

MEETING AW.03:1213

DATE 18:07:12

South Somerset District Council

Draft Minutes of a meeting of the **Area West Committee** held at Merriott Village Hall, Merriott on **Wednesday, 18th July 2012.**

(5.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.)

Present:

Members: Cllr. Angie Singleton (in the Chair)

Michael Best	Nigel Mermagen (until 7.05 p.m)
Dave Bulmer (from 5.12 p.m)	Ric Pallister (from 5.30 p.m)
John Dyke	Ros Roderigo
Carol Goodall (from 5.15 p.m)	Kim Turner
Brennie Halse	Andrew Turpin (until 7.00 p.m)
Jenny Kenton	Linda Vijeh (from 5.30 p.m and until 7.10 p.m)
Paul Maxwell	Martin Wale

Officers:

Andrew Gillespie	Area Development Manager (West)
Greg Venn	Conservation Officer
Adron Duckworth	Conservation Manager
David Norris	Development Manager
Jo Morris	Committee Administrator

Also Present:

Valerie Keitch	South Somerset Community Justice Panel (SSCJP) Manager
Inspector Jackie Gould	Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Sgt. Jamie Rees	Avon & Somerset Constabulary

(Note: Where an executive or key decision is made, a reason will be noted immediately beneath the Committee's resolution.)

21. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED: that the following item be considered in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under Paragraph 3: "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)."

22. Historic Buildings at Risk (Agenda Item 1)

The Conservation Manager summarised the agenda report, which outlined the work of the Conservation Team in respect of historic buildings at risk and updated members on current cases in Area West. The Committee was asked to note and comment on the report.

The Conservation Officer, with the aid of photographs, then detailed a number of examples of case work relating specifically to historic buildings at risk in Area West.

The officers responded to members' questions on points of detail regarding specific cases.

Members requested a six monthly update report on the progress of a specific property in Chard.

NOTED.

*(Greg Venn, Conservation Officer – 01935 462595)
(greg.venn@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

23. Minutes (Agenda Item 2)

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th June 2012, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and, having been approved as a correct record, were signed by the Chairman.

24. Apologies for Absence (Agenda item 3)

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Sue Osborne.

25. Declarations of Interest (Agenda item 4)

Cllr Jenny Kenton had already declared a personal interest in the confidential Agenda Item 1 regarding Historic Buildings at Risk, as she owned a property close to a building listed in the report.

26. Public Question Time (Agenda item 5)

No questions or comments were raised by members of the public.

27. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda item 6)

No announcements were made by the Chairman.

28. Area West Committee - Forward Plan (Agenda item 7)

Reference was made to the agenda report, which informed members of the proposed Area West Committee Forward Plan.

The Area Development Manager (West) referred to the Asset Management Strategy being included on the Forward Plan for sometime and suggested that as the item was not forthcoming it should be removed. Rather than remove the item from the Forward Plan, Members felt that it should be included as a report to be confirmed. In response to a member comment, Cllr Ric Pallister agreed to chase up progress and let members know when a report may be expected.

The Area Development Manager (West) reported a number of other amendments to the Forward Plan as follows:

- The report expected in August on the Chard Regeneration Scheme would now be considered at the September meeting.
- A report on the Management of Markets in Area West to be added to the Forward Plan for September.

- A report on the Blackdown Hills ANOB Partnership to be added to the Forward Plan for October.

RESOLVED: that the Area West Forward Plan be noted as attached to the agenda subject to the above amendments being taken into account.

(Resolution passed without dissent)

*(Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West) – 01460 260426)
(andrew.gillespie@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

29. Community Justice Panel (Agenda item 8)

The Community Justice Panel Manager summarised the report as detailed in the agenda, which provided information about the Community Justice Panel (CJP) in South Somerset. She referred to the current funding situation and acknowledged the help and support that her team had received by staff in Area West and that without this support the Project would no longer be in existence.

During the ensuing discussion, the Community Justice Panel Manager responded to members' questions and comments. Points mentioned included the following:

- Cllr Linda Viejeh kindly donated a sum of money that she had saved during lent, to the Community Justice Panel, which was accepted and greatly appreciated by the Community Justice Panel Manager. The money would be used towards the cost of purchasing training packs.
- Reference was made to the lack of funding available and the need for organisations to raise their profile and to undertake affordable fundraising.
- Schools Education was an area that the Community Justice Panel Manager would be looking to progress in the future as a way of increasing income. She would be writing to the schools in the near future to publicise the training opportunities available.
- The Community Justice Panel Manager and her team were thanked for all their work, which was greatly valued by the Committee.
- It was noted that the CJP were awaiting the outcome of several bids submitted to various large funders. There were inadequate funds for the project to continue until April 2013 but the aim was still to find them and hopefully by this time funding through the Police and Crime Commissioner would become clearer. There were a number of supporters giving donations, which were greatly appreciated and all help towards sustaining the project.

The Chairman thanked the Community Justice Panel Manager for her report, which was noted by the Committee.

NOTED.

*(Valerie Keitch, Community Justice Panel Manager – 01460 260375)
(valerie.keitch@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

30. Promoting Community Safety in Area West – Police Performance and Neighbourhood Policing (Agenda item 9)

Inspector Jackie Gold and Sgt. Jamie Rees from Avon and Somerset Constabulary were welcomed to the meeting and they gave a short presentation informing members of local issues in Area West including crime trends and initiatives.

Inspector Jackie Gold circulated a handout to members which highlighted the number of crimes recorded today in comparison to ten years ago. The handout also included information on reductions and detections by area, which were explained to members of the Committee.

Sgt. Jamie Rees gave a comprehensive report on the latest position with specific operations and activities in Area West. He explained that he had been in post for 5 months as the new Sergeant covering Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster. Members were informed that he had sent an e-mail to members offering them the opportunity to meet with him on a one-to-one basis. He gave information on the current staffing arrangements in the area and explained that the Olympics would have no impact on the local policing levels. He assured members that local police were committed as ever and worked to the standards expected despite recent issues regarding pensions and pay. With regard to the local Policing Teams, he expected to see the Local Beat Managers spending 50% of their time out and about in the community and the PCSOs spending 80% of their time and that figures showed that they were moving in the right direction to achieving this.

During the presentation members were informed about the following police initiatives:

- Operation Fahrenheit – an initiative targeting the night time economy issues in Yeovil and Chard operating on a Friday and Saturday night with staff being deployed to problem areas.
- Anti Social Behaviour Car – a recent initiative operating on a Friday and Saturday night. Police officers deployed in a car which can move across borders to areas with the highest problems.
- Operation Tornado – an initiative that relates to the national problem of metal theft. Dealers are only permitted to buy metal items on the production of valid photographic identification from sellers.
- Operation Relentless – a successful day was held in March resulting in 6 arrests in Area West. Another day was planned later this year.

Members noted that the detection figures for Chard and Crewkerne were the highest they had ever been and police officers were catching 1 in 2 offenders. There had been a 20% reduction in Anti Social Behaviour.

Sgt. Jamie Rees commented that members of the public were able to accompany a Police Officer in the community and extended this invitation to members of the Area West Committee.

During the ensuing discussion, the police officers responded to members' comments and questions. Points mentioned included the following:

- One member referred to a request made from Ilminster Town Council for a walkabout involving the new Town Councillors and the PCSO and that to date this had not been arranged. Sgt. Jamie Rees agreed to take this request forward.
- It was recognised that there would always be an element of metal theft but the police were getting smarter with the way that criminals were caught. There was a huge amount of work undertaken behind the scenes around the detection of lead and metal theft and trackers were regularly used to catch offenders.

- In response to a comment made by a member regarding some parish/town councils not having seen a police officer at their meeting for sometime, Inspector Jackie Gold explained her expectations with regard to the attendance of police officers/PCSOs at meetings of Parish Councils. She hoped that if an Officer was unable to attend they would send a report. She agreed to chase up the member's concern and to ensure that an officer attended the next meeting.
- Members were informed that detection rates were reducing and that it was Police policy to get more officers on the street and that 80% of an officers time should be spent out on the beat and that questions would be asked if this was not the case.
- Sgt. Jamie Rees explained the working patterns of Beat Managers, PCSOs and the Response Teams and that if staff numbers fell below a certain level staff would be moved from another area.
- Offenders committing the majority of the crimes in the community were experiencing issues such as poverty, unemployment and drug misuse. There was a dedicated impact team who work with repeat offenders who had recently left prison.
- Sgt. Jamie Rees agreed to provide usage figures of the custody room at Chard Police Station in his next report to the Area West Committee.
- Inspector Jackie Gold agreed to circulate details of the local Beat Managers and PCSOs including their contact telephone numbers to members including any future changes.

The Chairman thanked the officers for attending the meeting.

NOTED.

*(Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West) – 01460 260426)
(andrew.gillespie@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

31. Section 106 Obligations (Agenda Item 10)

In the absence of the Section 106 Monitoring Officer, the Development Manager introduced the report, which outlined the actions taken in respect of the monitoring of Section 106 Planning Obligations in Area West.

During the ensuing discussion, a number of comments were made by Members of the Committee, which included the following:

- In referring to page 9 of the report, which stated that Members would be copied into the internal e-mail from Sports, Arts & Leisure Team by the Planning Officer determining the application, Members felt that they should be kept informed of all S106 agreements and copied in on all appropriate correspondence.
- One member felt that it would be useful if the Developers name could be included in the Monitoring Report Table. In response, the Development Manager commented that in some cases it was not necessarily the Developer who had made the application.
- Members felt that town/parish councils needed to be more involved in the negotiation of S106 agreements.
- Several members felt that they should have a greater input into the allocation of leisure facilities within their wards.
- One member requested a breakdown of information to be included in the next report for each part of the planning obligations secured in relation to Land at Shudwick Lane, Ilminster.

In response to a number of comments and concerns made by members over the process of allocating S106 monies for strategic facilities, it was agreed that the Assistant Director (Health & Well-Being) or an appropriate member of his team should be invited to attend a future meeting of the Area West Committee.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and the actions taken in respect of the monitoring of Section 106 Planning Obligations be endorsed.

(Neil Waddleton, Section 106 Monitoring Officer – 01935 462603)
(neil.waddleton@southsomerset.gov.uk)

32. Reports from Members on Outside Organisations (Agenda item 11)

Cllr Ros Roderigo gave feedback on the management meeting of the Blackdown Hills AONB held in July. *(A copy of the member's report is available on request)*

In the absence of Cllr Linda Vijeh, the Chairman gave feedback on the Chard Museum Committee meeting held on 25th June 2012. *(A copy of the member's report is available on request)*

Cllr Kim Turner gave an update on Ilminster Youth Club.

NOTED.

33. Feedback on Planning Applications Referred to the Regulation Committee (Agenda item 12)

There was no feedback to report as there were no planning applications that had been referred recently by the Committee to the Regulation Committee.

NOTED.

(David Norris, Development Manager – 01935 462382)
(david.norris@southsomerset.gov.uk)

34. Planning Appeals (Agenda item 13)

The Committee noted the details contained in the agenda report, which informed members of a planning appeal that had been allowed.

NOTED.

(David Norris, Development Manager – 01935 462382)
(david.norris@southsomerset.gov.uk)

35. Date and Venue for Next Meeting (Agenda item 14)

Members noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 15th August 2012 at 5.30 p.m. at Horton Village Hall.

NOTED.

(Jo Morris, Committee Administrator – 01935 462055)
(jo.morris@southsomerset.gov.uk)

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 Chairman