



Pewsey
Community
Area
Partnership

Minutes PCAP 8th January 2024

Rushall Village Hall 7pm

Present:

Dawn Wilson (Chair, PCAP Health and Youth, Wilcot, Huish & Oare 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),
Curly Haskell (PVTP volunteer & PCAP Standards Working Group)
Hew Helps (Easton Royal resident)
Jennifer Brisker (Bottlesford & North Newton Church)
David Brisker (North Newton PC Chair)
Kate Silvester (Pewsey Green)

- 1) Introductions were completed.
- 2) Minutes from 26th October 2023 accepted, proposed Colin Gale, seconded Peter Deck.
- 3) Apologies: Beverley Helps (Easton Royal PC), Jeremy Wyatt (Great Green Bedwyn, PCAP Environment), Sylvia Wyatt (Great Green Bedwyn, Bedwyn PC, PCAP Environment). Also John Brewin (Woodborough PC).
- 4) No Declarations of Interest.

5) **Pewsey Vale Health & Wellbeing Meeting**

Richard and Dawn felt that the Health & Wellbeing Meeting needed a rethink. Attendance has been poor and requests for grant funding have been slow. Richard would like the meeting to stay under PCAP as it provides the local connection. Richard proposed that we look at the Older & Vulnerable People data in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which will be published in January/February and is run every 4 years. This will enable us to identify where the needs are and then to engage with the relevant groups. The Pewsey Vale Health & Wellbeing grant funds help with delivery of the Pewsey Vale Memory Café, Movement 2 Music group, Arts2gether at the Wesley Hall. It doesn't engage with the U3A which may be an area to explore. Richard reiterated the need for the current grant fund to be spent or allocated before the end of the financial year, otherwise it will be lost. Dawn confirmed that the requirement for match funding over £500 is a big barrier to running projects.

6) **Community Plan**

Susie said that the updated PCAP Plan would be available on the PCAP website in the next couple of weeks.

- a) **Economy** – The Pewsey Vale has had great coverage on the back of the new on-demand bus service, including an article on sustainable travel by the Great West Way, an article on the British Travel Journal, a mention on Gogglebox and The Rough Guide's guide to sustainable travel on the Great West Way. The North Wessex Downs is no longer called an AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) as AONBs were rebranded in November 2023. All AONBs are now known as National Landscapes and all AONBs have a new individual logo, in the same style so that their brands are more connected. A reminder to everyone to update printed material and websites accordingly.



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The North Wessex Downs Walking Festival is on from 31st May to 9th June 2024. The Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership will be organising two walks again. Parishes are urged to consider organising a walk as well and if any are interested, then contact Jacky Akam at the North Wessex Downs - JackyAkam@northwessexdowns.org.uk

A destination page on Great Western Railway's website is underway and will hopefully be released soon. In addition to this, we are also advertising again in the VisitWiltshire Visitor Map and the Visitor Guide. The Great West Way is also doing an article on the Vale of Pewsey Destination Ambassador. We have linked up with Hungerford, particularly on the back of the on-demand bus service which serves Hungerford as well. We already had a Hungerford page on our website and now Hungerford has reciprocated.

On Friday 19th January Susie will be attending a meeting in Amesbury with VisitWiltshire and VisitEngland, and representatives from other towns across the county to discuss VisitWiltshire's LVEP status.

The Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership has this week sent a letter to Danny Kruger MP requesting help for our local country pubs. A number of suggestions, already put forward by industry groups, were reiterated. North Newnton Parish Council has also previously written to Danny Kruger MP on this subject.

b) **Transport**

Trains:

It was confirmed that the Pewsey Ticket Office will be manned as the personnel will be coming back to work (from a period of illness). Colin confirmed that there wasn't much to say as there hadn't been a Network Rail meeting which will be in February.

Buses:

Colin had a 5 month overview of the Demand Responsive services which demonstrated that the new services have been very successful. August to December figures show that the daily number of passengers per vehicle was up by 49%. Numbers of passengers per month (Monday to Friday) have been increasing steadily from 1695 in August to 5258 in November.

Plans include the roll out of booking via the web (in addition to the app), customer service and support improvements and electric vehicles.

Paul Sanders who has been running the DRT project is now full time at Wiltshire Council.

Dawn noted that there was talk of introducing the service between Upavon and Tidworth.

Roads:

Curly asked the meeting whether anyone had received a response from Wiltshire Council Highways after the Highways Matter meeting on 27th November at the Bouverie Hall. Richard assured the meeting that responses will be out soon.

With regard to the recent flooding, Dawn and others agreed that Wiltshire Council should have had personnel available 'on the ground' at such an exceptional time. Colin confirmed that Rushall had a good supply of the gel bags and signs which had been organised some time before. Colin to forward the email that they use to organise these supplies and Susie will circulate. Dawn suggested that the email probably goes to the clerk, but may not get forwarded onwards as they are so inundated with emails nowadays.

c) **Planning** – Peter Deck confirmed that there had been no update yet on the Wiltshire Council Local Plan which was out for consultation at the end of 2023.



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Peter has received the National Planning Framework 2024-01 Briefing Note, which outlines the changes from December 2023, including some that impact the Pewsey Community Land Trust. All PCs should have received it and it needs to be read. Peter will forward the information to Susie for circulation.

- d) **Crime & Community Safety** – The Neighbourhood Police Teams have a new vehicle which is a mini police station. This enables public consultation which will take place in Pewsey, Upavon and Burbage, manned by a Police Constable and a PCSO. This builds awareness of issues and also provides a police presence. How will people know when they will be at the locations? This is done via email and Facebook – Cllr Oatway to find out what dates are planned.

Cllr Oatway that one of the concerns is that people want to see a greater police presence in Pewsey and The Vale. However, the Police hub is in Devizes and so, because they are dealing with problems in Devizes and because of the shift patterns, they never get out of Devizes into the more distant areas. The Chief Constable has instigated a new policing model, reducing the number of shifts from 5 to 4 which should help to address this issue. The Chief Constable, Catherin Roper, will be live on Facebook on Monday 22nd January at 6.30pm to answer questions and will be attending the next Pewsey Area Board on Monday 4th March in Great Bedwyn.

There is a vacancy for an Assistant Chief Constable in Wiltshire.

The Police & Crime Commissioner has already stated that they will be asking for an increase in the precept again this year. Wiltshire was at the bottom of the national table for key metrics (overall score of 1.6 – inadequate – out of a possible score of 5).

Colin is concerned that visits to Parish Council meetings by the Neighbourhood Police Teams are too far into the future due to a lack of availability.

- e) **Environment** – Kate provided a summary of the report prepared by Sylvia and Jeremy Wyatt. Sylvia is now on the board of trustees for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

There is an event on 7th February in Great Bedwyn with two local farmers talking about farming and the Southern Streams Farm Cluster (<https://www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk/events/event/farming-the-environment/>). Everyone welcome.

Flooding has been high on people's priorities with the recent flooding events after such a long period of wet weather. Bedwyn has some good things in place to help reduce run off, including rain gardens where water troughs and other means are used to store water temporarily rather than all the water going straight into the drains at the times of heavy or continuous rain.

Green Open Homes will take place from 9th to 17th March. This provides people interested in reducing their carbon footprint with a way of seeing what other people have done. Visits must be booked in advance – more information at <https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/green-open-homes>

Information on initiatives by the Great Green Bedwyn group can be found at <https://www.greatgreenbedwyn.org.uk>

Great Green Bedwyn has been doing heat loss infrared surveys and Pewsey Green are planning to do this as well. Kate will be attending training to enable this. Kate anticipates that there will be a need for volunteers to help elderly people to make changes to their homes following a survey.

Susie updated on Trees for Grafton Parish – a community group trying to mitigate the impact of the loss of mature ash trees (due to dieback) on the landscape. This has involved buying more mature trees which will have an immediate impact on the gaps. The £2000 grant from Wessex Water was used to buy trees which have been planted along the edge of Wexcombe. Last year, trees have been planted in Wilton and East Grafton.

Richard advised that there is a team in Wiltshire Council who will help plant trees if needed.



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The RSPB annual Big Garden Birdwatch is between 26th and 28th January. The Big Plastic Count is on between 11th and 17th March (<https://thebigplasticcount.com>).

Kate advised that Jones's Mill has 500 fruit trees planted.

- f) **Culture, Heritage & Leisure** – PVADS production of Robin Hood & Babes in the Wood has been very successful. Curly advised that the pool at Pewsey Leisure Centre is now open from 6.30am. The bike repair stand for Pewsey will be installed in mid to late February next to the loos in Goddard Road. This is a pilot and, if funding can be raised, then additional stands can be installed in other villages where there is demand. Posters and communications to put in cafes and elsewhere will be available once it is installed to let people know it is there. It will also be on the national information websites (Turvec & Cyclehoop).
- g) **Health & Wellbeing** – Richard advised that Wiltshire Council has released £50k of funding for Cost of Living which equates to approximately £3k per Community Area. Dawn confirmed that the Pewsey Community Area Cost of Living fund balance (excluding the £3k) is largely ringfenced for Phunky Food to train low-income families in how to cook, as well as providing a slow cooker to those who attend. Other individual grants that have been allocated include a replacement fridge for an elderly person and fixing a dishwasher, with 20 families benefitting from shopping vouchers to release money for other needs. Richard wants PCAP to help allocate the Cost of Living funds. There is approximately £2.5k of funding in the Health & Wellbeing Fund available for projects. Dawn will put in an application for £500 for the Memory Café and hall hire.
- h) **Children & Young People** – Dawn is meeting Lisa from Pewsey Parish Council next week with regard to the Youth Café. The Café is proving to be very popular (between 20 and 30 children of all ages, with younger ones coming earlier and older later). The attendees do the set up and pack away at the end of the café. The Pool competition was very popular. They have also been playing Chocolate Bingo. There has been requests for other activities such as 5-a-side football, volleyball, badminton, etc. Dawn said they are trying to find a sports coach who could assist with this. The Pump Track is extremely popular with adults and young people. The community has taken ownership of the track, ensuring it is safe for users (particularly inexperienced ones) and that it is clean and tidy. There is lots of sharing of knowledge with more experienced people showing others how to do things. Richard confirmed that the Pewsey Area Board will fund Community First for youth activity provision for Pewsey, Upavon and Burbage. Community First will be looking to get feedback from Grafton and Bedwyn areas to understand the need there, with the possibility of doing something at the Oxenwood Outdoor Centre. Unfortunately, Community First will not be continuing youth work in our area after this year.
- i) **Treasurer Report** – Thank you to the Clemence Trust for a donation of £500. The Treasurer's Report is attached.
- 7) **Pewsey Area Board & Wiltshire Council Update** – Cllr Oatway said that the budget for the coming year has been set out but is not yet approved. For every £100 spent: £38 on vulnerable adults, £9 on waste, £9 on highways and buses, £4 on property, £1 on leisure and libraries, £21 on safeguarding children, £8 on funding, £6 on running the council, £3 on online services and £1 on improving the economy.
- 8) **Parish Issues Review** – A request to parishes for information on any long-term potholes that hadn't been fixed or had been fixed inadequately was sent out. The list of those reported is available. Many Parish Councils



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have experience where a pothole is reported on the app and is closed without the work having been done. Colin to take the list to Cabinet.

- 9) **Any Other Business** – Curly asked whether all Parish Councils had contributed to the running costs of PCAP. Some have, but others haven't.

Susie highlighted the North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust Annual Quiz in Ramsbury on 9th March. Tickets from info@nwd-landscapetrust.org.uk. If Parish Councils would like to donate to the Landscape Trust, then their donations would be most welcome – again contact info@nwd-landscapetrust.org.uk. v

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and Rushall Parish Council for the use of the hall and delicious refreshments and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

The next PCAP meeting is on Thursday 18th April at 7pm at Wootton Rivers Village Hall.