

MPAPP Minutes – 19th Nov 2024

In attendance:

- Fiona Toms (FT)
- Ray Tew (RT)
- Cllr Ben Jewell (BJ)
- Cllr Andy Hadley (AH)
- Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK)
- Maureen Smith (MS)
- Andy Westcott (AW)
- Maya Clayden (MC)

Apologies: Paul Matcham (PM) Ben Parker (BP), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP)

1. Minutes Of Last Meeting/Matters Arising/Action Log Review

Minutes of the last meeting agreed

- i. AH advised dogs on the beach signs are up- action to be closed. Still chasing signage for Blenheim Gardens and other parks.
- ii. Retail mentoring- Bid Group paid for retail mentoring, received mixed feedback. Fran has put together a package for hospitality mentoring. BJ advised that more consultation needed with businesses. Beginning of a plan for hospitality taster session, offer of support funding (50% total cost) by Minehead Chamber of Commerce and hospitality businesses. RT suggested that the Info Centre may be able to help with the names of more proactive businesses.
Action: FT and BJ to take forward hospitality taster sessions planning
- iii. Community youth award- AW advised a whole community of awards opposed to youth specific awards. **Action:** MC to map awards already in place across Somerset.
- iv. Public Transport: FT shared new contact at HPC. Looking at ways to push forward to improve the local bus strategy. Contacting Rachel Gilmore MP suggested by HPC contact. MK spoke about the idea of a bus from Williton to Bridgwater. FT to follow up with HPC contact re. linking in Cannington to HPC bus routes. FT asked MK about writing a letter from MPAPP to Rachel Gilmore if direct conversation does not work. Rachel Gilmore is regularly active in Minehead, a potential opportunity to raise directly. To be progressed.
- v. Antisocial behaviour: BJ advised that police action seems to be having a positive impact on antisocial behaviour. AH concurs from a LIDL perspective that there has been a quiet period. MK, YMCA seemed to have relaxed rules on housing 'local young people' to cover the whole of Somerset. The need for active reporting was agreed by the meeting. The support services are not in place to support more people with complex needs. MS spoke about Home First policy.

- vi. Minehead Climate resilience: LCN local flooding meeting to be held date TBC.
- vii. **Action:** Check to see if Zara has sent an email to AW re young people engagement.
- viii. **MC-** Minehead Bay Festival website is now live, planning for next year has begun.
- ix. The last of the Bioblitz events took place 26 October.
- x. **BJ- Minehead Spend Local:** Minehead wide loyalty card scheme discussed. FT suggested subscription service. **RT** what works elsewhere? 7th of December, small business Saturday.
- xi. Action: **FT** to map other initiatives happening in similar places to Minehead.

2. Individual Updates

Ray Tew (RT) Climate Adaptation work moving in a positive direction, Act to Adapt launch event 18 Jan 2025. Collaborative working in Minehead is being recognised by funders and other organisations nationally.

Information centre in last year of funding, figures show decreased footfall year on year but retail sales are going up. Planning is underway for the future of the Info Centre vision and values planning ongoing. MK mentioned HPC as a potential avenue for continued funding. MCDT in discussions with the TC regarding the info centre.

Ben Jewell (BJ) Minehead Victorian Christmas - paid advertising on leaflets has gone well. Victorian trail to include shops in outlying destinations. Good responses from local businesses. 'Queen Victoria' to attend.

Cllr Andy Hadley (AH) Advert for Post Office has been taken down. AH has a contact of someone that would like to fund a Post Office for a community. At this time it is unknown what the plans are for Minehead's Post Office. Questions around S106 agreements and sales of Hopcott properties currently being marketed.

Maureen Smith (MS) West Somerset Green Forum evolution meeting planned for February. AGM had a great turn out due to a special guest speaker, and new board member, who is a retired nature protection officer. Huge surge of interest from young farmers. Wessex Water's Andy Meyers gave a talk in Carhampton on waste water outlets/water quality and the impacts/work that they have planned, Slides available on request. The Land Trust has updated its report on housing and will meet with MP. Zero carbon housing at Seaward Way is working well for new residents. MK queried the local housing policy, suggesting that it needs looking at.

Andy Westcott (AW) Minehead Eye is busy. Social prescribing NHS partnership is underway. Mind Groups. Young Carers. Youth Clubs across WS. Monthly Acoustic Nights.

Maya Clayden (MC) Minehead Bay Festival Website [Link](#) is now live and planning is underway for next year. The fantastic Fungi event was a success on October the 26th. Climate Adaptation Launch event to take place January the 18th

3. MPaPP Survey Feedback

What can improve: BJ would have preferred that it not be an anonymous survey. No other comments were received.

4. 2025 Meeting Structure and Content

Work taking place to amend the plan to become more outcome focussed and relevant to 2025. To write a supporting working document for each theme on the Plan. FT suggesting splitting meetings into 2 parts (Present and Future) dedicating more time on collaborative working that's happening at present- Agreed by the members of MPAPP. RT mentioned the need to keep in mind past learnings and project reference documents.

Action: Create a shared drive of reference documents

5. Guest Invites - Open Discussion for Ideas

Proposed guest invites: James Gilgrist- Head of Economic Prosperity (replacement for Nicki Maclean who has now left Somerset Council) has said he is able to attend Jan, May, Sep going forwards.

Action: FT to share email of actions and information agreed following recent call with James and Lara Bell - Head of Regeneration and Major Projects

Action: To have matters to raise with **James Gilgrist** submitted ahead of January's meeting to FT by 31st December.

Other suggested invited captured in the meeting were: Angus Martin – The Beach Hotel (Youth Hostel)

Mandy Chilcott

Brenda Maitland-Walker (Flooding)

Any further suggestions welcome – Action: All