



Pewsey
Community
Area
Partnership

Minutes PCAP 26th October 2023

Pewsey Parish Office 7pm

Present:

Dawn Wilson (Chair, PCAP Health and Youth, Wilcot, Huish & Oare PC)
Tony Gallagher (Upavon PC)
Richard Rogers (CEM, Wiltshire Council)
Susie Brew (PCAP Coordinator)
Peter Deck (PCAP Planning, Pewsey Resident)
Cllr Paul Oatway (PCAP Crime & Community Safety, Wiltshire Council)
Colin Gale (Vice-Chair, PCAP Transport, Rushall PC),
John Brewin (Woodborough PC)
Linda Tamani (Manningford PC)
Andrew Grey (North Newnton PC)

- 1) Introductions were completed.
- 2) Minutes accepted, proposed Peter Deck, seconded Tony Gallagher.
- 3) Apologies: Hew Helps (Easton Royal Resident), Beverley Helps (Easton Royal PC), Curly Haskell (PVTP Volunteer, PCAP Standards Working Group), Jeremy Wyatt (Great Green Bedwyn, PCAP Environment), Sylvia Wyatt (Great Green Bedwyn, Bedwyn PC, PCAP Environment), Lesley Green (Shalbourne Link).
- 4) No Declarations of Interest.

5) Community Plan

- a) **Economy** – The issue with VisitWiltshire unable to become an LVEP in the UK due to lack of funding from Wiltshire Council continues. We have ensured that all those who should know the position do so. The meeting between VisitBritain and Wiltshire Council took place some time ago, but resolved nothing. VisitWiltshire looking at possible alternatives for public funding. The first tranche of LVEPs have been announced and Wiltshire is not one of them.
There are concerns in the pub trade regarding profitability. Even where a pub is busy, it is difficult to make profits as costs have risen so high. Susie to follow up with the local pubs to find out whether they are facing difficulties and if so, what changes to policy would ease things. This will be sent to Danny Kruger MP.
Visit Pewsey Vale took over VisitWiltshire's Instagram account last weekend. The interest was very good (particularly if compared to other posts on their account). Our thanks go to David White who farms in Avebury who takes the most brilliant photos and allows us to use them.
The Bike Stand project continues and a location has been identified next to the loos by Bouverie Hall. The stand will be publicised online so people can find it if they are in trouble, but we will look to create a leaflet that can be shared with local cycling groups, local cafes and Cossor's.
Susie Brew and Judy Haynes from Great Bedwyn Footpaths Group tested the new Wiltshire Connect on-demand bus service last week. Going from Great Bedwyn and from Wexcombe to Honeystreet Mill Café, they then walked to Woodborough Yard where they were picked up and taken home. It worked



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really well and is being heavily publicised by the Tourism Partnership and PCAP. PVTP has been working with Wiltshire Connect for an article on the new bus service for the Great West Way.

Richard Rogers asked whether any of the Towns funding that Pewsey has received could be used to help promote pubs in the area. Dawn said that a large proportion of the funds is going on replacing Christmas/carnival lights. Some funding has been spent on village maps and signage as well. It is a mixed bag in that some pubs are probably quiet and so aren't making any money, but others are busy however their overheads have risen so much that profitability has been hit significantly.

b) **Transport**

Trains:

Colin confirmed that although the Community Rail Partnership with Transwilt was not successful, they are still keen to work with Pewsey and Bedwyn Rail User Groups.

Dawn and Colin attended the GWR Stakeholders' Conference in Swindon which was well supported. An email from Jane Jones at GWR indicates that their plan to close ticket offices is being revised in the light of public opposition to it. There are over 55 million different tickets available across the country which is why ticket machines cannot cope with working out the cheapest route. They are planning to have people at the stations who will have mobile ticket machines so that they can help people.

It was agreed that Great British Rail (the organisation which will absorb Network Rail and take on its responsibilities, while also overseeing train services) should be rationalising the ticket choice and this will no doubt be part of their remit.

Pewsey Station office is currently not open due to staff illness, but Dawn said they are training two new staff to man it.

Colin confirmed that the issue with the Devizes Gateway station proposal is that Pewsey would then lose the fast service to London. Dawn confirmed that they are looking for a compromise so that fast services can still be provided at peak commuter time. Network Rail controls the timetable and with more freight services using the railways, it impacts passenger services. What is proposed is that the service journey time would go up from 57 minutes to about 1 hour 10 minutes – 1 hour 20 minutes. There would be more trains during the day but slower, particularly going west. Westbury needs another platform as its capacity is holding up changes.

Colin highlighted that the Wiltshire Local Plan, currently out for consultation, does not mention Pewsey station but does mention Devizes station (which doesn't exist).

The Department for Transport proposed an accessibility improvement for Pewsey station to add lifts to the bridge. The proposal was about 20th in the list and the DfT only did the first 4 or 5. There are concerns about safety getting to and from the station as a pedestrian. There are a couple of routes via Wilcot Road which are signposted to and from the station and are also lit, which people should use.

Buses:

At the end of October, the third tranche of the on-demand bus service will be rolled out, as well as a number of other changes as follows:

- Introduction of the third on-demand bus and extension of the operating area to the east of Marlborough and Hungerford which includes Froxfield, Chilton Foliat, Ham, Shalbourne and Hungerford.
- Introduction of the new 100 service between Marlborough and Devizes – 4 Journeys in each direction Mon-Fri



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- 101 Pewsey-Devizes – revised timetable based on passenger feedback with some journeys running earlier or later. The 17.40 from Devizes will now do a full journey serving all villages en route.
- Introduction of the 110 timetabled service between Marlborough-Great Bedwyn and Hungerford to complement the on-demand service. School journeys will continue to be operated by Swindon Bus/Reds and will run all year round on service 120. Services 20/22 will end on 28th October.
- From 4 November, the Saturday on demand service will operate between 8am-8pm instead of 7am-7pm as they have found the 7am-8am hour to be very quiet.

Colin confirmed that it is the intention to run the buses later into the evening (which would also help the pub trade) but this will be part of the on-going review of the services to improve them over time. It is understood that there is demand for extending this to Tidworth and that may happen at some stage. Dawn said that there have been more than 5000 journeys since the service started.

- c) **Planning** – The draft of the Wiltshire Local Plan is out for public consultation to the end of November – [This is the link to the Local Plan](#). All Parish Councils are advised to review the plan and submit their feedback. It is about 500 pages long, but much of it does not affect our part of the county. The old Core Strategy used to have 2 to 3 pages of information on planning for large villages across the county. Please note that there is no reference to planning for large villages in the Local Plan. There is a separate document which covers large villages, such as Pewsey, Burbage, Upavon, Shalbourne and Great Bedwyn, which is called the Wiltshire Local Plan Rural Housing Requirements 2023 – [this is the link to the Rural Housing Requirements 2023 document](#). Peter advised all Parish Councils to read this document.
- d) **Crime & Community Safety** – Cllr Paul Oatway confirmed that crime is low with pockets of crime in larger conurbations. The local Neighbourhood Police Teams are now sending out regular reports to the Parishes rather than trying to attend all Parish Council meetings. They intend to attend the Parishes' AGMs. Paul is organising the funeral of Mark Hillier, the Pewsey fire-fighter who was recently killed in a road traffic accident. It will involve a number of Fire Services and so there will be considerable disruption in Pewsey. The funeral is on Friday 10th November at 1pm at the Church in Pewsey, with the cremation at Salisbury.
- e) **Environment** – The Great Green Bedwyn Open Homes event went very well. The report is attached to these minutes.
- f) **Culture, Heritage & Leisure** – No updates.
- g) **Health & Wellbeing** – Next meeting is on Thursday 2nd November at 4.30pm on Zoom. If you are interested in joining the meeting, then please let Susie know – pcap@hotmail.co.uk. There is funding available for community projects related to health and wellbeing. Dawn confirmed that the PPG still meets every other month and that Dee Nix is Chair.
- h) **Children & Young People** – Dawn confirmed that the new Youth Café is at The Vale Campus in Pewsey every Friday from 7pm to 9pm. It is open to any child or young person from 8 years to 17 years old from anywhere in the area. It has been very successful with 20 – 25 people at each one so far. There is a pool table, snacks and hot drinks, as well as craft type activities. Tony Gallagher suggested that a late bus for this group would be a good idea. Dawn confirmed that quite a number of the children are not normally socially active but they feel safe at the Café as there are helpers from the school there. Children are being encouraged to help clear up. There is free squash and canned drinks can be bought. Volunteers



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must be DBS checked and they are looking for more volunteers to spread the load. The way in which it has been set up, with very low running costs means that it is sustainable and Richard confirmed that it is likely to be a model that will be used elsewhere. Dawn said they use Community First for safeguarding. Dawn had a concern that there is no wi-fi available for the Café at The Vale as they don't want people using the wi-fi when the Café is not running – they are not prepared to share. Richard will check this as they will probably have sufficient broadband to cope.

Richard confirmed that Community First has been commissioned for next year to look at Bedwyn and larger villages for a similar set up. Tony confirmed that Upavon may be able to use the old village hall and once the site where it is located is developed, there will be a new village hall as part of the development.

Peter Deck confirmed that they have had planning permission to put a pump track at the site in Broomcroft Road so that Pewsey finally has a skatepark. The pump track is a no-noise skatepark.

- i) **Treasurer Report** – Dawn provided a summary of the accounts. PCAP holds funds for quite a number of other community groups and grant funds. PCAP funds to cover running costs is currently £2915.53. Health balance is £2136.92 which means that the boat trip for the Memory Café can go ahead in 2024. Movement 2 Music which runs fortnightly, takes subscriptions from attendees, so that keeps ticking over after costs. Other groups/funds include Trees for Grafton Parish, Shalbourne Connect and the Cost of Living Fund which comes to a balance of £10846.46 at the end of the month.

Dawn has been organising cookery courses for those who cannot cook – adults and children – using Phunky Foods. She confirmed that the Cost of Living fund provides direct help for families who are referred by schools, surgeries, Citizens' Advice, Home Instead and other organisations, but provides vouchers rather than cash.

- 6) **Pewsey Area Board Update**- Cllr Oatway confirmed that there will be highways improvements for the A345 and A338. Litter is now being cleared before mowing is done.

Richard confirmed that Samantha Howell, Director of Highways at Wiltshire Council will be at the next Area Board on 27th November, which will include Highways Matters providing an opportunity for updates and questions. Please submit questions in advance to areaboards@wiltshire.gov.uk with Pewsey Highways Matters in the subject line by 20th November.

- 7) **Parish Issues Review** – No new issues or fly-tipping instances were raised by Parish Councils.

- 8) **Any Other Business** – None raised.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and Pewsey Parish Council for the use of the and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.



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How to make your home greener and save energy ?

The Wiltshire and West Berkshire Green Open Homes weekend

Most people find it hard to decide about installing solar panels on their roof or a heat pump to run their central heating if they have never actually seen these technologies in action, or discussed them with a well-informed friend. So, Great Green Bedwyn, Hungerford Environmental Action Team (HEAT) and Pewsey Green organised a "Green Open Homes" event to show off these technologies with no sales pressure one October weekend. Homeowners welcomed over 50 visitors to a dozen Green Open Homes, each featuring different technologies such as extra wall insulation, solar panels, a heat pump, home battery or high performance windows and doors. There was even a house heated by a heat pump taking energy out of the local river and a canal boat with special "off-grid" technologies!

The visitors used the www.greenopenhomes.net website to view a list and map of open homes and book an appointment with homeowners. **Scan here** to find out more about Green Open Homes:



Homeowners had many interesting conversations and there was much positive feedback, with a preliminary analysis showing that visitors had all their questions answered and had a clearer idea about what they could do and costs as a result of their visit. Many were convinced about installing energy saving or generation technologies as a result of their visit. One visitor had already ordered rolls of loft insulation and checked the details of a reversible air-to-air split heat pump they had seen the same day. This kind of heat pump is an ideal way to heat one room as it is four times as energy efficient as an electric fan or convector heater. Even better, it can air condition your room if you need it. These split heat pump units cost well under £1000 and some can even be installed by a competent DIYer.

Many thanks to all the homeowners who made this popular event possible and to HEAT, Pewsey Green, the Bristol Centre for Sustainable Energy and the National Lottery community fund. Given this positive experience, we are already planning another Green Open Homes event next year. Do contact us if you would like us to add your home to our next Green Open Homes event and show off the green technologies you have installed, to help others decide what will work for them.

Free heat loss survey

To help you find draughts or places in your home needing more insulation and for general energy saving advice, from mid November we are re-starting our free infrared camera surveys for Great & Little Bedwyn residents. Book your infrared survey by emailing greatgreenbedwyn@gmail.com or scan here:

