

Dear Member of Ilminster Town Council

Agenda 4a

RADIO NINESPRINGS (NINESPRINGS FM) - COMMUNITY RADIO FOR YEovil AND THE SURROUNDING PARISHES OF SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT

***OfCOM: "Community radio stations are a third tier of radio broadcasting in addition to commercial radio and the BBC. They reflect a mix of cultures and interests and give a new voice to communities. They raise income through advertising /sponsorship, training, and funds awarded by public bodies. They are 'not for profit' and their programmes are influenced by the communities they serve".***

I write on behalf of Radio Ninesprings (Ninesprings FM) – a new community radio station for Yeovil and the parishes of South Somerset district.

Radio Ninesprings (Ninesprings FM) is a 'not-for-profit' educational charitable company run entirely by volunteers and based in Yeovil.

In November 2017, Radio Ninesprings (Ninesprings FM) was awarded a 5-yr FM Community Radio Licence by Ofcom to provide a service of community radio to Yeovil and the surrounding area.

Radio Ninesprings plans to begin broadcasting by May/June 2018 and will broadcast as Ninesprings FM with a coverage area that will include most of South Somerset.

Ninesprings FM is now seeking funds to build a studio base to operate the community radio service and provide media training to local people for them to make programmes and contribute in general to the service.

The funding is needed to adapt existing premises to a radio studio, for the purchase of an FM transmitter and associated broadcast equipment, to allow the station to begin broadcasting by the planned on-air date (1<sup>st</sup> June).

Our application to Ilminster Town Council is for £500 or a donation.

If successful, this amount will be added to the funds that we are hopeful of receiving through other funding applications to make a total fund of £35,000.

The £35,000 will be spent as follows:

The adaption and improvement of existing premises to a radio station at £14,000.

FM transmitter at £11,000 (please see estimate attached)

Associated broadcast equipment at £10,000

So far, Ninesprings FM has been awarded confirmed funding by the following organisations:

'Awards for All' National Lottery £10,000  
Yeovil Town Council £1,000

Brympton Parish Council £2,000  
Somerset County Council Creative Industries Fund £2,000  
Yeovil Without Parish Council £1,000

'In-kind' contributions have been received of £2,300 from Battens Solicitors for legal services and £1,500 from Chalmers Accountants for accountancy services.

Ninesprings FM has funding applications submitted and is awaiting decisions from the following organisations:

Mudford Parish Council  
Tintinhull Parish Council  
Ilchester Parish Council  
East Coker Parish Council  
West Coker Parish Council  
Barwick Parish Council  
Montecute Parish Council  
Odgcombe Parish Council  
Queen Camel Parish Council  
Stoke-sub-Hamdon Parish Council  
Chilthorne Domer Parish Council  
Corton Denham Parish Council  
East Chinnock Parish Council  
Castle Cary Town Council  
Wincanton Town Council  
Crewkerne Town Council  
Milborne Port Town Council  
South Somerset District Council  
Milborne Port Parish Council  
Queen Camel Parish Council  
South Petherton Parish Council  
Bruton Parish Council  
Tesco Yeovil 'Bags of Help'  
Somerset Community Fund (I Will Fund)

Any operating profits made by Ninesprings FM will be fed into securing and improving the future provision of the community radio service.

The objectives of Ninesprings FM are:

- To strengthen the community spirit and identity of Yeovil and South Somerset district
- To support economic development through partnership working
- To bring social gain through training and education

The charitable purposes of Ninesprings FM are: *"To advance the educational and training of the inhabitants of Yeovil and district of South Somerset in radio production, broadcasting and media skills techniques"*.

Radio Ninesprings will serve Yeovil and the parishes of South Somerset district by strengthening links between local groups, having broad appeal through discussion, expression of opinion and information. It will extend involvement in the democratic process for people living in Ilminster by

providing a soapbox to express opinions and noticeboard to share information.

People in Ilminster who are not in employment or training will be given opportunities to receive training in media skills to include writing, editing, presentation, media law, to enhance their chances of securing employment.

In the event of a major incident ie. flood, gas leak, Ninesprings FM will broadcast emergency messages so that the most vulnerable in Ilminster are kept informed.

People in Ilminster will be given opportunities to take part in programmes, to talk about local issues, to publicise local events and make programmes of local interest of their own for broadcast.

Young people in Ilminster who seek a career in broadcasting will be given the opportunity of work experience and training at the radio station.

Radio Ninesprings (Ninesprings FM) will promote events held in Ilminster and will support local voluntary groups by advertising their activities.

People in Ilminster will contribute items of news and information about the town and be given training to work as community journalists /village correspondents.

Volunteer membership of Ninesprings FM will be open to all those living, being trained or educated within Yeovil and South Somerset.

Students at Yeovil College will provide speech and music programming and business students may become involved in the administration of the radio station to benefit their learning.

Our training will be offered to all, regardless of age or ability.

Once established, Ninesprings FM will offer the prospect of paid employment and paid apprenticeships.

In summary Ninesprings FM will:

- Raise awareness of local council services and amenities
- Promote economic development and social enterprise
- Promote employment
- Provide opportunities to gain work experience
- Promote social inclusion
- Promote cultural and linguistic diversity
- Promote civic participation and volunteering

The setting-up and running of Radio Ninesprings will be managed by the 4x Directors /Trustee of Radio Ninesprings who are:

John Bradford, a pioneer of local radio in the UK. He established Radio Tees, Mercia Sound, the GWR group and Jazz fm. Served as Chairman of the Commercial Radio Companies Association and RAJAR, the industry audience measurement company. On retirement he formed Schoolsradio.com to help

school students get involved in radio. As Chairman of Radio Ninesprings his overall responsibility includes the sound management of the company, liaising with the regulatory authorities and the numerous local community organisations who have invested time and effort in securing this much-needed FM broadcast licence for Yeovil and the parishes of South Somerset district.

Steve Haigh, formerly BBC staff for 39-yrs as Editor /Senior Producer /Chief Radio and TV Reporter. Currently, Manager of the Westland 100 Oral History Project (funded by Heritage Lottery Fund) and a Volunteer Media Trainer at Yeovil College. As Managing Director /Station Manager of Radio Ninesprings (Ninesprings FM) he is responsible for the day-to-day management of the radio station, to ensure public accountability, accurate reporting and fairness.

Adrian Dening, formerly a Radio Officer and Technical Training Manager at GCHQ and currently joint owner of Drive Rite School of Motoring, Yeovil. He is responsible for all technical and training aspects and acts as deputy Station Manager.

Samantha Mackenzie-Green, currently Events Director of the Yeovil Show and Secretary of the Yeovil Agricultural Society. Sam is responsible for all 'off-air' activities at the radio station, including the organisation of events at Yeovil Showground and elsewhere with South Somerset.

Radio Ninesprings was supported with its application to Ofcom for an FM Community Radio Licence by: Yarlinton Housing Group, Yeovil Town Football Club, Leonardo Helicopters (formerly AgustaWestland Helicopters), Yeovil Chamber of Commerce, South Somerset Association for Community Voluntary Action, Yeovil Youth Council, Yeovil College, Yeovil Schools Federation, South Somerset District Council, Yeovil Town Council, Battens Solicitors Trust, Chalmers Accountants.

Steve Haigh,  
Station Director,  
Ninesprings FM – community radio for Yeovil & South Somerset

February 2018



Trowbridge

Frome

Warminster

Amesbury

Salisbury

Cranborne Chase AONB

Blandford Forum

Ringwood

Wimborne Minster

Bournemouth

Studland

A370

M5

A39

A303

A350

A36

A354

A31

A35

A37

A35

Dorset AONB

Taunton

Wellington

Blackdown Hill AONB

East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Sidmouth

Bridport

A30

A3052

M5

Devil

Tidv

**transplan UK**

6 Horn Street  
Compton  
NEWBURY RG20 6QS

QUOTATION  
4 December 2017

Radio Ninesprings  
Room E216  
Yeovil College  
Mudford Road  
YEOVIL BA21 4DR

For the provision of FM broadcasting facilities to Ofcom requirements:

1 x BW TX300V2 FM transmitter:	£ 2 195
1 x Pira 32 RDS data encoder with power supply module:	£ 695
1 x Amphenol model 7860102 Antenna:	£ 1 090
1 x EME 7020 directional coupler:	£ 350
1 x AF or equivalent harmonic suppression bandpass filter:	£ 710
20m x RG213 Feeder Cable terminated Nm/Nm:	£ 76
1 x 6m alloy pole and offset:	£ 58
1 x set custom polypropylene stays:	£ 144
1 x Cu discharge spike and clamp:	£ 24
Mounting Hardware:	£ 40
1 x wall-mount 6U rack:	£ 136
Fixing materials:	£ 35
Power and RF connectivity:	£ 70
Notional microwave studio/transmitter link:	£ 3 500
Consultancy, survey, originate and submit necessary formalities for the appropriate Local Authority, Site Owner and Ofcom as required:	£ 1 345
Delivery and installation of antenna, transmitter with integrated processor, RDS encoder, test and commission to Ofcom requirements:	£ 650
Goods and services:	£11 118

Plus V A T at the current rate

"South Somerset has long been recognised as the South West's poor relation in broadcasting. Despite Yeovil and the surrounding towns economic importance, we have always been on the extreme edge of three broadcasting zones and thus rarely feature in news and current affairs items. The establishment of Radio Ninesprings will be a major step forward in bringing a sense of community cohesion and identity to the area in a way that will benefit all sectors of our society". **Ric Pallister OBE, Leader, South Somerset District Council**

"Radio Ninesprings will give younger people opportunities to make programmes, write scripts and develop their presentation skills, to enhance their career prospects. We support their application" **Jackie Bachrach, Development Director, Yeovil Federation**

"We know residents want to be kept up-to-date with news about their local policing teams. Radio Ninesprings will give the police another outlet to deliver the hyper-local information that people want." **Chief Inspector Mark Edgington, Commander for Somerset East Local Policing Area**

"Radio Ninesprings (Ninesprings FM) will provide opportunities for younger people in Chard to showcase their talents and share their views with other communities." **Caroline May, Chard Area Youth Committee**

"Radio Ninesprings (Ninesprings FM) will help organisations like ours provide information about what's going on at grass roots level." **Sue Place, Chief Executive Officer, The Balsam Community Centre, Wincanton.**

"I am very excited about the prospect of having Radio Ninesprings broadcast local current affairs and news which will be 100% relevant to the people of Yeovil and South Somerset. It is needed to provide a vital, instant means of communication for the rapidly expanding town of Yeovil." **David Woan, President Yeovil Chamber of Commerce**

"We welcome any outlet to enthuse local people about the heritage that is all around them. A community radio station would be great way to engage more people in feeling proud of where they live." **Janet Seaton, Langport & District History Society.**

"Radio Ninesprings will provide a crucial platform to engage with the thousands of people who rely upon our services." **Simon Blackburn, Associate Director of Communications, Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.**

"South Somerset has a diverse range of community networks that need a voice to represent them. I would urge Ofcom to recognise this by granting a community radio licence." **Lord Ashdown of Norton**

"We seek to encourage voluntary action and celebrate the invaluable work taking place in our communities. We support this application." **Katherine Nolan, Manager, South Somerset Association for Voluntary & Community Action**

"We have 20,000 people living in our homes and Radio Ninesprings will provide a platform to communicate to all our residents." **Karen Davy, Customer Engagement and Community Coordinator, Yarlington Housing Group**

"Community Radio offers the chance to share information and bring communities together. I support this application" **Adam Burgan, Arts & Entertainment Manager, The Octagon Theatre, Yeovil**

"Radio Ninesprings have worked with our learners on broadcast projects. This 'real experience' is most important and we look forward to working with them more in the future." **Rowen Campbell, Head of Marketing & Communications, Yeovil College**

"Radio Ninesprings has the full support of Fairmead School to deliver a high quality, vibrant and meaningful community-based information hub within the heart of South Somerset." **Diana Denman, Head teacher, Fairmead School, Yeovil.**

"The Hub would champion the needs of vulnerable people in the workplace and engaging in active citizenship through Radio Ninesprings". **Clive Tuck, Chief Executive Officer, The Hub-Yeovil Community Support Charity.**

"Radio Ninesprings will help spread the word about art, cultural and sporting events to people who don't always pick-up leaflets and brochures." **Liz Pike, Chairman, Yeovil Community Arts Association.**

"Radio Ninesprings is needed to provide opportunities for writers, performers, musicians, poets, and those in digital media." **Pauline Burr, Arts Development Officer, South Somerset District Council.**

"In the face of regional radio stations, it is important to retain a local voice that speaks directly to South Somerset. We fully support this application." **Vera Ixar, Marketing Officer, Somerset Skills and Learning.**

"I endorse this application. A community radio station for South Somerset will benefit local businesses, community groups and younger people pursuing careers in the media." **Marcus Fysh, MP for Yeovil.**

"Radio Ninesprings will help to integrate new-comers into South Somerset to influence positive changes." **Rafal Skarbek Chief Executive Officer, Diversity Voice, South Somerset.**

