

Wells and Rural LCN Councillor Report

There have been 2 meetings in the last month.

The AGM of the LCN Wells and Rural was held at Gurney Slade Hall on Tuesday 17 June at which Councillor Robbins stepped down as Chair and Cllr Jim Reeves (SCOP) stepped down as Vice Chair. Cllr Denise Denis was elected as Chair and Cllr Ros Wykes for the year ahead.

The following parishes were represented- Wells, SCOP, North Wootton and Binegar. A member of the public, 2 representatives from Community Care Services, Fodo Higginson, SACL HWB Officer and Cllr T Butt Philips (Somerset) also attended.

The meeting shared reflections on the past year. In summary, not enough support/interest from other parishes (about 6 did not attend). Stakeholders such as the Avon and Somerset Police have attended but the senior levels for decision making were not available. Somerset Rivers Authority and SALC Health and Well Being have presented and introduced aspects of shared interest and possible future funding opportunities. Changes in LCN Link Officer meant that continuity of meeting was disrupted. The LCN is currently supported by Nataliya Wills who is tying up the loose ends and ensuring we move forward. Future dates to be arranged.

Breakout Groups considered Priorities for next year.

- Communicate more to the parishes about the benefits of participating. Provide more opportunity to network at start of meeting
- Invite the Somerset Crime Commissioner.
- Work on joint bids when appropriate. Fodo Higginson announced a new round of bid for health and wealth being, smaller pots for smaller parishes, as well as larger grants of up to £10K June 2025- April 2026.
- Reconvene the Flood Group but as a cross LCN boundaries as Water Flow in times of flooding knows no boundaries.

The 2 ladies from Somerset Carers Services told us referrals for care support can be made direct, via primary care and village agents.

Cllr Denise Denis 25/6/25

LCN Active Travel Sub Group Meeting, Portway Annexe 24/6/25

LCN Officer- Nataliya Wills. Rotating Chair- at this meeting Mick Fletcher, 8 attended.

Looked at interactional mapping which is being developed by Somerset, where layers can be added for: What exists and what works, what is aspirational, and what isn't there but should be.

All new housing development Planning Applications need to be checked for lacking active travel routes, obstacles and changes in levels which need ramps not steps. Role of Planning committee/ and public comments plus attending Somerset Full Council meetings.

New pots of funding from SALC for health and well-being were discussed at length, several proposals considered and a small working group ned to take this forward. Cllr Wyke reminded the group that small parishes on the boundary need to be included.

Ecoweek Saturday 18 October also discussed at length with lots of ideas. Again a working group to connect ideas with action.

Cllr Denise Denis 25/6/25