

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 2 September 2008**

(7.30pm to 8.50pm)

Present:

Wes Read – Mayor	John Grana
J Vincent Chainey	Peter Gubbins
Philip Chandler	John Hann
John Cruddas	Steve Hawker
Clive Davis	Simon Hester
Bridget Dollard	Andrew Kendall
Tony Fife	Tony Lock
Julian Freke	Tom Parsley
Dave Gooding	David Recardo
Pete Goodman	Alan Smith

Also present:

Alan Tawse	Town Clerk
Natalie Ross	Community Development Worker (SSDC)

PRAYERS

Reverend Ed Bangay led the Council in prayers on behalf of the Townspeople of Yeovil.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vivienne Cornelius enquired why the Town Council had not commented on an application to Somerset County Council by a local resident to register an area of land forming Yeovil Recreation Centre as a town green.

The Town Clerk responded by explaining that the Town Council was not a consultee, and had only been provided with a copy of the application to facilitate public inspection of the documents.

He added that the possibility of the Town Council making representations on the application had been considered. However, given the implications of town councillors forming a view on the merits of the town green application ahead of any planning application which might be subsequently received in respect of a proposed change of use and, in the absence of advice to the contrary by the District Council's Monitoring Officer, it was felt that the making of such representations could be construed as predetermination (as defined by the Standards Board for England) thereby precluding such councillors from commenting on any subsequent planning application. In light of this important consideration, it was felt that it would not be in the Town Council's interests to comment on the town green application.

7/205 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 August 2008, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

7/206 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from David Green, Ruth Kendall, Ian Martin and Pat Martin.

7/207 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

7/208 **MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Details of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming engagements and announcements were attached to the Agenda.

7/209 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:-

- Various holding letters from organisations and individuals to whom the Town Council had made representations regarding the proposed reduction of the ticket office opening hours at Yeovil Junction Station
- Letter of thanks from the Manager of Yeovil Shopmobility regarding the Town Council's ongoing financial support of the initiative
- Letter of thanks from South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau regarding their recent grant award
- Letter of thanks from Mayor of Hellendoorn regarding the recent participation of the Town Crier in a championship event
- Walk – Magazine of the Rambler's Association – Autumn 2008
- The Playing Field – Somerset Playing Fields Association Newsletter - Summer 2008

7/210 **MILFORD – PLANNING FOR REAL**

The Mayor extended a welcome to Natalie Ross – Community Development Worker (SSDC) who gave a presentation on the outcome of the Milford Planning for Real Community Consultation exercise that had been carried out by the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation. (A copy of the slides used during the presentation is attached as an appendix)

Natalie drew attention to the main findings of the study, which had focussed on transport, crime and leisure issues.

She explained that in response to these findings, more work was being carried out in conjunction with a number of partner organisations to help reduce health inequalities in the Milford area, and that one of the key

objectives was to develop a local community association, work on which had already begun.

She added that the provision of an adequate well-equipped fully accessible building capable of acting as a community hub and accommodating outreach work, training sessions and visiting health and advice services was regarded as fundamental to addressing health inequalities in the area and providing a base for future community development.

Whilst it was acknowledged that the possibility of upgrading the hall had been investigated by the Town and District Council in recent years, this had not progressed due to a lack of funding. However, in light of the findings of the study, officers had further investigated the potential of the present community hall within Milford Park to meet these needs and had concluded that substantial improvements would have to be made if the hall were to be used for this purpose.

With this in mind, a draft design had been drawn up (which involved the rebuilding of part of the existing hall) and funding options were being investigated – which included the possible use of £200,000 already allocated by the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) towards a suitable scheme in the Town. However, the use of this allocation would be subject to sufficient match funding being secured by April 2009 and for adequate plans to be drawn up by that date.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their support for the need to address the identified inequalities in the Milford area, and for the upgrade of the community hall as part of the solution. However, it was felt that a fully costed detailed report identifying the capital and ongoing revenue costs and potential funding sources needed to be considered before any financial commitment could be made by the Town Council.

The Town Clerk drew attention to the principal terms of the lease between the District Council and the Town Council in respect of the building, and indicated that the implications of a substantial upgrade of the premises for the lease would be covered in the proposed report.

The Mayor thanked Natalie for her interesting and informative presentation, and it was

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the proposals for the upgrading of Milford Community Hall be supported, in principle, and a detailed report be awaited outlining the anticipated capital and revenue costs along with anticipated funding sources and the planned implementation timetable; and
- (3) that the report be considered during the forthcoming budget cycle of meetings.

7/211 **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

The Chairmen of the various Committees of the Council presented the Minutes from the previous cycle of meetings, drawing attention to specific references to Council, any matters of particular interest and answering any questions.

Planning and Licensing Committee

28 July 2008

11 August 2008

7/212 **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Minutes of the following meetings of Outside Bodies were attached to the Agenda and Members were given an opportunity to raise matters relating to them: -

Yeovil Town Centre Consultative Panel

23 July 2008

In response to a query, the Town Clerk indicated that he had now received replies from a number of the organisations who were currently not represented on the Panel and were looking to fill their respective vacancies in the near future. He added that the Panel had requested that a survey of the current membership be carried out to explore ways of increasing attendance, and that following its completion, the outcome of this survey would be reported to a future meeting of the Panel.

7/213 **WAR MEMORIAL**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 9 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their extreme concern at the sentence of the Youth Court, which it was felt not only failed to compensate the Town Council for the full cost of repairing the War Memorial, but did not act as a sufficient deterrent to people who might otherwise cause criminal damage to public property in the future.

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/214 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings)

Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

7/215 **WAR MEMORIAL**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 10 refers). He also drew attention to an approach made by the Youth Offending Team for the Town Council to participate in a restorative justice initiative, which would include a meeting with the convicted youth.

Members discussed the legal advice obtained relating to the possibility of the Town Council taking a civil action to recover the full costs of repair. The legal advice concluded that, given the decision of the Youth Court, the chances of recovering the entire £3,300 cost of repairing the act of vandalism were negligible and that the costs of pursuing a civil action could cost the Town Council over £1,000.

It was noted that in line with the Council's policy on vandalism, every effort has been made to recover the costs involved from the person responsible for the damage – to avoid the costs falling on local council taxpayers.

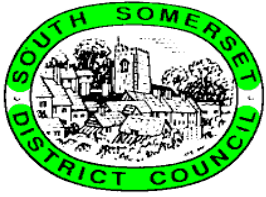
During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their frustration at the limited prospects of a civil action recovering the full costs of the repair. Moreover, it was recognised that a pragmatic view needed to be taken given the potential costs involved in pursuing such action and the limited chances of success.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the legal advice in this matter be noted with regret;
- (2) that, in light of this advice, it be reluctantly agreed that it would not be in the interests of local council taxpayers to pursue a civil action;
- (3) that the Town Clerk arrange for a press release to be issued at an early date explaining the Town Council's decision in this matter and their reasons for not pursuing a civil action to recover the full costs of repair; and
- (4) that the Mayor, the Chairman of the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee and Andy Kendall be nominated to participate, on behalf of the Town Council, in the proposed restorative justice initiative.

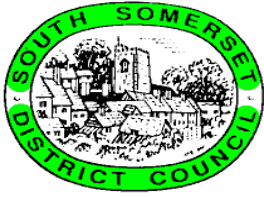
Mayor

AT
10/9/2008

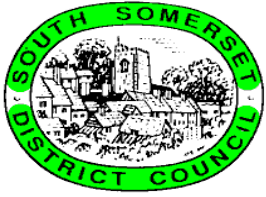


Milford Planning For Real®



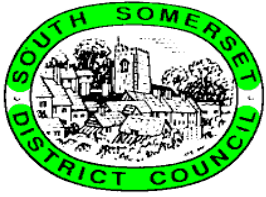


2005-2006
Getting Closer to Communities

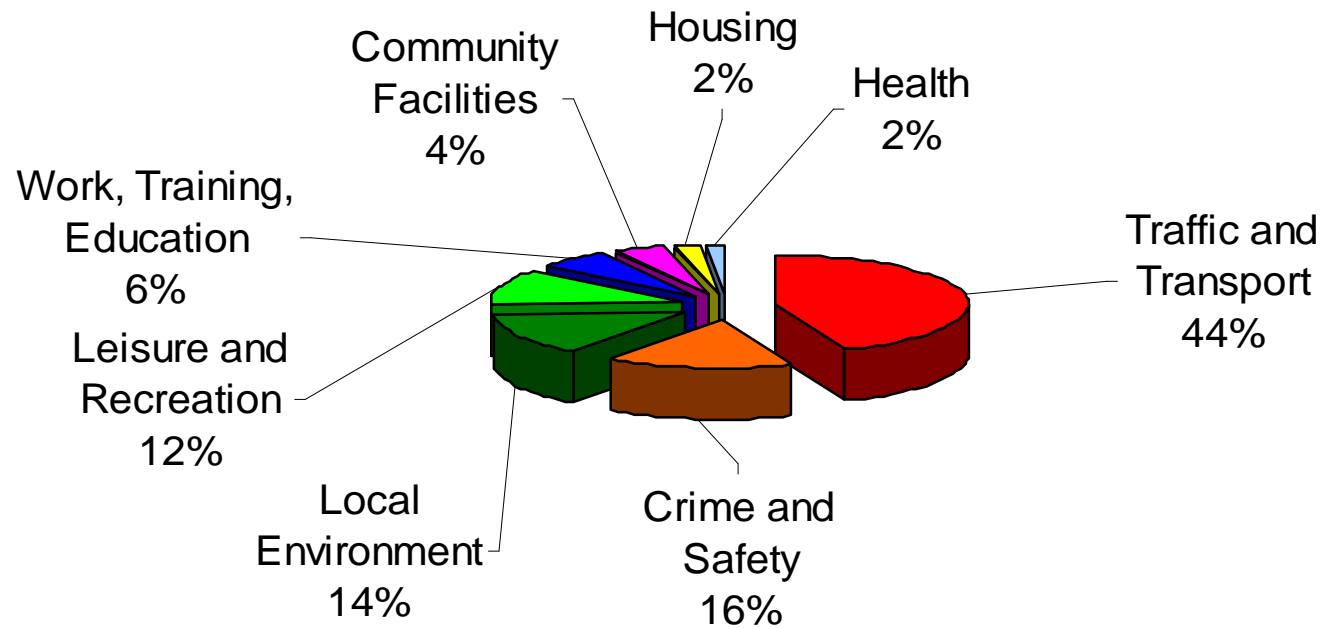


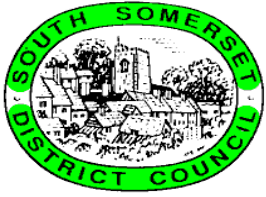
Planning For Real®

- Over 340 residents were consulted
- Every age group from under 12 to over 70 were consulted
- 9 Consultation Events
- 869 suggestions and issues were raised
- 2 Prioritisation events held

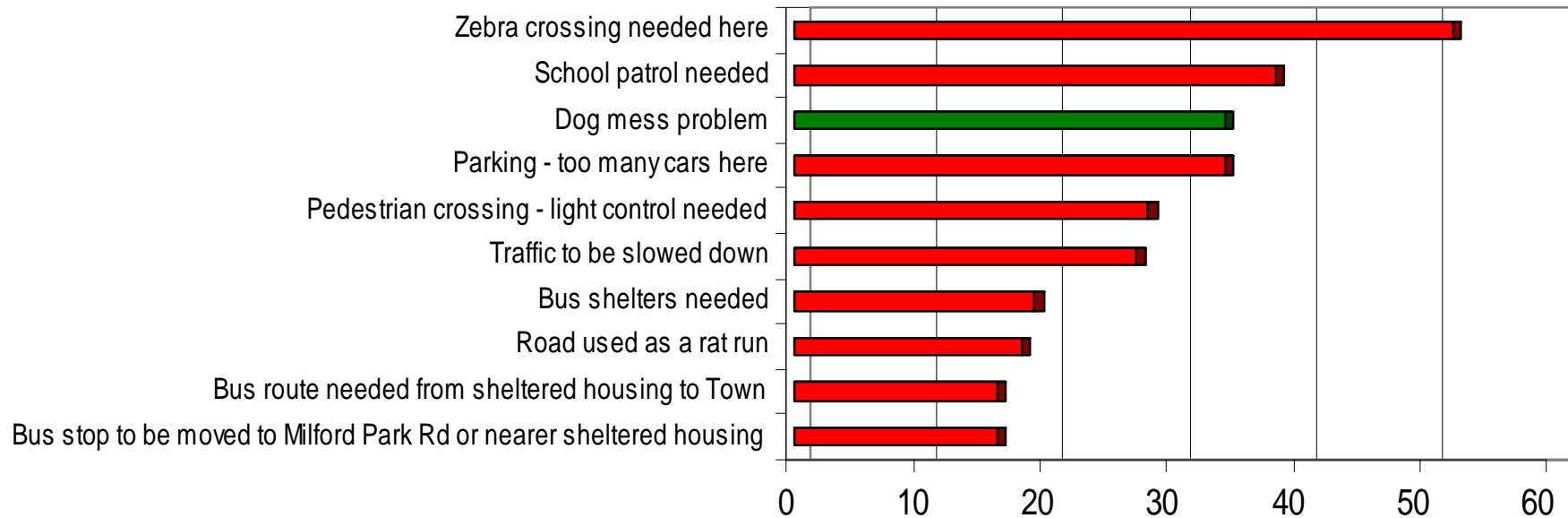


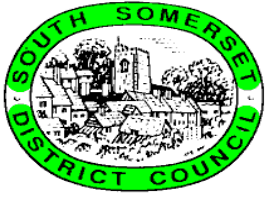
Results By Issue





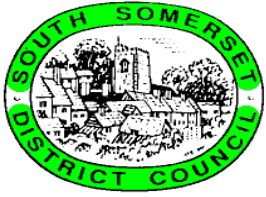
Top Ten Issues





Milford Hall

- Improved security
- Refurbish/rebuild to make it more attractive to use
- Larger venue to cater for more activities
- More activities such as football, keep fit and dance classes
- Improve disabled access



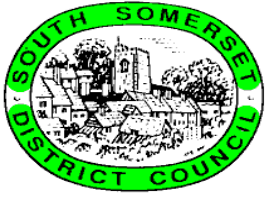
What Happened Next?

- Presented the report to the residents and stakeholders on 26th February 2008
- Community Association has started, a steering group is planning their launch
- Report was taken to the Reducing Health Inequalities in Yeovil steering group



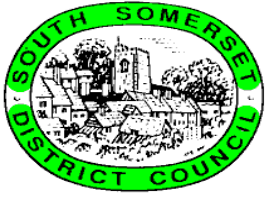
Reducing Health Inequalities in Yeovil

- Multi-agency group
- South Somerset Together and South West Regional Development Agency Commissioned a study into Health Inequalities and feasibility of an Iconic Healthy Living Centre
- Report showed clear inequalities between wards in South Somerset



Socio-economic Indicators

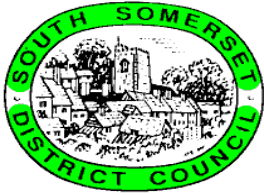
- Yeovil East, West and Central rank in top 5 of wards in South Somerset for:
 - Youth Justice Referrals per 1000 population
 - Criminal damage per 1000 population
 - % lone parent households
 - Children aged 0-19 in families on income support
 - Referrals to Social Services
 - Teenage births per 1000 females aged 15-17
 - % residents with no access to a car or van



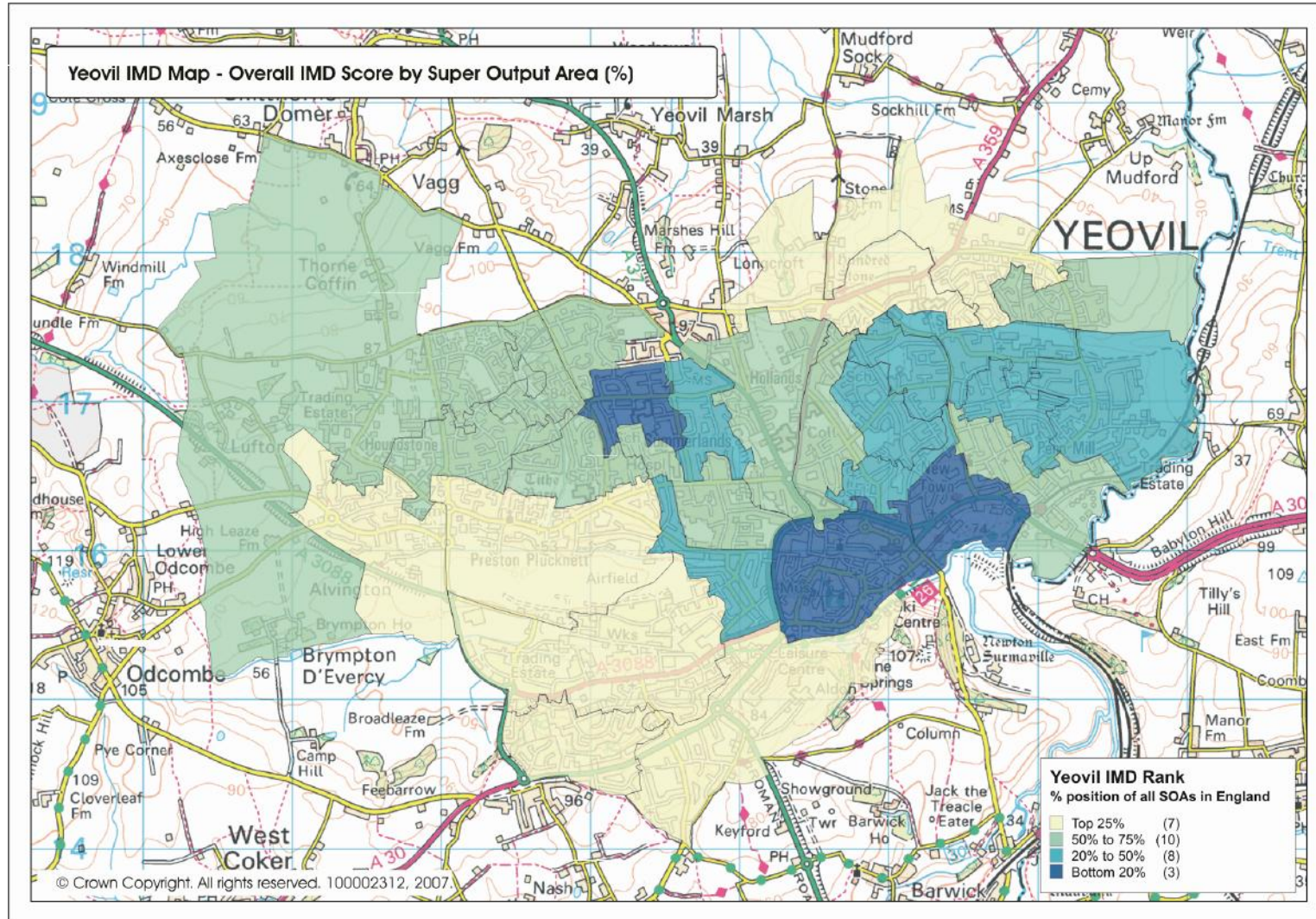
Health

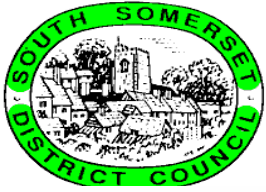
Yeovil East, West and Central have higher than average rates of:

- Mortality rate (from all causes)
- Mortality rate from cancers
- Mortality rate from coronary heart disease
- Mortality rate from suicide
- Hospital admission rates
- Admission rate from depression
- Admission rate from diabetes
- Admission rate from self-harm

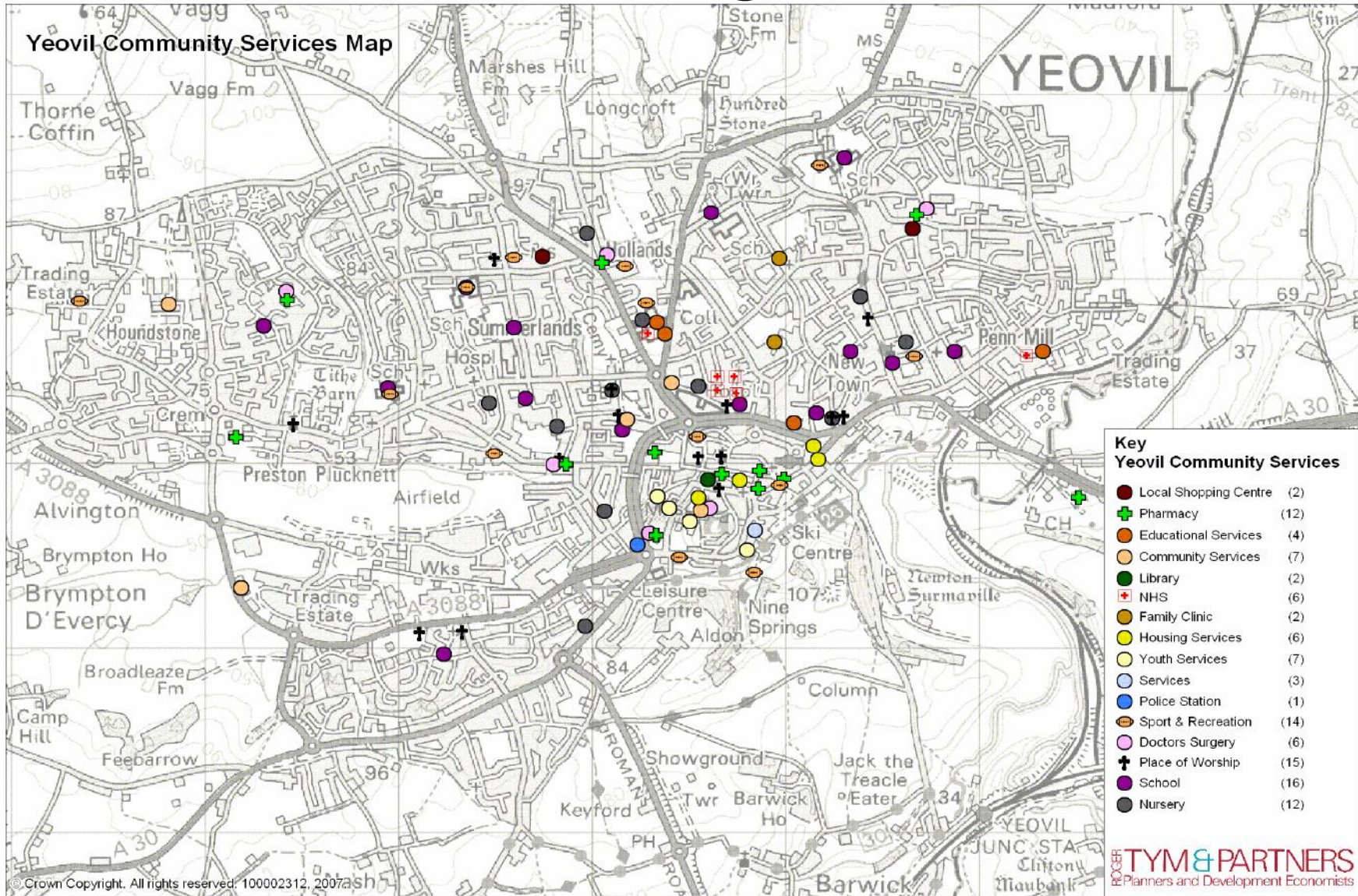


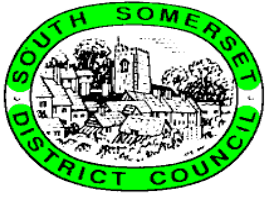
Index of Multiple Deprivation





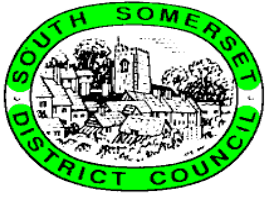
Map of Existing Services





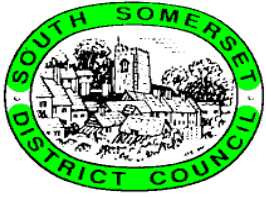
Report Conclusions

- Two distinct projects:
 - Multi-agency action plan to collate existing services/agencies
 - Creation of Community Hubs



Multi-agency Action Plan

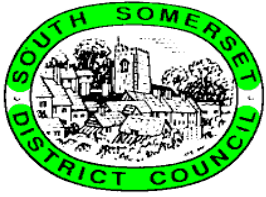
- Still to be designed and adopted
- To be led by the steering group, ward members and South Somerset Together
- Will involve working with the community and promoting community champions
- Needs resources – Primary Care Trust have committed revenue funding but this will need match funding



Community Hubs

Activities and initiatives including:

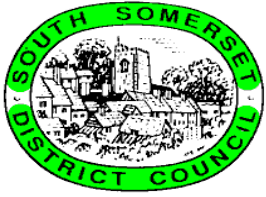
- Local drop in centre, information and meeting point
- Coffee mornings
- Baby clinics
- Training, e.g. IT classes
- Venues for talks, advice and surgeries
- Small scale youth facilities and play areas.



Milford Hall

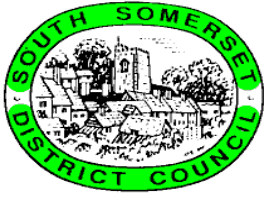
- Identified as a possible location for a Community Hub
- Layout restricts type of activities
- External appearance puts community off using it and encourages vandalism
- Not fully accessible



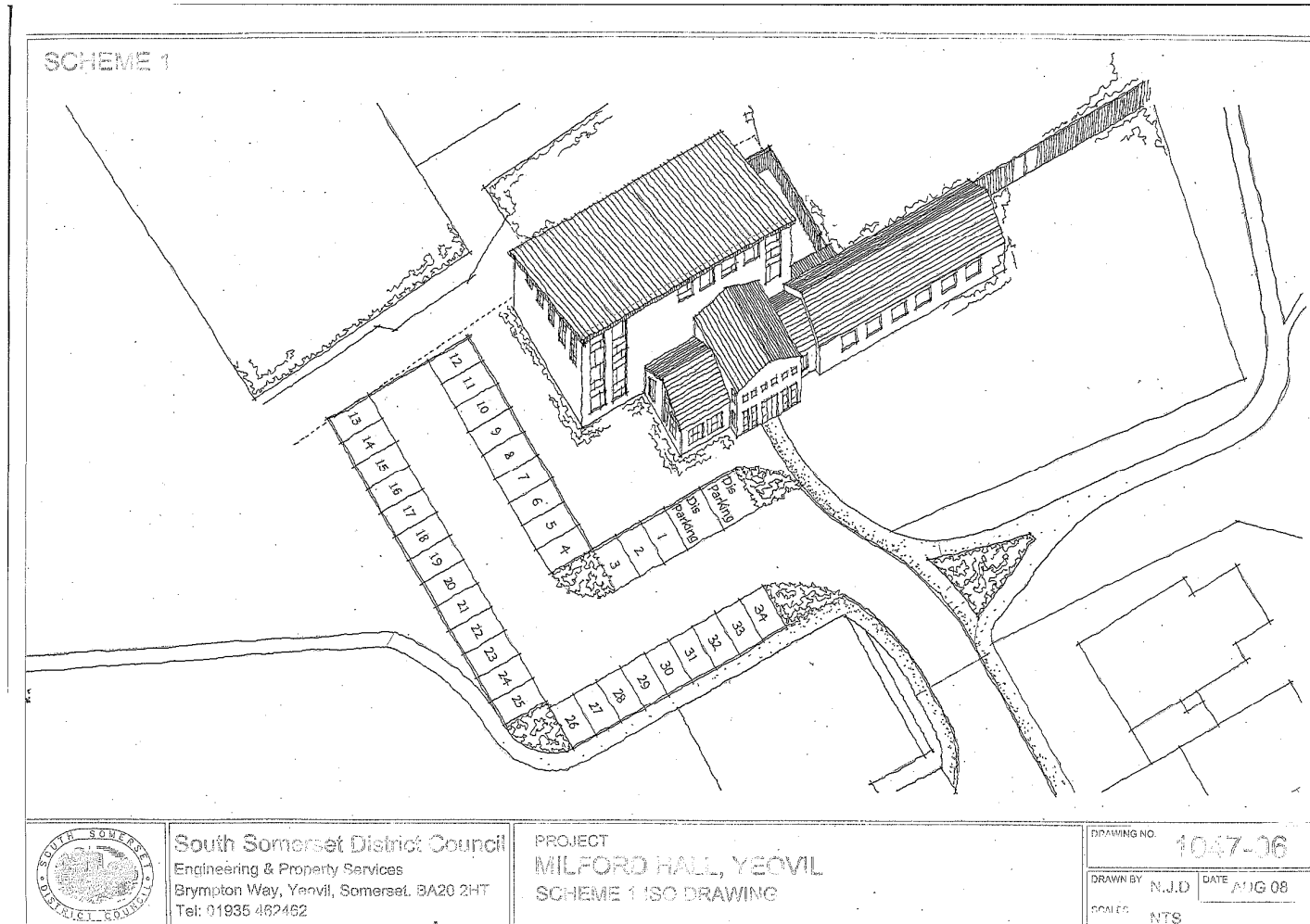


Milford Hall – next steps

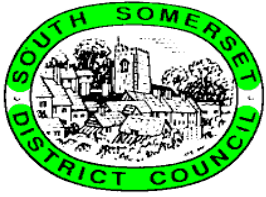
- Funding
- Re-build part of hall to allow a range of activities to take place
- Begin providing health and advice services from the hall
- Community Association to promote community spirit and sense of ownership



Initial Drawings

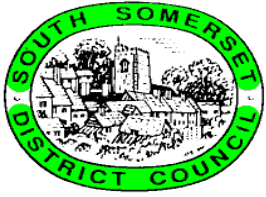


2005-2006
Getting Closer to Communities



Funding

- Capital Bid submitted to SSSC
- Possible funding from SWRDA
- Need further funding from partners
- Apply for grants – there are currently a very limited number for community building projects



Any questions?