



Somerset's Community Networking Solution



**If you are trying to improve your community,
Somerset Market Towns Forum can help!**

**Turn over to discover Somerset's
community networking solution!**

Somerset Market Towns Forum

We promote and support community-based action to revitalise market towns in Somerset. We do this by helping our members to 'network' - sharing their experiences and concerns - providing an information service and signposting our members to training.

It's free to join SMTF, but why join?

You would:

- join a **network of people** working, like you, to improve their towns
- gain access to our popular **Networking Events** held around the County*
- get a speedy response by using our **Information and Signposting service** – putting you in touch with the right person or information fast
- benefit from access to our informative and lively **website and monthly email bulletins** – containing the latest funding and training opportunities and regeneration news for Somerset
- receive help with **publicity and promotion** for your group or project as well as website and email advice



- If your group needs some training (for instance on issues such as income generation, marketing, getting people involved, asset management), we can **signpost** you to one of our training partners.

* spaces limited per Town

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What have SMTF delivered recently?

We organised a Network Event in Axbridge that brought together town partnerships with Chambers of Commerce to learn how best to involve local businesses in towns' regeneration efforts.



We've delivered a new website that makes it easier for towns to find out what other towns are doing, and access useful resources and case studies of completed projects.

We've organised various training sessions in Wiveliscombe, Frome and the Sedgemoor area on issues such as Communications for community groups, Income Generation and Asset Management.

Fifteen community groups are receiving up to £1000 worth of training or consultancy (funded by DEFRA) on key issues — we organised this joint project with ViSTA (Voluntary Sector Training Alliance), our training partners.

Who can join?

If you are part of a community planning group, a Town Councillor or part of a relevant single-issue group (such as Chambers of Commerce, Transition Towns, environmental improvement groups or active Civic, Conservation or Historical Societies) in rural Somerset towns**, you can become a member. Membership is free, and just a phone call or click away! *Interested individuals not covered in the above are welcome to use our website and sign up for our email bulletins.*



** Market & coastal towns and large villages. We do not include Taunton, Bridgwater and Yeovil as they have specific regeneration initiatives.

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Two of our Members

Carol Goodall, Ilminster Forum

Carol has been involved in efforts to improve Ilminster for 6 years. She began by joining the steering group of the Ilminster Community Plan (later called Ilminster Forum), became its Chair then also became a Town Councillor and is now Ilminster's Mayor!

Jennifer Trotman, Axbridge Town Council

Jennifer is one of the youngest Town Councillors in Somerset, and organised the 'Somerset Showcase' event in the town. She sits on the Promotional Advisory group (a Parish Plan outcome), is involved in Town Twinning, edits a local events guide and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Our towns current projects include:

Ilminster Forum are developing a history project to enhance the NCN cycle route between Ilminster and Chard.

Wiveliscombe Area Partnership are part of a bid for £2.5m of RDA funding for Western Somerset, with a focus on creating a low-carbon economy in the area.

A Better Crewkerne & District has a business initiative which will promote Crewkerne as a place to do business. They are also organising a youth volunteer fair after a successful volunteer fair for local organisations in 2007.

Ready to join? Complete this form and post to address below or email the information to us

Your name.....

Your organisation.....

Your address

Postcode.....

Telephone.....

Email address.....

SMTF is supported by;



Market and Coastal Towns Association

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Photo of interpretation boards launch on front cover courtesy of Burnham-on-Sea.com