

Blackdown Hills
Parish Network
Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP

AONB meeting room 10.00 on Thursday November 12 2015

Attendance:

Heather Stallard
Catherine Bass
Bruce Payne
Ken Pearson
Lisa Turner
Graham Long

1. **Minutes of meeting October 19th** were agreed.

2. **Matters arising**

- CB email to all parishes had been sent, asking for responses to specific questions re PLANNING – TRAFFIC and TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS. Informal feedback from some Parishes suggests that some may find this complex, reassurance to be offered with a reminder for answers by 1 Feb 2016. **CB**
- Transport:
- *Post mtg note: SCC has opened a consultation on bus services and is requesting Parish Council responses – service bus 20 is under review (currently Taunton to Seaton and back 4x per day via Wellington, Culmstock, Hemyock, Dunkeswell and Honiton). SCC may withdraw subsidy on Taunton to Wellington section which could affect Devon availability. CB to alert Devon parishes on the route.* **CB**

3. Planning:

LT/KP

- LT and KP to arrange a planning meeting for TDBC parishes

Traffic/Transport/Highways:

- Bus service 387 now only goes 2 x weekly to Taunton.
- CB shared a [funding opportunity available from Great Western to assist communities](#) to access their local rail stations. Could help in a number of current situations where bus services either existed or were never available to get potential passengers to GW stations (Taunton/ Tiverton Parkway). KP to take forward. **KP**
- LT reported that the traffic survey being undertaken recently on several BH roads was done by Highways England, not either of the county authorities. LT to enquire about available survey data at DCC and SCC from the last 5 yrs. **LT**
- Also need to gain access to a searchable traffic flow data-base CB/LT to research **LT/CB**

Communications:

- GL reported back on latest news re broadband provision, national and local developments, on the DCC Scrutiny meeting of the CDS operations and also that EDDC is to scrutinise CDS.
- PC visits - LT and CB to go Broadhembury PC mtg on Nov 17 with a general background and update on BHPN activities. Agreed that it would be better to attend a number of Annual Parish meetings (usually between March and June) rather than attempt to attend a PC mtg of every parish.
- KP reported that the Blackdowns online web-pages are currently not suitable to carry the information required of parishes to comply with the transparency code when it comes into force next year. A great deal of documentation needs to be available for easy download, this is not possible with the current set up. CB to discuss this with Cosmic. **CB**

4. **General Meeting agenda**

Agreed this would be a relaxed and informal event, to be held in the Catherine Wheel function room, in Hemyock. Cost £2.75pp tea/coffee and mince-pie.

- Short introduction by HS.
- Presentation by James Maben of Natural Futures c. 30 mins
- Break for refreshments provided in the meeting room, tea, coffee and mince-pies.

- Continue with informal question/answer and information sharing about topics raised with MPs on Planning (LT), Traffic & Transport (KP) and Communications (GL) , based around the email sent to Clerks recently, plus info sharing on the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities (BP).
- Closing with a brief wrap up on each of the topics by 9.30 pm.

Flip charts, pens, post-its from LT, CB liaising with the Catherine Wheel

5. AONB Management Group representation

Changes to how community is represented will be mentioned by HS at the General mtg, AONB has agreed to take 3 Parish Councillor reps rather than reps from each river catchment who may not be councillors.

6. Date of next meeting tbc.