

**AREA NORTH COMMITTEE  
26<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

The items for information do not form part of the agenda. Should Members have questions regarding any of the items please contact the officer shown underneath the relevant report. If, after discussing the item with the officer and it is felt appropriate, a Member may request an item to be considered at a future Committee meeting.

1. Highway Matters Arising from October 2008
2. Area North Committee Action List – October 2008
3. Notes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October to discuss progressing the construction of a roundabout at the junction of the A372/B3153 at Bartletts Elm, Huish Episcopi
4. Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) update

**1. Highway Matters Arising from Area North Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>S Steele</b>	<b>Blind Lane, Isle Abbotts</b> Potholes in lane.	Highways aware – will action when weather improves.
<b>S Seal</b>	<b>Stoke-sub-Hamdon</b> 'Stoke-sub-Hamdon' sign at entrance to the village from Martock needs re-painting.	New lettering on order from supplier.

Kim Sharp  
Assistant Highway Service Manager  
South Somerset Area

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## 2. Area North Committee Action List from October 2008

Action	By who	Outcome
Confirm by e-mail to all Area North Members the list of meetings/workshops which are postponed and which are still being held.	Committee Administrator	E-mail sent 23/10/08
To confirm whether the Langport Surgery bus is still operating to remote villages in Area North.	Nigel Collins, Transport Officer	Transport Officer checking this.
Inform Ward Members when Economic Development officers visit businesses within their Ward.	Gerard Tucker, Economic Development Team Leader	Economic Development Team Leader confirmed he will do this.
Progress report on the Langport Area Development Trust to be presented to the Committee on a quarterly basis.	Committee Administrator	Added to Forward Plan – First report February 09
Current status of the Street Trading Policy	Laurence Willis, Head of Environmental Health and Community Protection	The street trading policy was revised by the Licensing Committee earlier this year, in effect this has made the whole of South Somerset streets permissible for licenses to be held for street trading. Each individual stall holder or trader must have a license from SSDC on a site by site basis. Following the approval of this policy, some initial enforcement work to ensure compliance was commenced. Following the receipt of queries as to the correct application of the policy, in particular how it applies to private land, any further enforcement action has been temporarily suspended for clarification.

Angela Cox  
Committee Administrator  
(01458) 257437

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3. **Notes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October to discuss progressing the construction of a roundabout at the junction of the A372/B3153 at Bartletts Elm, Huish Episcopi**

**South Somerset District Council**

**Notes** of an informal meeting to explore options for the road junction of the A372/B3153 at Field Road/Somerton Road, Huish Episcopi, held on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008** in the Meeting Room, Old Kelways, Langport.

*(10.00 a.m. – 11.40 a.m.)*

**Present:**

**Members:** Patrick Palmer (SSDC Councillor & Chairman)

Paul Brace	Huish Episcopi PC
Shirley Nicholas	Huish Episcopi PC (Chairman)
Duncan Pyle	Langport Town Council
Roy Mills	SSDC Councillor (Langport & Huish)
Derek Yeomans	SSDC & SCC Councillor (Langport)

**Officers:**

Jane Redfearn	Huish Episcopi PC (Clerk)
Charlotte Jones	Head of Area Development (North) SSDC
Adrian Noon	Major Applications Co-ordinator, SSDC Development Control
Carl Brinkman	Principal Planning Liaison Officer, SCC Highways
Angela Cox	Committee Administrator, SSDC

**Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Richard Needs, Major Highway Improvements Officer, SCC.

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**Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

Carl Brinkman explained that he and his colleague, Ian McWilliams, were responsible for submitting technical Highway comments on planning applications submitted to SSDC. He explained the hierarchy of officers within the County Highway service.

**Purpose of the Meeting**

Charlotte Jones outlined the purpose of the meeting to draw all interested parties together and to discuss a joint way forward, with achievable actions and outcomes to progress the construction of a roundabout at the junction of the A372/B3153 at Field Road/Somerton Road, Huish Episcopi.

## Where we are now

It was confirmed that:-

- A '5 arm' roundabout would cost £350,000 including all design and installation costs.
- SCC have set aside £250,000 from the sale of the Bartletts Elm site towards highway improvements at the junction of the A372/B3153. This is time-limited until June 2012.
- A strip of land has been set aside from the Bartletts Elm site to accommodate the roundabout. SCC may call on this land at any time up to 2012.
- No other surrounding land would be required to construct the '5 arm' roundabout.
- No other LTP (Local Transport Plan) funding is available or likely to be available in the future.
- A £30,000 Section 106 planning gain contribution towards highway improvements will be forthcoming from the Kelways housing site, payable upon occupation of the first house.
- SSH/Yarlington Homes have bought the site based on the outline permission granted 2007 (05/02818/OUT). They are most reluctant to incur any additional costs as a result of varying this permission and have made clear their intent to proceed with the development on this basis.
- There is a potential shortfall of £70,000 (if £30,000 is forthcoming from the Kelways housing site). However, County Highways have indicated that if the scheme is fully funded (from alternative sources) then they will proceed.
- SCC Highways are likely to object to planning application 08/03510/S73 from SSH seeking to lift Condition 2 of a previously approved scheme, requiring construction of a mini-roundabout at the entrance to the Bartletts Elm site, unless a suitable alternative access or temporary improvements to the existing are provided.

## Options for the future

- All parties agreed that a '5 arm' roundabout was the preferred option for improving the junction of the A372/B3153 at Field Road/Somerton Road, Huish Episcopi.
- Huish Episcopi Parish Council and Langport Town Council to consider a local contribution from the Parish/Town precept towards the roundabout.
- SSDC / SCC to consider options for underwriting the £70,000 shortfall (or £100,000 if Kelways site not built).
- A project plan for delivery of the roundabout to be worked on.

- Consideration be given to a joint public consultation event held by the Parish and Town Councils to gauge local opinion.
- Dialogue to be maintained with SSH/Yarlington Homes to secure additional funding of main roundabout. If this goes ahead and the mini-roundabout is deemed unnecessary, it has been indicated that the saving could be diverted to the A372/B3153 roundabout

### **Next Steps:-**

**Charlotte Jones** to arrange an informal meeting with Richard Needs of SCC together with Adrian Noon and an SSDC Engineer to discuss the timescales and a work programme to deliver a roundabout at the junction of A372/B3153.

**Charlotte Jones** to enquire of SSDC / SCC regarding the mechanisms to underwrite the £70,000 shortfall.

**Roy Mills** to speak to the developer of the Bartletts Elm site regarding amending their scheme to allow access to the site via a 5 arm roundabout at the junction, and, by doing so, to ask if any contribution towards the main roundabout could be made from the saving of not constructing the mini-roundabout.

**Huish Episcopi Parish Council** to clarify their consultee comments on planning application 08/03510/S73 regarding the removal and construction of which roundabout at Bartletts Elm.

**Huish Episcopi PC and Langport TC** to consider a local contribution from Parish / Town precepts to cover part of the shortfall in funding.

**Carl Brinkman** to supply a copy of the A1 map (by e-mail) brought to the meeting, detailing the 5 arm roundabout proposed for the junction of A372/B3153 to Langport Town Council and Charlotte Jones of SSDC.

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In conclusion, Charlotte Jones confirmed that a further meeting would be convened when more information was known.

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## **4. Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC)**

### **UPDATE FOR PARTNERS NOVEMBER 2008**

#### **1. Background to the programme**

- Local action is just that, an area based approach to working at grass roots level to achieve a sustainable economy for that area. For more detail see [www.southwestrda.org.uk/local-action](http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/local-action)
- Funding comes from Axis 4 (locally based action) of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) 2007-2013
- Our local partnership - Somerset Levels & Moors Local Action Group (LAG) comprises of public / private / community / voluntary mix of organisations, agencies, businesses, community and voluntary groups that exist to plan, direct and oversee the local funding programme.
- This is European funding delivered via the South West Rural Development Agency (SWRDA)
- The Interim Somerset Levels & Moors LAG submitted a Local Development Strategy, providing evidence of need for the funding, and plans for expenditure in the area for the period through to December 2013. This includes a set of aims, objectives and predicted outcomes and outputs. This was submitted by 23 May 2008.
- Bids were judged against national and regional criteria and successful areas were notified on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008.
- The RDA subsequently briefed members of the Interim LAG at a region wide launch event on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008 on some aspects of Scheme Management.

#### **2. Somerset Levels & Moors LARC – Key facts and themes**

##### **Area – The Somerset Levels & Moors**

A unique geographical landscape with a community bonded and developed as a result of flooding, terrain and location. Home to a huge amount of wildlife and nature, the area is one of the best examples of a man-made lowland wetland expanse in the world. The bid area extends from Burnham on Sea and Cheddar in the north to South Petherton and Martock in the south, from North Petherton in the west to Glastonbury in the east. This includes a population of 130,000 people and 85 parishes across four of the five districts in Somerset.

##### **Vision**

“Promoting sustainable development in the Levels & Moors to strengthen the economy, vibrancy and environmental quality for all residents, businesses and visitors.”

##### **Our Shared Aims**

- Sensitively and sustainably utilise and enhance the natural and cultural heritage resources, characteristics and attractiveness of the Levels & Moors, to promote and boost sustainable tourism, local infrastructure, rural communities and economic opportunities throughout.
- Assist and enable businesses and social enterprises, organisations, community groups and clusters and individuals throughout the Levels & Moors to adapt

practices and adopt and integrate greater environmental awareness, especially in the face of climate change.

- Promote and develop respect, awareness and long-term security for the landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the Levels & Moors, including positive and sustainable development of these where possible and appropriate.
- Develop greater cohesion and opportunity for the Levels and Moors through the positive interaction of the Market Towns and rural areas for residents, visitors and businesses to make the area vibrant, sustainable and a distinct entity and destination.

### **Specific Local Objectives**

- **Local governance and ownership** – to ensure funding is truly led by the community to best represent the area and support and promote the identity of the Levels & Moors
- **Environment** – promoting sustainability throughout and the unique environmental quality of the area
- **Small business and social enterprise development and support** – assisting existing businesses and recognising new potentials
- **Local produce sectors** – strengthening the link between produce and landscape for residents and tourists and the identity of the Levels & Moors
- **Sustainable tourism** – to better represent the area and ensure tourism is a positive but sustainable asset for the area
- **Minimising impact** – to make the best of what is local and conserve the area for future generations.

### **3. Who was behind this bid?**

**The Interim LAG for Somerset Levels & Moors** – Comprises representation from Somerset County Council and the District/Borough Councils of Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset and Taunton Deane; Natural England and the Community Council for Somerset.

**Wider representation?** Over 30 different agencies and organisations wrote in support of the bid. It is likely that many of those will be actively engaged with the LAG once funding has been secured, following the approval of the delivery plan by SWRDA.

### **4. How much?**

The Somerset Levels & Moors LAG received confirmation of £1.8 million for the period to December 2013. Match funding has to be raised by project applicants.

### **5. What is happening now?**

- The Somerset Levels & Moors LAG has to submit a Delivery Plan for 2009 to SWRDA for approval by January 2009.
- The final composition of the LAG will be confirmed at the Open Meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2008. The Executive Committee will be appointed for the year ahead.
- Not until we have a formal contract with the RDA will we be able to consider detailed project applications and a further press-release and mailing will confirm when we are able to go 'live'. We envisage this will be January or February 2009



## **Contact –**

For details of the Scheme as envisaged:

Alex Sherman, Programme Manager, Levels & Moors LEADER+, Old Kelways, Somerton Road, Langport, TA10 9YE. Tel: 01458 251309 or Email: [asherman1@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:asherman1@somerset.gov.uk)

For details of how the LAG will operate:

Paul Chadwick, Rural Renaissance Manager, Somerset County Council Tel: 01823 358060 or Email: [pchadwick@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:pchadwick@somerset.gov.uk)