
Wells City Council (WCC) – SCOP Mutual Interest Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 26 November 2025

Time: 7:30 pm

Venue: Seager Hall, Wells

1. Attendance

Present:

- Denise Denis (Chair)
- Deborah Orrett (Minute Taker)
- Sarah Powell
- Tony Hathway
- Toby Brown

Apologies:

- Jacqui Zorab
 - Sebastian Johns
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2. ECOWEEK Collaboration

- Excellent collaboration noted between WCC and SCOP.
 - Denise expressed gratitude to SCOP for securing funding.
 - SCOP thanked WCC for providing use of the Bishop's Barn and Recreation Ground.
 - It was suggested that holding the event in spring may be more suitable, particularly for outdoor activities linked to Active Travel.
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3. Volunteering

- WCC has adopted a comprehensive Volunteering Policy, prepared by the Town Clerk. Toby has shared this with SCOP members.
- SCOP currently does not utilise volunteers.
- Deborah's thrice-yearly litter picks, endorsed by WCC, involve approximately 60 volunteers. These volunteers will be required to read and sign the new policy.
- Deborah will consult Shepton Town Council, which already makes use of a volunteer workforce, to gather insights.

4. CIL vs S106 Monies

- A brief discussion was held on the relative merits of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) versus Section 106 agreements.
- WCC has formally adopted CIL following a recent Planning Committee decision.
- It was agreed that a CIL arrangement would be beneficial if both WCC and SCOP support it.
- Members noted that CIL payments are less likely to be overlooked, and developers cannot opt out of their obligations.

5. Strawberry Line – Wells Route and Signage

- Tony provided an update on funding available for signage along the section of the Strawberry Line between the Leisure Centre and Morrisons.
- Planned signage will include a mix of 80 mm disc waymarkers and oblong Highways waymarker signs.
- The group discussed the safest route from Welsford Avenue/Portway:
 - Users should turn left at Portway, cross at the pedestrian lights, proceed past the Portway Annexe, turn right into Tucker Street, and then left by the Tram Club to connect with Lidl's new cycle path.

6. Cemetery Extension

- As part of planning consent granted to Gladman Developments for 100 new homes at Elm Close, an extension to Wells Cemetery has been approved.
- Discussion covered:
 - The requirement that burial plots must be used within 10 years.
 - The potential inclusion of a woodland burial site or pet burial area in the extended section.

7. Any Other Business

- Tony enquired about updates on the Palace Fields development, which appears to have stalled.
- A discussion is needed regarding Palace Woods and tree replacement. The Church Commissioners have indicated they will require grant funding to support this.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 18 February 2026

Venue: The Kings Head, Wells

(No room charge provided attendees purchase a drink. Deborah will arrange the booking.)
