

Scrutiny Working Group Minutes – 29.06.21

<p>Scrutiny Working Group: ACCESS</p> <p><i>To assess the current situation, ascertain, evaluate and prioritise appropriate tasks in the following areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Physical access into and around Mendip</i> • <i>Virtual access to services in Mendip</i> • <i>Individual’s personal and professional access needs in Mendip</i> <p><i>Whilst considering the needs of the current and growing population as well as the environmental impact.</i></p> <p>Agreed areas going forward:</p> <p>Buses: PH / JG Taxis: AB / JG Cycle paths: ALL Trains: PH / AB Bypass: NHW Electric vehicles/ DRT ssdc project liaison/ liaison with CEEG: DG Broadband: ALL</p>	<p>Lead Convenor: Philip Ham (PH) Members: Alison Barkshire (AB), Eve Berry (EB,) Michael Gay (MG), Drew Gardner (DG) John Greenhalgh (JG), Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (NHC), Mike Pullin (MP) Officer: Kelly Knight (KK)</p>
<p>Time: 29th June 2021 1.30-3PM - Community cars / Broadband</p>	<p>Present: KK, MG, PH, DG, In Attendance: Dougie Brown (DB), Morag Stuart (MS), KH Apologies: MP, AB, EB, JG, NHC, SC, AS</p>
<p>Community cars / GP Community Cars 13:30 – 14:10</p> <p>1. Active & In Touch update</p> <p>Dougie Brown, Active & In Touch, and Morag Stuart, Frome Community Drivers attended the meeting. DB and MS introduced themselves and gave the meeting attendees an overview of what they are trying to achieve.</p>	

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DB advised that Active & In Touch have been operating in Frome and the surrounding area for 6/7 years. 80% of the referrals come from Health Connectors and 20% from neighbours or family members. DB advised they work with volunteer drivers, and offer a service to vulnerable, isolated or lonely people. Trips include taking people to vaccination centres, GP surgeries, shopping, picking up prescriptions, etc. There is no bus service from Frome to Shepton Mallet and taxis can be up to four times more expensive.

MS advised that Frome Community Drivers has recently partnered with Active & In Touch. They cover Frome and are very busy, currently completing up to 200 journeys per month. MS explained she would like to branch out into Coleford. PH thought this was a great idea and suggested an invitation for DB and/or MS to attend Coleford Parish Council meeting might be helpful. MG agreed and felt attendance at the Parish Council meetings would be beneficial.

Some discussion took place around securing more volunteer drivers. DB informed the meeting around Governance, e.g., DBS, MOT's, car insurance, etc. DG asked what the profile is of the service user. DB advised any adult over the age of 18, however, it would usually be the 70+ age group.

PH, MG and DG are all happy to support the service and wondered what MDC can do to help and support? KK advised she would look at potentially securing some funding for marketing and possible financial support for the recruitment of volunteer drivers. KK also advised we would approach the Parish Councils and get a slot at a Parish Council meeting for MS and/or DB to attend to give a 15-minute chat / presentation about the organisations and their services.

Next steps – KK to formulate a Communication Plan. KK to put a small paper forward to Scrutiny in an effort to secure some funding for marketing support. KK advised she would ask our Media team to promote forthcoming events at Black Swan Arts, Frome.

2. GP Access. Nothing to discuss.
3. Vaccine. Nothing to discuss.

Broadband 14:10 – 14:50

4. Broadband review from Scrutiny May

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Some discussion took place around Broadband and the fact that coverage is patchy in the Mendip area. DG advised those people who find themselves in short term rental accommodation are often penalized as they have to commit to a contract for a duration of 2 years minimum. It was felt that some help should be available. KK advised she would have a think about what could be done to help and report back to the Group.

AOB – KK informed TA has circulated information about Scrutiny copy times.

Date of Next Meeting

13th July 1.30 – 3PM - Buses/ Walking and cycling
Frome / Mendip Transport Plan

August TBC 1.30 - 3 Broadband / GPs