

North Somerset ALCA

Summary of Activities for 2015

Following the AGM last year Noel and Rhiannon met with Elisabeth Roberts to review the ALCA liaison meetings and to combine them with the Planning Forums which are held in December and June. It was also agreed that the Town and Parish Councils could put forward items for discussion so a consultation was undertaken with all Councils on the key issues for discussion this year.

Two Planning Forums have been held on 10th December and 17th June when those issues related to planning, development and funding were discussed for example:

1. What is North Somerset's approach to major housing developments, and how NSC, town and parish councils can work together on a strategy?
2. Two Neighbourhood Plans are currently being assessed - what is the future for their use by other parishes across North Somerset?
3. More strategic use by Parish and Town Councils of 106 funding and the future distribution of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Planning Forums were very well attended and particularly relevant for parishes facing the challenges and impact of potential housing developments within their localities.

A Liaison meeting was held on March 3rd with a focus on Town and Parish representation and Community asset transfer.

1. What representation do town and parish councils have on North Somerset Council strategic groups and how do we disseminate the information?
2. The North Somerset Partnership – David Turner provided an overview of the role of the Partnership and the representatives who contributed to its delivery.
3. How funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) can reach communities in North Somerset. Do Parish and Town Councils have a say on the priorities?
4. Assets of Community Value and the Community Right to Bid – what is the process and how do NSC decide which ones to register and which to refuse.

The next liaison meeting on October will cover topics including Integrated Transport, Public Transport provision, Broadband and North Somerset Council budget for 2015-16

NB: More consideration has also been given to time and location of meetings Weston Super-Mare / Clevedon alternating during the day and evening. This is to accommodate working Councillors who may not be able to attend during the day.

North Somerset ALCA led on the planning and delivery of a very successful Neighbourhood Planning Workshop held on 9th March at Long Ashton Village hall. There were national, regional and local speakers with representation of parishes from North Somerset, BANES, Wiltshire and South Glos. The workshop was also

supported by UWE Department of Environment and students are currently supporting some parishes in the development of their Neighbourhood plans.

Local Councillors have also accessed training from the County ALCA team which has included New Councillor Training and At Your Place which is a bespoke training session for Councils. Councils have also benefited from the up-dates and information circulated by the County Secretary Deborah White and her signposting and advice on specific issues.

The number of North Somerset Councils who are members of ALCA has now increased to 30 and hopefully in 2015/ 16 we can encourage the remaining councils to join and contribute to the Network.