

Minutes PCAP 20th October 2022

Rushall Village Hall 7pm

Present:

Dawn Wilson (Chair, PCAP Health and Youth, Wilcot, Huish and Oare PC)
Margaret Holden (Easton Royal PC)
Hew Helps (Easton Resident)
Colin Gale (Rushall PC)
Richard Rogers (CEM, Wiltshire Council),
Curly Haskell (PCAP Standards Working Group, Pewsey Resident)
Peter Deck (PCAP Planning, Pewsey Resident)
Mac Maclain (North Newnton Resident)
Sean Devine (Chair North Newnton PC) sean.devine2@outlook.com – SB to note
Cllr Paul Oatway (Wiltshire Council)
Tony Gallagher (Upavon PC)
Charles Lee Bennet (Upavon PC)

- 1) Introductions were completed.
- 2) Minutes accepted, proposed Colin Gale, seconded Peter Deck.
Matters arising – Item 1 b Freight Management Plan – PCAP wrote to the Minister for Highways Grant Shapp MP and Danny Kruger MP CCd to Wiltshire Council Highways Cllr Mark McClelland and Leader Cllr Richard Clewer on July 26th 2022. The replies were uninspiring and as expected. For Ladies' Bridge update see Cllr Oatway's report item 6.
- 3) Apologies: Carolyn Whistler (PCAP Environment), John Brewin (Woodborough PC), Susie Brew (PCAP Coordinator, PVTP Coordinator, Economy, Culture)
- 4) No Declarations of Interest
- 5) **Community Plan**
 - a) **Economy**- Our sister organisation, Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership (PVTP), reported that member subscriptions this year have enabled advertising with Great West Way (GWW) and Visit Wiltshire (VW) Autumn & Winter Campaign. PVTP did a successful digital takeover in August of Visit Wiltshire social media. Monthly PVTP newsletters have been sent to businesses and the public. New blogs and content have been posted on the Visit Pewsey Vale website – The Blind Photographer, Edward Thomas & Wilton Water, Make Wine Whilst the Sun Shines. Susie is currently sorting out reprints of some of the walking leaflets along with assisting Crop Circle Information Centre & Exhibition in applying for brown signs. Sustainability information is now going on the PVTP website. Susie and Judy Haynes of Grt Bedwyn Walking Group (a PCAP Member) attended Walkers are Welcome AGM – lots of ideas from it. Susie met with new Account Manager from Great West Way – Sarah Jeffery

- b) **Transport** – Colin updated on the £1.2 million Rural Mobility Fund for a NEW Bus Service for Pewsey Vale, that Wiltshire Council have been awarded for demand-responsive transport schemes. Colin reported that nearly 500 surveys were completed and from a range of ages. Answers were people wanted connections with rail. Since the original proposal (drafted by PCAP) was to link Marlborough and Devizes with Pewsey and Bedwyn stations, this was on target. The branding, discussed this week, will be green to compliment GWR, as they have helped with funding and to promote this pilot as greener transport. Smaller buses mean drivers will not need a PSV and this may overcome the driver recruitment issues suffered nationally. A new bus has already been purchased. The operations will go out to tender with routes going live March 2023. Trenchard lines Upavon will be covered and the Chair of PCAP, Dawn Wilson, will share information with the Army Welfare Service so families are informed.
- Trains** – still issues with the timetable due to strike action which will not be resolved soon. Both the Chair and Colin attended the GWR Communities event on Monday this week. Travel is not yet to back pre pandemic levels. Tues to Thurs is good but other days less so. Special saver tickets for Mondays is being considered. Grt Bewyn Group are having success with improved connections to Newbury and continue to lobby for an improved service. The DfT have still not announced the outcomes of grants for the accessibility improvement fund which the Pewsey Vale Rail User Group (PVRUG another sister organisation under PCAP) had applied for Pewsey. PVRUG meets in early November in Pewsey and new members are welcome. The aim is to improve the timetable for better connections east and west out of Pewsey.
- Car Share**- Richard talked about Co Cars, an organisation that shares electric cars and bikes who may be operating in Devizes. This has been an idea for PVTP for Pewsey Station for some time. Richard will contact The Chair for future discussions.
- c) **Planning**- Peter Deck reported the Pewsey NDP review is going ahead slowly. The government position is unknown at this time as the local plan still isn't out either but is being worked on.
- d) **Crime & Community Safety** – Please see Pewsey Area Board (PAB) report item 6
- e) **Environment** – Carolyn Whistler -Some thoughts national and local which could affect our plan:

- Nature groups warn UK being put on path to be the 'Dirty Man of Europe' once again
- Moves toward environmental deregulation could hasten the decline of our natural world, for example by leading to more sewage in rivers and loss of local green space
- Environmental damage from deregulation could put public health and wellbeing at risk

A letter from 79 Environment Group leaders to the "Prime Minister" last week:

Planning and Infrastructure Bill proposals to weaken environmental planning rules in "Investment Zones" around the country would be similarly misconceived. The Habitats Regulations protect precious natural habitats and our most vulnerable wildlife. Simply stripping away the rules would not solve problems like the chronic pollution of our rivers; it would be a smokescreen for continued environmental harm. Rather than weaken environmental rules, environmental recovery, environmental monitoring and investment in natural infrastructure should be key tenets of any proposed investment zones.

While reasonable and positive reform can be achieved, it has to be based on careful consideration, grounded in evidence and consultation. Change for change's sake is not a public priority. Support for existing UK environmental standards and protections is resolutely high in constituencies up and down the country, so any changes must be based on clear proposals for change and evidence of what that will deliver. It is particularly concerning to see the un-evidenced push for environmental deregulation accompanied by suggestions that the Government could weaken Environmental Land Management scheme, despite clear evidence that this sustainable approach will deliver for farmers, the public and for nature and climate.

On behalf of the millions of people who care for and depend on our natural world, we hope you will step away from deregulation, and the attack on nature it would constitute. There is an opportunity to instead focus on achieving huge benefits for our economy, for communities and the Government's green legacy, by delivering on great green goals.

This Government has made some bold and impressive environmental promises. We applaud the aim of passing on nature in better condition. Our hopes for the future are raised by the legal target to halt the decline of wildlife by 2030. We were delighted to hear your pledge to lead a delegation to global COP-15 nature talks in Montreal, where the UK can play a leading diplomatic role. We all support the target to achieve net zero. These goals are all jeopardised by a deregulatory agenda

It would be totally inconsistent to set world-leading targets, while sweeping away the regulations needed to achieve them.

Yours sincerely

Dr Richard Benwell, CEO, Wildlife & Countryside Link

And 78 others

Finally Cllr Oatway is scrutinising the briefing re noxious agricultural smells included at PAB.

- f) **Culture, Heritage & Leisure** – Susie is continuing work with North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust & contributed to the North Wessex Downs planning meeting. Pewsey Footpaths Group – up and running(!) – with Judy Kunkler at the helm. Rights of Way generally are in good order – have met with a couple of landowners to build relationships and to see how they would like us to help them. Continuing to visit the Landowners. Went on a Disabled Ramblers walk at Avebury with Judy Haynes from Bedwyn Footpaths Group with a view to creating accessible routes in the Vale. The Heritage Centre in Pewsey had a successful fundraising evening last week.
- g) **Health & Wellbeing** – Last meeting was last month. Warm Spaces , the new Wiltshire Council initiative to combat cost of living crisis - see PAB report. No grants were submitted. PCAP continues to support the Shalbourne Connect groups with insurance and banking as members of PCAP. For the Foodbank report see item 8. The Pewsey Patient Participation Group will meet first week in November. The Flu and Covid Clinics have been well attended. The PCCA now PCA CIC, have been invited to attend the next Pewsey Area Board November 28th at Grt Bedwyn Hall to report on their activities with and without the bus having missed all this years PAB's..

- h) **Children & Young People** –The Blue Bus has had some success and funding is available for it for September for Upavon for now. Upavon PC need to find more funding for the service to continue. Burbage announced that the Parish Council would fund it for further months. Pewsey Youth activities – Cllrs have provided some day activities but are struggling with a regular venue for the proposed youth café. Community first continue to work with volunteers on all three projects.
- i) **Treasurer Report** – Dawn provided a summary of the accounts.
Health – is for the Memory Café and Movement to Music sessions PCAP run and support in Pewsey. The PVTP project was funds from Tesco to advertise the new long distance walking and cycling route , the Pewsey Vale Circular Way, launched last March.

By Project	Income	Expenses	Crd frwrd From last yr	In this yr Leaves		Carry Forward 2023
		£				
Health Funds	£ 485.00	1,109.60	£ 3,906.57	£ 3,281.97	Health	£ 3,281.97
Unrestricted Core Funds	£ 900.00	1,115.94	£ 2,457.48	£ 2,241.54	Unrestricted	£ 2,241.54
Shalbourne Connect	£ 150.00	3,000.00	£ 3,285.08	£ 435.08	Shalbourne	£ 435.08
PVTP Project	£ 500.00	£ 536.00	0	-£ 36.00		-£ 36.00
	£ 2,035.00	£ 5,761.54	£ 9,649.13	£ 5,922.59	£ -	£ 5,922.59

- 6) **Pewsey Area Board Update-** Cllr Oatway reported on the Code of Conduct review. The Local Government Association (LGA) created a new Code of Conduct earlier this year, reviewed by Standards committee that Cllr Oatway Chair's. A small all party working group was formed for the review. Once circulated this updated version was presented to Full Council this week. The new Code was debated and the efficacy of the complaints system was also discussed. Cllr Oatway reported that he was successful in getting the new Code of Conduct accepted and this will be suitably formatted and will be circulated to all Parish Councils. He will encourage them to adopt these so the complaints process is standardised and streamlined and the same for all. This is a great achievement by Cllr Oatway and the Chair commended him for this work. PCAP has also been lobbying the LGA, the Minister for Communities and Local Authorities on a similar matter relating to regulations and codes. Needless to say the response to date has been once again disappointing.

Warm Spaces has been launched with funds from central government for foodbanks and fuel poverty. Cllr Oatway spoke about opening up the village hall in Milton Lilbourne once a week for coffees and so on. This village hall has ground source heating and so is very efficient, not all Halls

are. All those venues that are suitable are encouraged to sign up with the Wiltshire Council online list.

Local Highways and Footpaths Improvements Group (LHFIG), formerly CATG, meets next month. Cllr Oatway raised the enforcement of 20 mile an hour limits at PAB with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PPC). These were apparently not enforceable by Speedwatch in villages, even though children are still being put at risk near village schools. Cllr Oatway spoke to the PPC and his deputy at the Area Board about this. Surely national policy will support this, and Cllr Oatway is pursuing this. If they are not enforceable why spend money to put them in.

CRT – Ladies Bridge update was given. This is still ongoing with CRT being unreasonable about a possible solution. Please see documents on the planning portal. This decision may impact all access over agricultural bridges over a canal! In better news the damaged bridge at Wilcot is due to be fixed.

Police– the PPC came and announced there would be no more recruitment of PCSOs which directly contradicts his statement of last year. Peter Deck asked that this is challenged next time he attends. The PPC is expected at the next Area Board Nov 28th. The PPC did report he will have 2 mobile police stations available , one for Swindon and one for Wiltshire. PCSO, Jonathon Mills updated the members about the knifing incident in Pewsey. A man was arrested. The PCSO was asked by the chair of PCAP about their working relationship with British Transport Police over the vandalism at the Station. The reply was unclear as he wasn't aware of the incident. Shaun Devine Chair of North Newton PC has arranged a meeting on 27th October from 6-30pm with the PCSO at Woodbridge Inn. It is requested that PCSOs could attend the Annual Parish meetings at each parish once a year as the dates are well advertised. The PPC offered to share a quarterly report with PCAP. ACTION Susie to follow this up.

- 7) **PCAP Sustainability – New members and volunteers** are needed to sustain PCAP and the parish councils. The attendance at the last Area Board was very poor. It was noted that very few Parish Councils sent representatives. Wiltshire Council and other agencies use the Area Boards as a platform for information sharing. We have lost a number of our older Cllrs this year and the new Cllrs seem reluctant to attend other meetings. Local decisions can only be made when well informed and lobbying is more effective in person. We hope that Cllrs on all our parish councils in the vale recognise this. PCAP gives us a collective voice on matters that affect us all.
- 8) **Devizes Foodbank Report** - Alex Montegriffo, Community Organiser and Campaigns Manager, Devizes and District Foodbank, alex@devizesanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

As of June 2022, I have been the community organiser at Devizes and District Foodbank (DDFB), employed by the Trussell Trust to research local causes of poverty, and work with the community and stakeholders to undertake campaigning. I work alongside the operational side of the foodbank, with Liz Starling being project manager.

Liz has access to the data for referral numbers and stock intake and output, but the number of people the foodbank supported from 1st April to the end of July was 1221, from 537 referral vouchers, which is more than last year. Data up to October suggests we will have supported significantly more people than last year, reflecting the rising cost of living. Just under half of the

people supported were children. Over the summer holiday, the foodbank distributed 4 tonnes of food to 281 children, which was a very busy summer. In terms of stock, we have received 2.5 tonnes of donations for harvest since the start of October. Our stock levels are generally sufficient, except over the summer when we had some shortages.

One part of my research as community organiser has involved contributing evidence to an all-party parliamentary group on ending the need for foodbanks ([APPG Ending Food Banks - The Trussell Trust](#)), after consulting with local charitable organisations such as Home Start North Wiltshire, referral agencies, and people using support services. If anyone is interested in reading the report, please let me know via email.

I am currently researching how to best distribute the new Household Support Fund given from central government to local authorities (£2.7 million to Wiltshire Council to be spent by March 2023), including finding out how previous instalments of the same fund (this is the third instalment) have been used and who has been missed by funding. This might include people in mobile homes who do not pay council tax, and families with children not in school, as the fund was given out using the council tax database, and via schools. The fund was given out as both direct payments and supermarket/utilities vouchers, as well as to charities such as DDFB. After further collection of evidence from the public and staff at charitable organisations, I will be making recommendations to Wiltshire Council. One might be the need to advertise schemes better, so that people know they can now apply for the Household Support Fund.

Finally, I have been in contact with parents, guardians, schools and Wiltshire Council, to start a discussion about a council fund for school uniforms, as this can be an unaffordable cost for families on low incomes. I am currently gathering evidence for how a fund would be beneficial, and opinions on how to make it accessible, easy to apply for, and open to anyone who needs it. Other councils have a similar fund which could be used as a template. Again, any comments are welcome, and please let me know if you would like to be involved in discussions around this fund.

I will shortly be writing a report on the most significant financial issues in the area covered by the foodbank (including debt, digital exclusion, geographical barriers to services, and mental health) – I can circulate this at the next meeting.

Please do get in touch with any questions or comments!

- 9) **Canal Issues-** The report of issues collated by PCAP has been sent to the two Operations Managers (West and East) with a request to contact us. Nothing has happened.
- 10) **Parish Issues Review** – no issues reported.
- 11) **Any Other Business** – Richard talked about warm space for businesses. This could be cafes or other local venues.

The Chair thanked Margaret Holden for her support and wished her well in her new home.

PCAP are looking for venues for 2023 meetings - dates are:



19th January 2023

20th April 2023

20th July 2023

19th October 2023

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and Colin Gale for the use of the hall and refreshments and closed the meeting at 9pm.