

Local Community Networks

PPC Rep Report - March 2024

Background

At the LCN meeting on Thursday 7th March, the following topics were discussed.

Police – PCSO report

There have been two instances in Porlock: local pub broken in to & alcohol taken and an attempted burglary.

Recycling sites

The plan to close 5 of the 18 sites has been shelved for the present. Partial closures don't deliver the c. £1m savings they want, so closures are still a possibility. Those present pointed out that closure of sites could lead to increased fly tipping and long delays.

And carbon footprints will increase if people are driving further.

SC are seeking more data on visitors and reasons for going to the sites and asked for creative ideas.

There was a suggestion that we might go to the system used widely in Europe: no kerbside collections, but big bins placed in many strategic locations across communities.

Civil Contingencies

SC's 'Somerset Prepared' have advice and grants available. These can be used to purchase equipment, e.g. Raynet Amateur radio system – to use if mobiles go down.

Porlock has two centres designated as 'Community Place of safety': Village Hall and the Methodist Church.

[These matters can be considered by the Emergency Planning WG – if set up by PPC.]

Highways

SC are between contractors so only emergency work, e.g. potholes (which come in at c. 300/day) being undertaken at present. Kier take over the new contract on April 1st.

Other changes are being held over until 2025 to allow towns and parishes time for consideration – for instance Porlock street cleaning.

Regarding the Highways Steward, the LCN Chair Steven Pugsley, is asking SC if they can alter our LCN Terms of Reference to allow us to enter into contracts etc. This would be the most efficient way of hiring a Highways Steward to serve a number of parishes.

Exmoor National Park Authority

Alex ? was online and gave a presentation of the Landscape Recovery programme being undertaken, in Exmoor Forest and Brendon Common. This is the start of a two year Development Phase to draw up a detailed plan and costings. One of their aims is to restore connections across habitats, including with farms.

Swaling was raised and this is controlled by Natural England as much of the area is a SSSI. It was pointed out that there is a narrow time window between wet weather and the bird nesting season.

Next meetings

Thursday 9th May at 7pm - Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross.

AGM Thursday 6th June at 7pm – venue TBA.

Duncan McCanlis