

PEWSEY COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP (PCAP)

Thursday 29th October 2020
7pm online via Zoom

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Dawn Wilson	WfCAP, PCAP Chair Wilcot & Huish (With Oare) Parish Council
Cllr Peter Deck	Pewsey Parish Council PCAP Sub Group Lead - Planning and Crime & Community Safety
Cllr Colin Gale	Rushall Parish Council PCAP Sub Group Lead - Transport
Cllr Curly Haskell	Pewsey Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Holden	Easton Royal Parish Council
Cllr Paul Oatway	Wiltshire Council (joined late at about 8.40pm)
Hew Helps	Easton Royal Resident
Nancy Shields	Volunteer from Wilcot
Gerald Lancier	Chirton & Conock Parish Council
Jeremy & Sylvia Wyatt	Great Bedwyn Community Energy Group
Susie Brew	PCAP & PVTP Coordinator PCAP Sub Group Lead - Economy & Culture, Heritage & Leisure

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. As there were new attendees to the meeting, Dawn provided a description of how Wiltshire is divided into Community Areas and the structure thereof. The Pewsey Community Area consists of 26 parishes, shortly to be increased under the boundary changes. Area Boards provide the formal method of communication between Wiltshire Council and the parishes. Wiltshire Council has a number of groups in each Community Area - Community Area Transport Group (CATG), Pewsey Vale Health & Wellbeing Group and Local Youth Network are all groups that PCAP and parish councils work with. PCAP runs projects as well as working with parish councils on issues and working with Wiltshire Council.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the PCAP Meeting of Thursday 23rd July 2020 were approved (proposed Cllr Colin Gale, seconded Cllr Margaret Holden) and signed off.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Caroline Dalrymple	Pewsey Parish Council
Carolyn Whistler	PCAP Sub Group Lead - Environment & North Newnton Parish Council
Shalbourne Parish Council	

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

5. Community Hub - Joint project with Wiltshire Council

Pewsey Library reopened on 27th October, two days per week (Tuesday and Thursday). Wiltshire Council would like us to work with them to expand the services offered by the Library to create a community hub.

This will be CAB, Wiltshire Money, Link, Victim Support - those kinds of services - will have leaflets and information available (much of this is already there). But the hub would also include someone being there to help people, in person, to locate the information they need. People from Wiltshire Council or from the Police would be other examples of people who may use this area to meet residents. The service would be available to every parish in the Pewsey Community Area.

A tablet or laptop will be made available with links to all the required services, so that access will be very straightforward.

Dawn has already offered a couple of hours per week to help it get up and running.

Curly reminded everyone that The Vale campus was supposed to provide this service until the budget for meeting rooms was removed. However there are sufficient meeting rooms in Pewsey so it didn't really matter.

Dawn explained that access to the office at the Library will be made available - currently there is security access to it requiring you to use a Wiltshire Council badge to open the door. If you have any ideas on what services should be included, then please let Dawn know.

6. Community Area Plan

a. Economy

Chambers of Commerce - Ludgershall is currently setting one up so Richard Rogers is going to let us know what the benefits are for Ludgershall so we can see whether there would be any benefits to resurrecting the Pewsey Area Chamber of Commerce.

Good news that Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership has been selected by the Coop Community Fund for the Itineraries Project. This project would create a number of itineraries that people could book and would focus on walking and cycling, with diversions. It will include any businesses who would be able to offer an activity, place to stay or eat and so on along the routes. The community will be involved to help us identify the possibilities for the itineraries. It might be possible to get local travel businesses to be the booking office for itineraries. If you use the Coop and have a Coop card, you can support this project by logging into your account and selecting the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership as your selected cause. This means that every time you swipe your Coop card, a small percentage of what you have spent will go directly to the PVTP pot. Otherwise, the percentage goes to a 'bucket' which is then shared between all the chosen projects at the end of the year (October 2021).

There are two late night openings planned for Woodborough Yard (11th November and 9th December) to coincide with Whitehall Garden Centre.

There has been a lot going on in the background in trying to secure funding for the number of projects that we have in the pipeline.

Dawn said that GWR will be focusing on leisure travel when they are allowed to advertise again and they may be keen to help us with some of the projects we have in the pipeline.

Dawn also highlighted the business newsletters that have been sent out throughout the lockdown and Covid period which have included (amongst other things) details of Government announcements, loans and grants and thanked Susie for doing this.

b. Transport - Colin Gale

At the last PCAP meeting Colin reported that he submitted to Wiltshire Council a proposal under the Better Deal for Bus Users scheme. He has had no response but thought it was Government money to provide improvement to existing or creation of new bus routes. The proposal covered a new bus route.

Colin confirmed that the role of Portfolio Holder for Transport was cut in recent Wiltshire Council cost savings so there is no portfolio holder, just a cabinet member who is Bridget

Wayman. A formal response from Wiltshire Council states that they could afford to lose that post.

Colin received the Department for Transport survey (from Great Western Railway) to gather ideas to decarbonise transport. This was forwarded to Bridget Wayman on 29th July advising that Colin would make a submission for the Pewsey Vale and that Wiltshire Council might like to make a submission for Wiltshire. This was copied to the three Pewsey Community Area councillors, Philip Whitehead and the local MP's. A response was received from Philip Whitehead to query why Colin hadn't included the Devizes Gateway Station. That was because the Devizes station is not in our area, but following the 2021 boundary changes, Lydeaway will be part of the Pewsey Community Area, at which point we will have three stations in the Pewsey Community Area. Colin submitted the survey on behalf of the Pewsey Community Area, pointing out that we had submitted a proposal under the Better Deal for Bus Users scheme, we wanted more westbound trains, and especially for our young people it is only going to get harder to access cities such as Bristol, so transport needed to be available. Colin also stressed that the electrification programme was originally supposed to go further west than Newbury and should be extended to what was originally planned.

Colin attended two (of three) parts of the Great Western Railway Stakeholder Conference (online) on 16th October which is normally attended in person. Headlines included - the timetable is getting back to nearly the same service as was running before the Covid restrictions were in place but with a significant drop in users. This is because the number of commuters has decreased, so GWR will be concentrating efforts to encourage leisure users once restrictions are lifted. Colin said that it is likely that decarbonisation and restrictions on city centre access will mean that people will come back to the trains because they will have to. They are likely to be part time users rather than 5 days per week.

The Pewsey Rail User Group (Colin and Dawn), together with Bedwyn Rail User Group, met online with the Devizes Gateway Group. Their original proposal relied on the commuter numbers and now this will need to be revised to include leisure users. Dawn provided support from the Pewsey group so long as the Devizes station will not be to the detriment of the Pewsey services. The target date for the Devizes Gateway Station is 2025.

c. Planning - Peter Deck

Malmesbury NDP Group had a good meeting with Wiltshire Council a couple of weeks ago. Two things of interest arose from it. Firstly, in November Wiltshire Council will come up with their housing need figures which may impact parish NDP's. Target date autumn 2021 to have draft local plan.

Secondly Peter referred everyone to Wiltshire Council's Briefing Note 20-20 - <https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/s182907/BriefingNote20205yearhousinglandsupply.pdf> -which provides an up to date note on housing land supply.

The recent White Papers on planning and changes to planning regulations are not looking good - for further information, please contact Peter directly - peterdeck75@gmail.com.

d. Crime & Community Safety - Peter Deck

Not too much to report. Pewsey village is going through a period of anti-social behaviour - it is something that goes in peaks and troughs and hopefully it has been dealt with. Dawn said that the Blue Bus (youth bus) is doing street walking at the moment, this could be leveraged if needed.

Colin asked about the caravan and an old camper parked in the car park in Pewsey by the river. Curly confirmed that the parking spaces in that area are private and the vehicles belong to people in River Street. Previous Coop managers have kept the area clean but they are no longer willing to do this.

e. Environment - Carolyn Whistler

A note had been provided by Carolyn Whistler. The Great Britain Tidy Up in September went well and was done in many villages across the Pewsey Community Area.

During lockdown and over the summer there has been a lot of interest in walking and rights of way. As a result, farmers are being asked to ensure access to them. Susie raised the issue of a barbed wire fence crossing a well used path between Honeystreet and Bottlesford (on one of the walking leaflet routes). Alton Parish Council have been approached but have not responded. The advice was to contact Richard Broadhead at Wiltshire Council.

Susie also had feedback on the King Alfred Trail that was set up by the PACT Centre to say that brass rubbings couldn't be found and issues on the route. A walk with Kerry Pycroft (Pewsey Parish Council) is planned for November to do an audit of the issues so that we can work out how to get them fixed.

Peter provided the background to the Trail, which was only ever Pewsey through the Scotchel to Pewsey Wharf but not the whole Trail. It was supposed to be a circular accessible walk but was never completed in its entirety.

Jeremy Wyatt from Great Bedwyn Community Energy Group said that they now have about a dozen people who are keen to pursue the options including wind generated energy, solar energy, fuel poverty (to provide advice on insulation) and other options. They are due to meet with Aldbourne who have just set up their Community Energy Group. The Bedwyn group is at a very early stage and even the local Parish Council has not yet been approached (Jeremy hoped that there are no sensitivities on this).

Dawn updated that the Pewsey Community Land Trust is getting involved in renewable energy.

There is also a fuel poverty group in Marlborough connected to the Marlborough Transitions Group.

Susie advised to consult with the North Wessex Downs AONB.

Jeremy confirmed that they will be approaching Community Energy South which provides information on how to go about it.

f. Culture, Heritage & Leisure - Susie Brew

Crofton has finished their 2020 season (restricted by Covid), other places (Wilton Windmill, Pewsey Heritage Centre) didn't open at all in 2020. The Canal & Rivers Trust are cutting expenditure.

There will be another project similar to the Pewsey Vale Historic Information Boards, covering a bigger area including the Vale of Pewsey. It will extend to the north to take in the Downs and south to include Salisbury Plain. It is in embryonic stages and is being run by Sylvie Clayden.

g. Pewsey Vale Health & Wellbeing Group - Dawn Wilson

PCAP runs the Health & Wellbeing Forum which has grant funding from Wiltshire Council for community projects.

We have been asked to help with recruiting new drivers to the local Link groups. Dawn has found the original promotional material from Community First and is now waiting for information on who to contact if someone is interested in volunteering.

Peter said that as a volunteer you can define the type of driving that you would like to do and when, so you don't have to do journeys you don't want to do.

Flu jabs were only being offered in Marlborough which made it impossible for those without transport to get there. Dawn has joined the monthly Patient Participation Group to get this addressed, with the focus being on getting it right for any future Covid jabs.

Curly and Colin both confirmed that the organisation at Marlborough was very good but fail to understand why it couldn't have been replicated in Pewsey.

Dawn has also raised an issue with Public Health England regarding the availability of vaccines at surgeries.

Bedwyn Walking Group maintains footpaths and run accessible walks but have had to suspend their walks for the time-being. PCAP provides banking and insurance to them. Shalbourne Connect has also requested banking and insurance from PCAP and that is progressing.

Memory Café is currently suspended due to Covid. We were going to restart in September but could not meet the Government's guidelines, as it is a social event. The café is suspended up to and including December at this time.

Pewsey Belles currently have the PCAP keyboard so that they can use it for their singing practice.

Movement 2 Music Together group is an exercise class for those who are elderly, have memory issues or are new to exercise. They operate in the Bouverie Hall and during lockdown the sessions were moved online. They are now back in the Bouverie Hall from September and still operate online as well (alternate weeks). This group is going really well, thanks to Sylvie Clayden and Henrietta Mackinnon. We have secured several small grants (Friends of Savernake Hospital, Wiltshire Community Foundation and Tesco) to subsidise this group to ensure it keeps going. Numbers are approximately 8 to 12 people when in the hall (allows for social distancing) and online is about 6 to 8 people. There are 25 people signed up in total.

Pewsey Christmas Lunch lost their funding from Waitrose this year but this will now be provided through the Health & Wellbeing grants.

h. Children & Young People - Dawn Wilson

Blue Bus has not been out since lockdown, so the funds for this have not been spent. The workers on the bus are now doing street walking to engage with youngsters. If issues continue in Pewsey, then Dawn will request street walking for Pewsey. Curly informed the meeting that there has been vandalism and graffiti in Pewsey. Older teenager/young adults will soon have an outdoor gym in Pewsey which may help which is being supported by the Parish Council.

The Fun Day was planned for April 2020 which was postponed so the funds have not been spent. Dawn has plans for a climbing wall (fully accessible), skate ramp with workshops and other sports - it is all planned and ready to go but is waiting for restrictions to be lifted.

Councillor Marilyn Hunt (Pewsey PC) has worked on the proposed skate park for many years and now has an acoustic engineer to assess the various potential sites. This will enable Wiltshire Council to be challenged (or not) on planning refusals.

Dawn invited everyone to put forward ideas for the funding that is available for youth projects.

Richard Rogers has a pilot project running in Westbury and elsewhere, to replace the Local Youth Network with Positive Activities. The idea is to get organisations to come out to the youth. Dawn has put Pewsey Community Area forward for the pilot.

i. Treasurer - Dawn Wilson

A full breakdown wasn't available, but the balance of the bank account is currently £7964.95, of which some is ring-fenced for projects, some is ring-fenced for PCAP costs (e.g. Susie Brew costs, insurance, etc).

PCAP is currently ok and understand that many organisations will currently be under pressure, however we will be approaching Parish Councils to request a donation to the running costs in the next couple of weeks.

7. Pewsey Area Board & Wiltshire Council updates

Colin Gale provided an update on Wiltshire Council. Colin provided an update from the Wiltshire Cabinet Meetings. By way of background, Colin and others regularly attend the Cabinet Meetings and there is a section for questions from the public. The meetings are currently online and questions have to be submitted prior to the meeting - dates and deadlines are all available online. PCAP interest in the cabinet meetings started when the Everleigh Household Recycling Centre was closed despite the enormous number of people who were in support of keeping it open (94% opposed the closure). Since then, we have looked spending and performance - for example raising the issue of portfolio holder for transport.

On 14th July we submitted a question regarding capital finance and finance scrutiny where the budget had escalated from £20 million to £33 million for the Special Needs School in Rowde, without any work having taken place at that stage. This had happened with little or no scrutiny and the figures didn't seem to add up. The information sent to us as a response on 14th September included a report of 600 pages. We felt that the lack of control over funding was unacceptable. We decided not to continue to submit questions to cabinet but have submitted a statement to cabinet to say that following extensive analysis, our questions will be submitted directly to the Leader of Wiltshire Council. This has been done and we are waiting to hear a response.

The second case was a budget presentation during Covid where the spreadsheets didn't add up and there was no key on how to use them, as well as inconsistencies. Their response was that this was accounting standard format. This issue hasn't been pursued.

Paul Oatway provided an update - Apologised for his late arrival. Covid cases in Wiltshire are doubling by the week (mainly in the lower age groups) and the situation is deteriorating. School meals for children became a political hot potato during half-term. Wiltshire Council was holding back on a decision on free school meals until they had confirmation from central Government. Once they had confirmation, Wiltshire Council decided that they would provide school meals at a county level.

A342 will be re-surfaced during 2021/2022.
B3087 Burbage to Pewsey will be resurfaced soon.

8. Parish Issues Report, including Fly Tipping Reports

Susie Brew reported that there were no Parish Issues and a report of fly tipping from Buttermere Parish.

9. Items for Next Agenda

None.

10. Any Other Business

Next meeting is Thursday 21st January 2021, currently to be online using Zoom.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

Future Meeting Dates

If you are able to host a meeting, then please let Susie know – pcap@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday 21st January 2021 - Zoom

Thursday 22nd April 2021 - TBC

Thursday 22nd July 2021 - TBC

Thursday 21st October 2021 - TBC

Future dates and venues are also available on the website - www.pewseycap.org.uk/events

Contact: Susie Brew - PCAP Coordinator pcap@hotmail.co.uk

Signed _____ Date _____
Dawn Wilson, Chair PCAP