

## Dunster Panel

### Notes of Meeting held on 24 January 2011

#### at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

#### Present

Marilyn Crothers (Chairman); Brian Smith & James Fiddell (Brompton Ralph Parish Council); Faye Barringer-Capp (Carhampton Parish Council); David Powell & Ian Gummer (Luxborough Parish Council); Jean Humber (Withycombe Parish Council); PC Nick Wood & PCSO Katherine Williams (Avon & Somerset Constabulary); Jim Kent (West Somerset Seniors Forum); Keith Turner, Bruce Lang and Elisa Day (WSC); Loretta Whetlor (WSSP)

Marilyn Crothers welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

#### **1. “Have Your Say” – Community Issues**

In response to a question, Elisa Day explained that Town/Parish Councils would not be expected to precept for by-elections (these are due to a Councillor resigning etc.) as they cannot be planned for but Town/Parish Councils were being asked to precept for the four-yearly elections.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Old Cleeve Parish Council; Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP; Devon & Somerset Fire Service; SCC Highways; Councillor Christine Lawrence (SCC & WSC); Inspector Lisa Simpson (Avon & Somerset Constabulary) and Steve Eggar (Roadwater Village Hall Trust).

#### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 October 2010 and Matters Arising**

The notes of the meeting held on 11 October 2010 were agreed.

Bruce Lang reminded the Panel that the Open Day at the new Minehead Hospital will be on Saturday 29 January between 10am and 2pm.

With regard to public transport issues, he confirmed that at least one service bus would incorporate the hospital into its route.

#### **4. Police Report**

PD Nick Wood advised –

- For the Panel’s area in the last 100 days, there had been 45 crimes recorded. These could be broken down as follows –
  - 15 non-dwelling burglaries (most in the Crowcombe/Stogumber/Washford area)
  - 6 criminal damage
  - 9 theft
  - 3 violence
  - 2 fraud
  - 1 public order offence
  - 5 motor vehicle theft
  - 1 malicious call
  - 3 domestic violence

Detection rate for Panel area: 34.44% up from last year (26.18%)

## 5. Highways Report

Bruce Lang read out the planned works in the Dunster Panel Area, prepared by David Peake, as follows:

Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Minehead	Seaward Way	Construction of new cycleway. Temporary traffic signals.	17 Jan	11 Mar	8 weeks
Bicknoller	A358 Taunton Road	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in evening/at night.	10 Feb	11 Feb	2 eves/ nights
Carhampton	A39 Main Road	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in the evening.	14 Feb	18 Feb	5 eves
Old Cleeve	Huish Lane, Washford	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures during the day.	22 Feb	23 Feb	2 days
Watchet	Cleeve Hill, West Street, Market Street	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in the evening.	28 Feb	03 Mar	4 eves
Minehead	Friday Street	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in the evening.	14 Mar	16 Mar	3 eves
Kilve	A39 Williton to Bridgwater Road/Main Road	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in evening/at night.	15 Mar	18 Mar	4 eves/ nights
Sampford Brett	Tower Hill/High Street	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in the evening.	21 Mar	25 Mar	5 eves
Bishops Lydeard	Bishops Lydeard Bypass	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in evening/at night.	28 Mar	03 Apr	7 eves/ nights

Councillor Turner expressed his concern regarding various issues at Huish Champflower:

- Maundown was closed for 2 nights but SCC were very late advising of the diversion.
- The diversion was via a steep hill which had not been gritted or salted and this resulted in several near misses.
- The repair to Washbattle Bridge was due to be done at the same time, this had still not been done.

Bruce Lang advised Councillor Turner that he would pass his comments to David Peake and request he contacts Councillor Turner direct.

Jean Humber asked Bruce Lang to request David Peake to contact her direct regarding whether the speed safety works along Withycombe straight had been completed.

Jean Humber also commented how satisfied the residents from Withycombe and Rodhuish were with the salting and gritting over the Christmas period.

Other parishes were not so happy as some snowploughs had resulted in the roads being left very icy. It was pointed out that not all parishes had collected salt and considering the current money shortage, self-help was important.

## 6. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

No member of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service could be present therefore Panel members did not receive an update.

## 7. West Somerset Strategic Partnership (WSSP)

Loretta Whetlor noted from the minutes of the last meeting that Steve Eggar had not received notice of meetings for the WSSP, she was concerned about this and would check e-mail addresses to ensure he was not missed out again.

Loretta advised the Panel that, although a decision had been made to suspend meetings of the WSSP until July, she was still Chair and was actively out and about and attending other LSP meetings in Somerset.

She was concerned that, without the partnership there was nowhere for people to sit down and meet with such a large group of organisations and that, without this, West Somerset risked losing its voice.

Loretta advised that all the other LSP's in Somerset were still running and had not been suspended and offered to bring copies of their minutes to the Panel to show what work they are doing. The Panel were not sure how helpful this would be as the first priority for the Panel was its own area. This offer would be considered again at the next Panel meeting.

**Meeting Administrator's Note:** Steve Eggar, the Panel's representative on the WSSP, subsequently advised via an email dated 29 January 2011 that he had attended the last WSSP meeting when the main topic of discussion was around the future of the forum with the cuts.

## 8. West Somerset Council Report

Bruce Lang advised that –

- The final recommendation of the Boundary Review was to reduce councillor numbers from 31 to 28 with effect from May 2011.
- Hinkley Point – the application for preliminary work had been received and was out for consultation.
- Budget – this was the main issue for West Somerset. In the
  - Government settlement in December, West Somerset was hit with the equal highest % reduction, even though several visits to London had been made to raise awareness of West Somerset's unique situation.
  - The actual cut in West Somerset's grant is 13.9% meaning that, over the next four years a saving of £1.6 million will be needed.
  - Next year the authority will need to save £600k and a list of savings had been drawn up for consideration at Cabinet on 2 February and Council on 23 February. Those area organisations affected by the proposed cuts have been written to.
  - Discretionary grants have been affected severely.
  - Still waiting to hear from the Government Minister after the visits to London.
  - Hoping that a high element of Business rates could be kept locally but still waiting to hear.

In response to a question about the Localism Bill, Bruce explained that the implementation for this is very broad and currently looks like being around April 2012. He advised that he has produced an information sheet on the Bill and would circulate this to Panel members.

**9. Provisional Dates of Meetings 2011**

11 April 2011

18 July 2011

17 October 2011

all at 7.00 pm at West Somerset Council Offices.

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm.