

Chew Valley Area Forum AGM Report

February 2020

The Chew Valley Area Forum comprises the parished areas of: Chelwood; Chew Magna; Chew Stoke; Clutton; Compton Martin; East Harptree; Hinton Blewett; Nemppnett Thrubwell; Norton Malreward; Publow and Pensford; Stanton Drew; Stowey Sutton; Temple Cloud and Cameley; Ubley; West Harptree; Whitchurch.

Introduction from the Chair and Vice Chair

Thank you to all the members and participants of the Forum for their contributions over the past year. By discussing and identifying issues in our communities and working collaboratively, we can help to address some of the challenges together.

For the AGM, the Forum will be exploring Climate Emergency - the most important issue we are facing, not only as local communities but also globally. It may seem too big an issue for us to solve alone but there are many actions that can be taken if we work together and support each other. The topic will remain a key priority for the Forum as it will be important for us to explore the opportunities and work through some of the challenges together.

Another key topic for the year ahead is 'Compassionate Communities', a collective term to recognise the individuals and organisations that work to support others when needed. We have seen many local examples of this as part of the Community Showcase element of our Forum meetings. This is a popular feature and has highlighted some very dedicated and committed local organisations which are helping people daily to improve their health and wellbeing. The Bath and North East Somerset Third Sector Group (3SG), which represents the Voluntary and Community sector, is working to raise the profile of the thousands of professionals and volunteers who already work tirelessly to enrich our area and support those who need it most. You can find out more here:

<https://www.3sg.org.uk/pages/compassionate-communities>

As the Chair and Vice Chair of your Forum, we meet quarterly with other Forum Chairs and Vice Chairs. These meetings are chaired by the Leader of the Council and attended by the BANES 3SG and the Chair of BANES ALCA (Avon Local Councils Association) which represents the parishes. This ensures that the issues you raise are fed back and common themes and trends can be explored further.

Issues discussed at the Forums are also regularly taken forward at the Parish Liaison meeting which is held three times a year and supports parishes and their clerks in working more closely with Bath & North East Somerset Council and with each other.

If there are topics you would like to see discussed at a Forum meeting, you have an idea for a theme, or know an organisation that would like to take part in a Community Showcase, please do let us know. This is your Forum and we want to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support and contributions.

Chris Head (Chair) and Cllr Heather Clewett (Vice Chair)

Chew Valley Area Forum contacts:

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A review of the period 2018 - 2020

26th November 2018 (AGM)

The last AGM was devoted to the Council's Budget Presentation which is always a useful way for the Forums to hear more about the emerging priorities and to comment.

25th February 2019

The Forum's main speaker was Peter Wheelhouse, Deputy Town Clerk and Economic Development & Regeneration Manager for Frome Town Council. He gave an inspiring talk on the 'Frome Model' which has helped to transform the Town and create more participatory relationships between the Town Council and community.

The Forum also heard about an initiative between the Council's Active Lifestyles Team and the participants of the Wellness Wednesday sessions at Chew Valley Hub. This involved trialling 'KiActiv' wristbands which motivate people to gradually increase their activity levels without the need to take up strenuous exercise.

The Forum also received updates on Stowey Quarry; rural transport and the Chew Valley Recreational Trail. A thank you was also received from the Community First Responders as, following a presentation to the Forum, all the parishes in the Chew Valley came forward with funding for new equipment. This will support the vital work of the organisation, responding to local emergency calls and providing life-saving first aid in the vital time before an ambulance arrives

15th July 2019

A special meeting of the Forum was held to look specifically at the impact of roadworks and diversions in the Chew Valley area. The meeting was attended by Cllr Neil Butters - one of the Council's Cabinet Members for Transport Services and Kelvin Packer, the Council's Group Manager for Highways. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Council's new Highways contractor Volker and from Truespeed; Gigagclear and Bristol Water. From April 2020, the Council will be implementing a permit to work scheme and employing further Streetworks Inspectors which should help in reducing the issues highlighted.

30th September 2019

The main theme of the meeting was Transport with the Forum receiving updates from Cllr David Orme on the work of the BANES Rural Transport Group and from Chris Head on the WECA Community Transport Network. The Forum was pleased to welcome David Worskett, Chairman of CPRE Avonside to present on Bristol Airport's expansion plans and Cllr Joachim Steinbach from Wrington Parish Council on Bristol Airport's Airspace Design Changes. The Forum welcomed the Leader of the Council, Cllr Dine Romero, who wished to introduce herself and present on the Council's priorities.

The Forum also received notices relating to forthcoming Council consultations on the Care and Support Charging and Financial Framework; Local Council Support Scheme and Clean Air Zone. Also advice on how to nominate an individual or organisation for the Chair's Community Awards and how to take part in the Big Community Clean-up Litter Pick. There was a request from Chelwood to join the Forum, which will be ratified at the AGM.