

Watchet, Williton and Quantocks Area Panel

Tuesday, 17th September, 2019,
7.00 pm

Council Chamber - West Somerset House

Agenda

1. **Introduction** (Pages 3 - 4)
2. **Apologies for Absence**
Emma Cavendish – Chair of Holford Parish Council
3. **Have Your Say - Community Issues/Concerns**
An opportunity for local people to influence what happens in their neighbourhood and the opportunity to share their views on a raft of issues that affect their lives.
4. **Notes of the Meeting held on 18th June 2019 and Matters Arising** (Pages 5 - 12)
5. **SWT Principal Planning Specialist - Rebecca Miller**
6. **Police Report**
To receive an update.
7. **Highways Report**
To receive an update.

Please note: as a way of assisting the smooth running of the Panel, David Peake will be available before the meeting to allow members of the Panel to discuss local issues informally.
8. **Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service**
To receive an update.
9. **Somerset West and Taunton Council**
To receive an update.
10. **Date of Next Meeting**
Tuesday 3rd December 2019 at 7.00 pm, Council Chamber, Council Offices Williton
Tuesday 17th March 2020 at 7.00 pm, Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

11. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2019

(Pages 13 - 22)

Watchet, Williton & Quantock Vale Area Panel

Tuesday 17th September 2019

7.00 pm

Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

A G E N D A

1. Introduction

2. Apologies for Absence

Emma Cavendish – Chair of Holford Parish Council

3. Have Your Say - Community Issues/Concerns

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4. Notes of the Meeting held on 18th June 2019 and Matters Arising

5. SWT Principal Planning Specialist – Rebecca Miller

6 Police Report

To receive an update.

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To receive an update.

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8 Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

To receive an update.

9 Somerset West and Taunton Council

To receive an update.

10. Date of Next Meeting

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- Circulation of the Agenda and Minutes – GDPR concern that all email addresses were listed. Sam Murrell apologised for this oversight and said this would not happen again. In future all notices would be B.c.c.
- Concern at the move to three weekly general waste collections. Mr. Tallins asked what provision would be made for those people with high/special care needs? Three weekly collections would not serve those households who have nappies and other waste of a clinical nature to dispose of. Chris Hall advised that the new waste contractor would put in place special collections to those households requiring an additional service.
- **ACTION POINT 2** – Ensure that this extra service provision is adequately advertised prior to the launch of the revised collection times. Village Agents need to be notified so as to assist vulnerable households with high care requirement.
- Escorting of wide loads – As these are not escorted by the Police and cause a lot of disruption, is there any way this can be better communicated? A general discussion ensued but was agreed to forward comment to SCC Highways.
- **ACTION POINT 3** – David Peakes. Do SCC have any jurisdiction about how/when Wide Loads are able to use the roads? Is there a way this can be better communicated?

Following the Area Panel Meeting Chris Hall found the following link which explains the legalities around Wide Loads.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-types-enforcement-guide/special-types-enforcement-guide>

- Amenity Area Maintenance – Could some guidance be provided on maintaining play/amenity areas once they have been handed over from a developer? What are the procedures i.e. can they be handed over to the Parishes for a commuted sum, or when out of the maintenance agreement time (25years). It was agreed that someone with Local Planning knowledge would be best placed to answer.
- SCC Parking Fines – Can someone check the SWT website page please as the link does not take a person through to the right place on the SCC website. It provides Policy Information but does not allow a person to “Challenge or Pay” the Parking Fine. No clear narrative on how to do this?
- **ACTION POINT 4** – Sam Murrell will follow this up with the Communications team. *SWT128788989 – Logged via Firmstep internal service request. Asked for better signposting to the SCC website to enable payment/challenge of on-street parking fines.*

Sue Goss – Stogursey Parish Council

- A concern was raised that the proposed Special Full Council Meeting that had been scheduled to take place in the Williton Council Chamber on the following evening (Tuesday 19th June) was re-

located to Deane House, due to a “lack of tables and chairs in the Williton Council Chamber”. This was met with great consternation by the Parish Council representatives.

- **ACTION POINT 5** – Chris Hall to obtain further information and relay back.

The reply received from Governance was that the “Special” Meeting was in respect of two Taunton issues: namely management of Firepool and the Coal Orchard open spaces and a lot of press and public were expected to attend. There is not sufficient capacity to accommodate all Councillors, Press and Public in the Williton Chamber in its current state. Governance have flagged this with the Project Management Pipeline to look at possible solutions. There is a commitment to hold 1/3 of Committee Meetings in Williton, but this is subject to Agenda Items and anticipated attendance levels. It was deemed on this occasion to move the meeting to a Taunton venue, to enable maximum attendance and accessibility, on these two Town Centre issues.

Gordon Tizzard – West Quantoxhead Parish Council

- Stated that he wanted a list of the new staffing structure so he knew where reporting lines and contact points were for the future. He had been told that Sam Murrell “was the point of contact for the District Council” but he was unable to get hold of her. Chris Hall advised that the Customer Services number should always be the first place to call, and service requests would be triaged to the relevant officer from there. Customer Services Number is 0300 304 8000.
- Gordon expressed disappointment and frustration at the time it had taken to acknowledge a recently submitted planning application. He said that the Council was failing in its Statutory Function to provide an adequate service. This point was echoed by Phil Gannon. Chris Hall advised that it members of the panel wanted help and advice on specific service areas, advance notice should be given, then the Council would ask an appropriate person to attend.
- **ACTION POINT 6** – Make a request for a Planning Case Manager to be present at the next Area Panel Meeting to discuss service issues.
- Concern was expressed that no senior officers are based permanently at West Somerset House. Also concern that there are no designated officers to deal with specific service requests. I.e. who are the Planners and Environmental Health Officers? Chris reiterated that all calls should be sent through Customer Services

Penny Rowland Hill – Engage

- Penny introduced herself and talked about the work at Engage and how they support the voluntary sector.

3. Apologies for Absence

David Peakes – Highways Report was submitted prior to the meeting
Cllr Loretta Whetlor SWT & WTC
Cllr Ian Aldridge SWT

4. Notes of the Meeting of the 19th March and Matters Arising.

The notes were confirmed as a correct record, although Gordon Tizzard expressed dissatisfaction at the fact they were not on the Council's website and he had not seen them until the day before this meeting. Sam Murrell advised that she had asked the Governance Team to publish them, but they were currently working through a backlog of information. They were not considered High Priority at the present time, but would be published in due course.

- **ACTION POINT 7** - DRAFT Minutes of Area Panel Meetings would be distributed to the Parish/Town Clerks/Agencies when they are ready, but the emphasis is on DRAFT. They would not be approved until the subsequent meeting. – Sam Murrell

5. Introduction to the Work of the Village Agent – Izzy Silvester

Izzy gave an overview of her work covering the Quantock Hills, Watchet, Williton and neighbouring parishes. She is funded by the Somerset Community Council. She expressed her complete satisfaction in the SWT service towards vulnerable people in respect of housing; discretionary housing payments and help with tenancy sustainment. She made personal reference to Jo Ross (Vulnerable people at SWT) and the front-line Customer Services Team.

They can assist with applications for funding to support the elderly, adult social care and carers support agency. Main client base: Mental health patients; dementia care and families in crisis.

Village Agents are based in hospitals now. Part of their work is to carry out front line assessment of carer needs before patients are discharged. They support individuals throughout Somerset in our communities. Another 10 Village Agents have just been recruited to support the growing need. Mainly funding through Adult Social Care and the Care Quality Commission.

Other schemes that involve the Village Agents are:-

- Good Neighbours Scheme – Rolling out to villages. (An emergency phone number that can be called to assist Village Agents when they are stretched). Would like parish councils to champion it. Lottery funded. Aimed to set up communities so people can help one another in their own and neighbouring communities. 27 groups have expressed an interest. Further information and a setting up guide is available on the website.

Full information on all the services and advice SCC provide are available on the website: www.somersetccc.org.uk. Tel no's: 01823 331222

- Fundraising and food box delivery.
- Talking Café – Izzy runs Williton and Stogursey. There are others across the district, facilitated by other Village Agents.
- Memory Café / Bridgwater Arts Centre

6 Police Report – Not present

7. Highways Report – David Peakes was not present, but comments featured under “Have Your Say” will be passed on to him for feedback . A prepared Highway Report was circulated before the meeting.

8. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service – Not present

In their absence, Penny Rowland Hill advised about the Home Fire Safety Survey that D&SFS will readily undertake in People’s homes. This point was emphasised by Chris Hall.

9. Somerset West and Taunton Council

Chris Hall advised:

- Recruitment for the new Council is ongoing. There have been sweeping changes in recent weeks with a large number of staff leaving the organisation, and others moving to new roles. Despite the recently publicised redundancies, there were still vacancies to be filled and there were recognised knowledge gaps. Some service areas had felt a greater impact than others, but customer service response times were now improving. Despite rumours to the contrary, staff that were formally employed by WSC and TDBC were not given redundancy, and then immediately re-employed by SWT. Staff who wanted to go, were released and free to seek employment opportunities elsewhere.
- Asked that attendees notify the Panel in advance of questions they wished to raise. This would ensure smoother running, and help with providing answers. If there were common themes, it would be possible to invite guest speakers/experts along to provide a fuller response.
- Due to fewer staff, all enquiries should be directed on-line or via telephone to customer services. Various views were expressed from calls being recorded, and or the lack of will on the part of rural parishioners to engage in this process.

9. Meeting closed at 8:40pm

Dates of Future Meetings

Tuesday 17th September 2019

Tuesday 3rd December 2019

Tuesday 17th March 2020

The West Somerset House Council Chamber has been reserved for this purpose.

Somerset West Lottery Update

Somerset West Lottery has been operational since May 2017. Somerset West Lottery is run by Somerset West and Taunton Council with the aim of offering registered good causes the opportunity to raise income for their organisation by selling lottery tickets to members of the public. Each ticket purchased is entered into a weekly draw with prizes ranging from free tickets to £25,000.00 cash.

Each ticket purchased is entered into a weekly draw with prizes ranging from free tickets to £25,000.00 cash. An average weekly draw of 1200 tickets results in an average of 25 prizes; the 9th March 2019 draw from 1288 tickets resulted in 39 prizes with a top win of £2,000.00 for a player in Minehead.

The total revenue for good causes since the launch of SWL is £89,947.80 with a predicted annual income for this year alone of over £35,000.00. Ten percent of funds raised by SWL ticket sales go into a community fund which is opened annually by Somerset Community Foundation available to any eligible local good cause (not just those registered) wishing to apply for additional funding. A fund of £12,000.00 from this pot has been allocated this year to the foundation for grant allocation across the whole of the SWTC area (Taunton Deane and West Somerset).

Alan Slade of Taunton Town Football Club told me today that the club welcomed the opportunity to both generate income to develop the charity's facilities while giving supporters the chance to win prizes. Alan said that it was an added bonus that all the funds raised remain locally for community benefit.

Another beneficiary of SWL is Homestart which is a voluntary organisation offering practical support to families at home with children under the age of seven across West Somerset. Clare Pound of Homestart says that SWL is particularly appealing to players because all beneficiaries are within the local community. The Homestart "Bump to Baby" supporting and training for expectant and new Mums project is one of several initiatives to have benefitted from SWL funds.

If you know of a good cause wishing to raise funds or a person who would like to buy a ticket to help them do just that, get them to contact SWL by T: 0300 30 20 666 E: support@somersetwestlottery.co.uk or visit www.somersetwestlottery.co.uk

Christine Gale

Somerset West and Taunton Council

[0300 304 8000](tel:03003048000)

<https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk>



Watchet, Williton & Quantock Vale Area Panel

17th September 2019

7.00 pm

Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

NOTES AND ACTION POINTS

PRESENT:

Councillor David Westcott	Watchet Town Council
Councillor Loretta Whetlor	SWT and Watchet Town Council
Councillor Marcus Kravis	SWT Portfolio Holder
Dave Talling	Holford Parish Council
Peter Gill	Kilve Parish Council
Sue Goss	Stogursey Parish Council
Gordon Tizzard	West Quantoxhead Parish Council
Tony Perrett	Williton Parish Council
Izzy Silvester	CCS Village Agent
John Richards	WACET
Samantha Murrell	SWT Engagement Lead
Rebecca Miller	SWT Principal Planning Officer
David Peake	SCC Highways Officer
Helga Staddon	Resident
Bob Crowther	Resident
Richard Cuttell	Resident
Jenny Berry	Resident

1. Introduction

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Huw Davies - SCC & SWT
Chris Hall SWT
Emma Cavendish – Holford Parish Council
PCSO Sue Marks (Who was called away to attend RTC).

3. Notes of the Meeting of 19th June 2019 and Matters Arising.

It was agreed that most of the matters arising would be covered under subsequent Agenda Items.

4. Have Your Say - Community Issues/Concerns

a) Jennifer Berry (chair of the Good Neighbours scheme hosted in Danesborough View Common Room) spoke of her annoyance at use of the name "Good Neighbours" by Somerset Community Council for their national scheme. She had spoken to Izzy Silvester at length about this, and was angry that an advertisement had been displayed in the Williton Window, advertising the services of the Village Agents "Good Neighbours" which conflicted with her own. Izzy was doing her best to come to a resolution and was attending a meeting the following morning with her CEO to discuss the situation.

ACTION POINT 1 – Izzy Silvester to work with Miss Berry to establish a mutually beneficial way forward.

5. SWT Principal Planning Specialist – Rebecca Miller

- a) Rebecca introduced herself and said she had been appointed to post following the transformation to one Council. She was very aware of recent frustrations and she was putting together a cohesive planning team that was fit for purpose. She had finally finished interviewing and the last person would come into the SWT on the 1st January 2020. She had appointed 9 new planning posts, which would be assigned geographical areas and would familiarise themselves with their localities. This would result in consistency with names, faces and decision making. In addition three of these had specialisms in Conservation (Heritage Buildings), Conservation and Landscaping (AONB Areas) and Tree Preservation. The Planning Officer responsible for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) including HPC is John Burton.
- b) These officers would not be based at a specific location but would be flexible and work where it suited the purpose of the business. Although they had individual caseload, if capacity allowed they would be available to help customers with general planning related queries if called upon.
- c) Referring to action points that had been raised in the previous Area Panel Meeting by Holford Parish Council:-

C.1. Ongoing Maintenance of Amenity/Play Areas. Do new owners take on the restrictions and responsibilities that were imposed as part of the original planning application, and how long do these responsibilities last?
Rebecca advised that the original agreement still stands and the landowner is responsible. The landowner had provided a play area and that was fulfilling the planning obligation despite the fact it was closed as deemed “unsafe”. There were no grounds to enforce a S106 order because the landowner had not breached the order. It was pointed out that as this play area is owned by a RSL housing provider (Falcon Housing formerly West Somerset Rural Housing), it was in their interest as a responsible landlord to serve their tenants, and ensure that the play area was well maintained.

ACTION POINT 2 – Seek advice from Housing Enabler (Jo Humble) about who to liaise with at Falcon Rural Housing Association to resolve this matter. *Jo Humble and Sue Southwell prior to this Area Panel have expressed a wish to attend the December 2019 meeting to discuss S106 agreements and Housing Enablement roles.*

C.2. Is it now official planning policy to recommend prospective applicants consult with the Parish Council for opinions and suggestions regarding potential planning applications?
The answer given was that this is not official planning policy, but it is considered good practice for applicants to consult prior to submission, especially on large scale developments.

- d) Concern was expressed about the move away from providing paper plans with applications. Rebecca stated that SWT receives all applications in an electronic format now, and it was too costly to reproduce these as paper copies. It reduces carbon footprint, storage requirement and postage. David Peake emphasised this point and said that SCC also no longer provide hard copy plans. In the

event a Parish Council wanted a paper copy, it was suggested that they firstly approach the applicant to see if they could provide one as part of their consultation.

- e) Sue Goss expressed disappointment at the new rules regarding delegated decisions as she felt it reduced the importance of parish councils and asked that these were fed back to SWT. Marcus Kravis said this was a political decision, not officer led but her comments were noted.
- f) There were also several comments made regarding satellite dishes in Conservation Areas, unauthorised HMOs and other enforcement issues relating to the HPC site. Rebecca said that John Burton was the specialist officer in that area and should be point of contact. If matters needed to be escalated then they would come to her as Principal Planning Officer.

6. Police Report – Report is attached.

- a) Report was read out at the meeting in the absence of Sue Thomson who was called away to attend a RTC.
- b) A reminder that the PCC and Chief Constable would be hosting a question and answer session at the Beach Hotel, Minehead on 24th September at 7pm. The event is free but tickets need to be booked via Eventbrite.
- c) Sue also left some information booklets which highlighted scams and how to combat them.

7. Highways Report – David Peake

1. Referring to action points that had been raised in the previous Area Panel meeting:-
 - 1.1. Regarding overnight closures of the A39 during the winter months – SCC did their very best to issue advance notice but the surface dressing work was very weather dependent. High/low temperatures and rain affected the ability to carry out these works. It was always the intention for works to go ahead as advertised but they had to undertake a risk assessment on weather conditions prior to starting. If it was considered that conditions were unsuitable then the work was postponed until a more favourable time. Notifications were always posted on Twitter @TravelSomerset, BBC Traffic and Somerset Travel. <https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk>. This was real time monitoring and updated incidents and road closures as they happened.
 - 1.2. Wide loads – this is not a matter handled by SCC Highways but wide load operating companies do have to check road conditions before setting out. Due to lack of resource there is no requirement on A&SPolice to assist with the private transportation of wide loads, but there are strict operating times about when they can travel.
2. Various questions were raised about Highways issues concerning the HPC Infrastructure. (Mainly concerning congestion, traffic census information, rat-runs and maintenance of roads in the Shurton area). David Peake said these needed to be referred to the relevant on-site case worker at Hinkley Point as the site had its own Highways Project Officers.
3. Hedgerow cutting and verge maintenance. The cyclical program on this had been reduced to one cut a year. The hedges and verges will be trimmed back by 1metre at the roadside to increase visibility. Due to bird nesting season SCC trim hedges only in

September and October, but if the hedge causes a health and safety hazard they will attend to it also outside of this time frame. Concerns can be reported via the SCC website.

4. A concern was raised by Jenny Berry about the state of pavements in Williton alongside the Wyndham Arms and Long Street. Due to the fact there was only one safe walkway alongside these busy main roads, she asked if essential repair works could be undertaken.

ACTION POINT 3 - David Peake to pass these comments along so that an assessment on the state of the pavements can be carried out.

5. Essential resurfacing work is due to take place on the A39 at Dragon Cross in October. This will result in overnight road closures Mon – Friday from 18:30 to 23:30 during off peak hours to minimise disruption. Work will begin on Monday 7th October with the final shift programmed for Wednesday 16th October. For further information on this please refer to www.travelsomerset.co.uk/roadworks .

8. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service – Not present

9. Somerset West and Taunton Council

- a) A report on the Somerset West Lottery had been circulated prior to the meeting. Funds raised this year are £35,349,60.

ACTION POINT 4 – The Chairman asked how much of the ticket price was specifically allocated to the former West Somerset Council Area, if that was where it was purchased?

ACTION POINT 5 – What arrangements were in place to celebrate the Lottery hitting the £100K target? Could this be investigated and reported back please.

- b) The lease to the Onion Collective Development will be signed on the 23rd September which will move the project to the construction stage. As a reminder the project is being managed by the Onion Collective and any agents they may appoint.
- c) Gordon Tizzard asked what the maximum capacity was for Fire Regulations on the John Meikle Room (JMR) in Taunton?

ACTION POINT 6 – To determine what the capacity arrangements are for the John Meikle room.

Councillors Kravis and Whetlor advised that meetings relating to local issues such as Licensing and Planning would be held at West Somerset House whenever possible. Due to the size of the Committee and to assist with accessibility, this was a sensible choice. With regards to Full Council however, it was somewhat more difficult to accommodate all 59 Councillors, press and public within the West Somerset Council Chamber, especially if the Agenda was focussed on a Taunton related issue.

- d) A new Prosperity and Economic Development strategy is being commissioned and will be completed during the winter of 2019. This will help the Council make informed decisions about how to direct its own resources and contribute to growth and investment.
- e) Councillor Whetlor advised that SALC would be convening a meeting at West Somerset House and member organisations would receive an invitation in due course.

10. Meeting closed at 9:00pm

Dates of Future Meetings

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Watchet Williton & Quantock Vale Area Panel Meeting

West Somerset House Williton

Tuesday 17th September 2019

Stats for the last month (August), for the Beat area AW052;

3 x Arson & criminal damage.

3 x Burglary.

1 x Miscellaneous.

7 x Public Order.

3 x Sexual Offences.

6 x Thefts

The most prolific problem we have in our large & remote rural areas, is that of non-dwelling burglaries. Offender's access sheds & outbuildings, looking for strimmer's/chainsaws, power tools etc. We urge people to mark their tools with some identifying feature, & to record serial numbers, makes & models. Please review security of outbuildings as the evenings draw in. There are some good products out there including alarms, which are a great deterrent!

Recently a huge amount of tools were found within a lorry container in the Sussex area. These were seized, & many were returned to their rightful owners, but unfortunately many were unmarked, so reuniting with rightful owners was impossible, so please, get the message out there to RECORD serial numbers!

A quad bike- valued at around £17,000 was recently stolen from the Brompton Ralph area. This was subsequently recovered in Kent,

hidden in a container with a lot of other stolen goods about to go through the Channel Tunnel. The victim was delighted to receive his Quad bike back!

At this time of year, cold callers often present especially to older people, offering gardening services, drive surfacing & similar work. Please be vigilant, & if you are aware of any vulnerable people having work done, please check that they are genuine, & that it is not some cold calling scam. These cold callers usually carry out inferior standard work, & charge a fortune!

A new CSW scheme in Carhampton has just been stated with a willing group of volunteers. All the volunteers have been checked, sites assessed, & as soon as their equipment has arrived, the CSW team will be ready to hit the roads in Carhampton, which is great news!

The summer holidays have gone past without too many problems youth wise although there were two fires reported in Watchet recently one on the memorial ground and one on a private property

There has been reports of a group of youths going into the old paper mill and breaking windows they have very little security measures on the site.

The Watchet music festival was very successful with very little issues and the 40's weekend was an amazing family orientated time and no issues.

To make you aware that residents of West Somerset are invited to put their questions to Police and Crime

Commissioner (PCC) Sue Mountstevens and Chief Constable Andy Marsh on Tuesday 24 September 2019. The public forum will be held at The Beach Hotel in Minehead and will be attended by the PCC, Chief Constable and local Chief Inspector Lisa Simpson.

The forum will be opened by Somerset West and Taunton Council Leader Federica Smith-Roberts before a welcome from the PCC and Chief Constable. Chief Inspector Lisa Simpson will also give a presentation on local policing to attendees. Local people will then be able to take part in an open question answer session with the PCC, Chief Constable and the Chief Inspector.

Speaking ahead of the forum, PCC Sue Mountstevens said: "I am delighted to be returning to the Beach Hotel. The last time I was here topics raised by residents included the impact of burglaries in the area and views on police visibility. I hope local people will take the time to ask us questions once again.

"Listening to local people's views about policing is a vital part of my role as PCC. Residents tell me that they see these meetings as an opportunity to share their concerns and to help the communities they live in become safer and stronger."

Chief Constable Andy Marsh added: "I welcome the opportunity to discuss the topics that are of utmost importance to local people. These public forums are a fantastic opportunity to hear, first-hand, how residents feel about their local police service. It is so important for us to talk to the community about the challenges we are facing in policing and how they can help us create a safer place for local people to live."

The forum will be held at The Exmoor Meeting Room, The Beach Hotel, The Avenue, Minehead, TA24 5AP and will take place between 7pm – 9pm on Tuesday 24th September 2019.

Register for your free ticket now by clicking here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pcc-police-public-forum-minehead-tickets-68277847881>

You can also reserve your seat by emailing pcc@avonandsomerset.police.uk or calling 01278 646188.

If you have any questions you would like to ask you can email us in advance at pcc@avonandsomerset.police.uk. We recommend you do this if you have a question that may need extra research (for example regarding a specific issue in your area). You can also tweet us your questions to @AandSPCC using the hash tag #YourPCCYourVoice. Anyone unable to attend the forum can follow live tweets from @AandSPCC or afterwards watch a recording of it on our YouTube Channel.

