the potential to enhance the seafront area, entitled: Minehead's Enterprising Esplanade, was published.

The Coastal Community Team in Minehead then took forward a development to significantly raise the quality of the visitor offer in the town. The Enterprising Minehead project aimed to revitalise the seafront, offer customer focused skills training, boost marketing for the area and assist the Chamber and local businesses with the Business Improvement District. This project (which secured £131k from the Coastal Communities Fund and £0.5m from the Hinkley C Community Impact Mitigation fund, £80k Leader and £200k in other match funds in August 2017) has its own Business Plan, entitled Enterprising Minehead.

Minehead Coastal Community Team is continuing to develop new project proposals in readiness for funding opportunities. Members are particularly concerned by the climate emergency and feel that coastal communities need



Picture by Sarah Williams

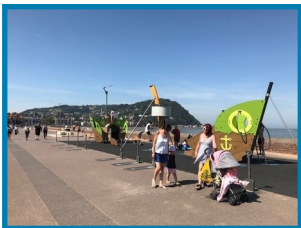


Key Achievements Enterprising Minehead



Initiatives supported by MCCT include:

Eastern Esplanade Enhancements: Hard landscaping, soft landscaping with planting around a clear strategy based upon Beth Chatto's dry gardens, bicycle shaped bike racks, various seating options, some designed on raised platforms to see over the sea wall and others refurbished, projector lighting to pick out the new blue landscaped strips, central



lighting in the central plaza area, two children's play areas, new seats and floor treatment in roundels.

Artisan Markets: 6 markets held 2018 summer season, with over 400 visitors recorded at each market held. This was expanded to 9 markets over 2019 season, starting at Easter, with over 500 visitors recorded at each market held.

Guided Walk Ambassador Scheme: 10 walks took place between March–

Sept 2018, with 70 people participating. 11 walks so far for 2019 season (numbers not yet collated for 2019) Details of guided



walks can be found on www.mineheadbay.co.uk

Minehead Summer Festival Event: Summer festival August 2018, featuring thunder cats ribbed racing boats.

Minehead Maritime Mile Heritage Trail: Launched June 2018 - seafront heritage interpretation trail with seashell way marking along the Esplanade. Open air gallery, augmented reality App for android and IOS devices and a children's quiz.

Minehead Bay Branding: Minehead Bay brand developed and launched in 2018. We now have a quality set of brand guidelines and branded merchandise, which is sold in the Minehead Information Centre and used on all marketing collateral.

Minehead Bay website: new destination website
www.mineheadbay.co.uk
launched June 2018.



Edwardian Shelters and concession: Six Edwardian shelters refurbished in 2018, with one converted into a pop-up trade post, where a deck

chair concession was run during the 2019 season.



Activity Centre: Supporting refurbishment of seafront adventure activity centre.

YMCA: Supporting the

YMCA theatre kitchen.

West Coast 360: Branding and website have been developed
www.westcoast360.co.uk
and an **Online Training** for



Minehead Ambassador Scheme launched. **West Somerset Schools' Bake Off** - 1100 pupils in six local schools took part in an activity and Cookery



Masterclass. **Pre-employment programme** - 8 participants completed an intensive week of customer service and cookery training.

Places of interest

Old Hospital/Community Hub: The Old Hospital in Minehead has a 75 year lease for community use. This provides a building of circa 30,000 square metres and, whilst requiring extensive refurbishment with approximate £4 million pounds of grant aid, will deliver significant areas for community use: function suite, art gallery, conference facilities, community café and many other services. The building already has over 15 tenants, including a community radio station. It is being managed by Minehead Connect, a CIC, with local people fully committed to creating a hub, Managed By the Community, For the Community.



Minehead Methodist Church works closely with activities in the Regal Theatre and the Old Hospital. It is also a venue for promoting music events and other performance arts. A possibility for the regeneration of areas of Central Minehead exists between these three important public venues through to Blenheim Gardens. Consultation, followed by a public meeting, was held to explore these possibilities, facilitated by town planning expert Ben Hamilton-Baillie. Central to the delivery of this plan was, that by adjusting traffic and pedestrian flows, accessible safe spaces generating vibrancy through social activities and events would be created.

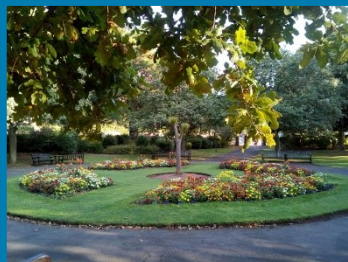


The Regal Theatre: is a volunteer led performing and visual arts venue for community based activity situated in Minehead town centre. It is a well-used resource by local organisations and is home to 6 performing arts companies and The Regal Film Society, the largest film society in the West Country which is now able to screen live event cinema. Approximately 25,000 residents and visitors purchase tickets each year for its wide ranging programme of professional and community entertainment that includes drama, film, comedy, dance, music and performance of all kinds. The entrance halls and bar often feature displays of work carried out by local artists



Blenheim Gardens is Minehead's largest park, created in 1925, following the generosity of Mr Magnor of Northfield House. Alexander Fownes Luttrell provided the land in 1911, stipulating that it should be used only as a public park or pleasure ground for the Town of Minehead.

The grounds are level and largely as originally laid out with the exception of a row of elm that fell victim to Dutch elm disease. A new bandstand was created in the late 1960s. This is used for a variety of performances and is considered to be one of the best bandstands in terms of acoustics in the SW.



Arthur C Clarke's Birthplace: One little-known fact about Minehead is that science fiction author Sir Arthur C Clarke (of 2001: A Space Odyssey fame) was born here.



Western Esplanade: Minehead has a mile long promenade with the western end falling within the Quay Town conservation area, which retains an old-world charm. This area is home to the town's two Hobby Horses, one at The Quay Inn and the other at the Old Ship Aground. It also includes the hands sculpture, installed in 2001 to mark the start of the South West Coast Path.

Heritage Harbour: Minehead Harbour is located on the Somerset coast between Porlock Weir and Watchet marina. Minehead Lifeboat Station can be found just beyond the harbour. There has been a Harbour at Minehead since the late 1300's and it is now home to a busy charter boat fleet and has an active leisure boat community. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, some forty vessels were trading regularly between Minehead and Ireland, South Wales, Bristol and Bridgwater. There was also a herring fishing industry of some importance; it is recorded that some 4,000 barrels were exported annually. (Picture: Stephen Hooper)



Places of Interest

Culvercliffe is one of the largest open spaces in Minehead. It covers an area of approx. 12 acres of open space nestled below the wooded slopes of North Hill and provides great views over the Bristol Channel towards South Wales. It is currently managed as a wildflower and conservation area. With a surfaced path and seating which runs from end to end, known locally as the Culvercliffe Walk. It is owned by Somerset West & Taunton Council and is an area with much potential sitting close to the start of the South West Coastal Path.



Eastern Esplanade is part of the Enterprising Minehead project, providing hard and soft landscaping, planting, improved seating, lighting and children's play areas. It is also the start of the new Minehead Maritime Mile interpretation trail that has the following: a mile long heritage trail along the seafront promenade, waymarked with shells to guide you to the harbour, and an open air gallery in the central plaza area. There is an augmented reality App at key points that also has a children's quiz. The trail is linked to the new Minehead Bay destination website: www.mineheadbay.co.uk

Channel Adventure is part of the Channel Group and operates from a seafront centre in the coastal town of Minehead and from an urban centre on the river in Taunton. It offers a range of innovative outdoor challenge and lifestyle events that engage people with adventure, with our natural environment, with others and, crucially, with themselves. Channel staff have been involved in the world of outdoor learning for decades and have seen how powerful it is in terms of re-engaging people with the essence of being a down to earth, useful, happy human.



West Somerset Railway: Minehead Railway Station was first opened in 1874. It was closed by British Rail early in 1971 and reopened in 1976 as the West Somerset Heritage Railway. Running for 20 miles, it is Britain's longest standard gauge heritage railway. Today it carries over 200,000 passengers a year making it one of the largest attractions in South West England. There are some 50 paid staff and 900 volunteers and is a key driver for visitor numbers in the town. The railway runs numerous events during the year including the Santa Train. The recent 40s weekend saw associated events running throughout the town working with and supported by local businesses.

Minehead Eye, a multi-purpose indoor skatepark and youth centre, opened in August 2010, after many years of volunteer time and effort by the skaters who grew-up during the project, leaving a legacy for the young people of Minehead. The skatepark, bouldering cave and café operate as a CIC, enabling it to generate non project-based income.



Minehead Museum opened in March 2014, in partnership with the YMCA and Minehead Development Trust, in part of the Beach Hotel. The museum was able to increase its display space in 2017, with visitor numbers increasing to almost 11,000 in 2019. Entirely volunteers run, it opens between March and the end of October with no entry charge. It hosts educational visits and is registered with the Children's University as a learning centre. It stages public talks and has an active publication programme of local history booklets.

Minehead Information Centre (MIC) has been in its present form and location (as part of the shared space within The Beach Hotel) since 2012. Managed by Minehead Development Trust and funded through a SLA with SWT Council and its own income-generating activities, it provides a personal, human service for every visitor who calls in. September footfall to MIC is up by 1,442 on the same time last year which demonstrates the value visitors place on speaking to a friendly advisor.



Beach Hotel: This derelict hotel that was brought back to life by the YMCA Dulverton Group, enabled by a variety of funding including: Homes and Communities, Coastal Community Fund, and investment from the YMCA DG and the District Council. It has had further investment from EDF CIM fund and Power to Change. It is a multi-award winning hotel in its own right, but also acts as a social enterprise and community hub. It combines luxury hotel accommodation whilst providing supported housing for 26 young people, and training apprentices. In the 5 years since it opened it has had 25,000 guests, trained 38 apprentices, held 15 community events, 8 local art exhibitions and provided over 50,000 safe and secure bed nights for vulnerable young people.



The Future



Our vision is for Minehead to be a welcoming, visible, easy to get to, easy to understand, fun, family destination with UK wide appeal.

For Minehead residents, we want to create a supportive, cohesive and progressive community that puts social mobility and opportunity first to



create the right conditions for the visitor and local economies to thrive.

The launch of the Coastal Communities Fund in 2015 enabled Minehead to

maintain the impetus of the Minehead Vision Project, which delivered a variety of initiatives during the preceding 3 years, under the headings of Culture, Community and Commerce.

Minehead Coastal Community Team was built on the pre-existing Vision Group partnership, while enabling both membership and priorities to be refreshed. The achievements listed in this publication are testimony to the success of this transition. But there is still more to do.

We are already linking with our neighbouring CCTs in Watchet and Porlock, so that opportunities can be developed that benefit the wider West Somerset community.



As with all consultations, our conversations with the community about the projects that should be prioritised, drew out some very exciting ideas for potential future developments. We are already working on some of these, with the Enterprising

Minehead Phase 2 project looking to provide roll out further east to complete the esplanade

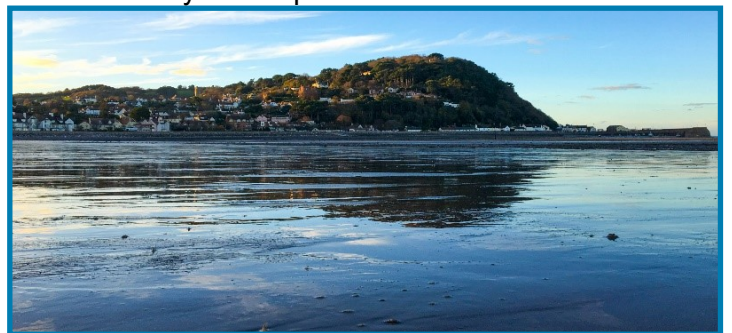
enhancements, further visitor attractions and opportunities to support the tourism and hospitality sector. We are



currently looking for match funding opportunities to progress the project.

MCCT member, Minehead Connect is working on the next phase of the Old Hospital development plan and will be applying for Heritage Lottery Funding to provide an art gallery and multi-functional exhibition facility, a conference facility and rooms providing community services, all of which will also deliver local employment.

Potential projects highlighted by our consultations include: providing an outdoor skatepark, restricting areas of the seafront to pedestrian access during the summer season, a row of beach huts at the Warren Road (Butlins) end of the Esplanade and reinstating a tidal pool that was lost when the beach was reprofiled in 1997. All would need to be checked for feasibility, but we are very excited at the potential to work with and for the community on some ambitious projects for this area, which has been highlighted as lacking in social mobility and aspiration.



The work to date has only been made possible with the support of the District Council – Previously West Somerset, now Somerset West & Taunton. The council officers' invaluable time has been instrumental in the production of bids, managing the funding and delivery of projects. Our MCCT members volunteer their time and support, but fully recognise the need for capacity and funding to drive these ambitions. We look forward to hearing news of a CCF Round 6 and would appreciate access to seed funding, enabling the team to obtain the essential skills and resources needed to support delivery of ambitious future plans for Minehead.

Core Members

Engage Voluntary Sector
Development

Minehead BID

Minehead Chamber of
Trade

Minehead Connect

Minehead Development
Trust

Minehead Town Council

Regal Theatre

Somerset County Council

Somerset West and Taunton
Council

Transition Minehead &
Alcombe



Wider Stakeholders

Avon & Somerset Police

Butlins

Dulverton Group YMCA (Beach Hotel)

Exmoor Tourism Association

Foxes Academy Hotel

Friends of the Steam Coast Trail

Minehead Hoteliers Association

Somerset Tourism Association

West Somerset Railway





Culvercliffe



Heritage Harbour



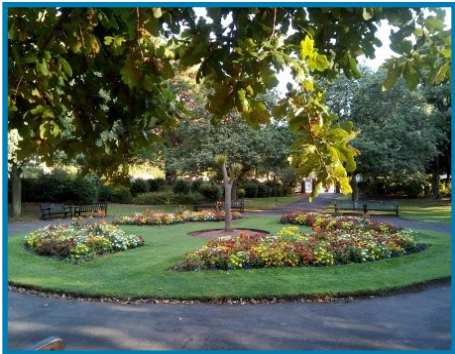
Western Esplanade



Channel Adventure



Eastern Esplanade Project



Blenheim Gardens



Arthur C Clark's Birthplace



Old Hospital Hub



Minehead Methodist Church



The Regal Theatre



Beach Hotel



Minehead Museum



Minehead Information Centre



West Somerset Railway



Minehead Eye

