

Pewsey Community Area Recovery Group (PCARG)

Tuesday 16th June, 3pm - NOTES OF MEETING (via Zoom)

1. Welcome and Purpose

- About gathering information and sharing
- About looking forward and thinking about actions

2. Introductions

Apologies:

Jerry Kunkler

Sanjana Mathews-Mair

Jean Rickard

In attendance:

Richard Rogers	Wiltshire Council	Y
Susan Hiscock	Gateway Club Woodborough	Y
Brian Hollands	Pewsey Wiltshire CIL & Pewsey Christmas Lunch	Y
Curly Haskell	Pewsey Parish Council	Y
Dawn Wilson	PCAP/ PCARG / PVTP / Wilcot PC	Y
Elizabeth Martin	Alton Parish Council - Clerk	y
Fanny Middleton	Alzheimer's Support	y
Margaret Holden	Easton Royal Parish Council	Y
Nell Light	Home Instead	Y
Nicola Gilbert	Pewsey Primary School	Y
Patrick Wilson	Pewsey Community Land Trust	Y
Peter Deck	Pewsey Parish Council	Y
Polly Stevenson	Woodborough Entrepreneurs (networking group)	Y
Rachael Ross	PCCA	Y
Sara Wilman	My Flower Patch - Local Business	y
Susie Brew	PCAP /PVTP	Y
Sylvie Clayden	Movement 2 Music / Community Projects / OT	y
Tamara Reay	Resident and volunteer	Y
Rosa-Diane Lancaster	Madanu	Y
Hew Helps	Easton Royal resident	Y

3. Updates from attendees

- Woodborough Social Club was doing well before lockdown and it is hoped that this will continue afterwards. The Gateway club needs to work through how it can operate with social distancing. Key challenges will include funding and transport.
- Christmas lunch committee was going to cancel but due to demand it is now continuing.
- Pewsey Parish Council highlighted that the community support has been magnificent, and it has become evident that we need to protect our local organisations and clubs. They would also like to attract younger people to stand as councillors
- Pewsey Primary School thanked Pewsey CCA and others for supporting vulnerable families. Free school meal vouchers are now being provided during the summer holidays. The school is full of “bubbles” of children and they are loving being back at school. All schools are working together.
- Alton Parish Council has a new clerk and would like to link in with this work
- Alzheimer’s Support is taking referrals for new clients, but the clubs and community groups can’t operate at the moment. There is a lot of support still being offered on-line. Home Support is still operating and working well to give carers a rest.
- Home Start Kennet was fortunate to receive funding just before lockdown. Working with children under 5, it is still supporting groups and parents. They are also offering telephone support and advice.
- Easton Royal PC – The school is open and there is a good WhatsApp support group. Church is opening in next few days for private use. They also stated their thanks to support from PCCA. Easton Royal has looked at supporting single occupancy households in the village and as a result a good WhatsApp group has been set up
- Home Instead has been working as near to normal as they can. They have become aware that some people who have not let anyone into their homes are beginning to find it very difficult. A key message is that carers should still be visiting. Home Instead do have PPE equipment that they can make available. It is not suitable for medical use but perfect for everyday use.
- Planning issues have been managed well over the lockdown but there are some concerns that the Neighbourhood Plan could be at times overridden.
- The Pewsey Tennis club is doing well and is open. It reduced membership fees but has also had a lot of new members.
- The PCCA has been magnificent with over 150 volunteers and great community commitment. Numbers using it are slowly going down and they are now thinking about the future.
- Woodborough Entrepreneurs have seen many of the small businesses going on line and being imaginative. It offers mutual support and assistance.
- Upavon Village hall was doing well before lockdown but now awaiting guidance on how and when to reopen. They were disappointed that the notice board was also vandalised.
- Flower Patch – Has been busier than normal providing flowers for family members, bereavement and others. The messages have been far more poignant than normal as they are missing the contact with families. All weddings and large events have been postponed or cancelled meaning the income stream has changed.
- AONB offices have been closed but working remotely. They do have a small grants programme which will be steered towards helping businesses adapt during recovery.

Contact info@northwessexdowns.org.uk for more information. The walking festival is due to go ahead next year.

- Sylvia Clayden has been working to support single occupancy homes particularly the elderly. Following a door to door survey, some were offered phone calls and some visits with regular health publication.
- Movement to Music has been popular using Zoom. Only about a third of the previous members use it but others have joined.
- Wiltshire Council's Wellbeing Hub has been extremely busy but is now starting to run down as need diminishes. There are 4 strands for its recovery programme – economy, health and wellbeing, community resilience and education / social care
- Pewsey Community Land Trust have agreed with ARC that the data that Sylvie collected can be put into an interactive map. An application has been made to South West Energy for funding to create a local micro energy generation project. Those with large South facing buildings are being looked for in the Pewsey area for solar panels.
- It is National learning disability week and we need to remember those who do not always have a voice.

4. Thoughts on the recovery phases

I. What has worked well?

- Social media and working on line – However there is a need for appropriate software and hardware.
- The community groups including PCCA have demonstrated responsiveness and flexibility
- Innovation has increased and the ability to try new things has been welcomed
- There is a willingness to take risks

II. What are the key challenges?

- If we are to be more dependent upon technology, we need to train and assist all including our elderly and vulnerable people to be on-line
- Engage with younger people (Under 70!)
- Funding and resources will be stretched
- Venues will need to rethink their offer and adapt to social distancing
- Mental health issues
- Schools and their families will need increased support
- Debt and poverty
- Volunteer groups and organisations may struggle to re-establish themselves
- Rebuilding the economy, in particular the visitor economy

III. What are the opportunities?

- New ways of working and better partnership working
- Closer working with health professionals
- Utilise the communications list that has been created by Sylvie
- Environmental issues – less travel, less pollution.
- Running assets differently

- Funding to be made to work harder and used to bring in external money
- Improving cycling and walking facilities to make the most of the increased interest in this during lockdown

IV. How can we continue the momentum of volunteering?

- Work together
- Local ownership of issues
- Use the established network of support
- Value volunteers

V. How do we move forward as a community?

- Larger Parishes need to support smaller ones
- Important to work collaboratively
- Look at joint funding to move these ideas forward

5. Business Survey

- A short local business survey was sent out and the main points were:
 - Over 75% of businesses surveyed have changed the way that they work.
 - Most feel that they will reopen and pull through but will need help in doing so
 - The main concerns seem to be around getting business, keeping customers and staff safe as well as consumer confidence.
- One idea that has been suggested to attract customers is for businesses to video the customer experience to allow people to know what to expect
- Toilets are important. Evidence shows that visitors to attractions spend less time there than previously as they are concerned about needing the toilet
- Customers also want queues and social distancing to be managed.
- Booking systems should be used where appropriate
- Deep cleans should be carried out to increase customer confidence as well as make it safer.
- A self-certification scheme is being brought in and would be welcomed by the public and businesses alike.
- A recent survey suggested that 96% of people are planning a local UK holiday this year rather than going abroad.
- It was suggested that the market should be opened in Bouverie Hall car park. Pewsey PC have already agreed that this can occur but are waiting for ownership of the land.
- A number of ideas have been put forward as ways to rebuild the local economy by businesses and individuals. One is to create itineraries to encourage people to stay rather than just day trippers as overnight stays increase spend significantly. The other is to create a walking and exploring app. Both of these should be included in any future bids.
- More walking and cycling leaflets are needed as stocks are low.

6. What next?

- Agreed that people want to continue to meet
- Take forward some of these ideas

7. Date of next meeting



- A meeting will be set up in second half of July