

Chairs Report 2021

Dear friends

What a year it has been. The pandemic has underscored the value and need for local support and solutions during such a difficult period. I know many of you have organised support for your vulnerable residents during this time and I would like to thank and congratulate every single one of you - on parish councils and other groups like the WI - who have helped, nurtured and supported residents through the pandemic.

PCAP has played its part during this time by:

- sharing and updating local contacts with the well-being hub at Wiltshire Council and maintaining the online Covid contacts across the Community Area,
- supporting health leaflets for the vulnerable who aren't online,
- sourcing and providing, in partnership with Pewsey Parish Council and Local CIC Green Machine, 15 PCs and tablets for Pewsey Primary School before Christmas 2020,
- providing the telephone buddy service in partnership with the PCCA in Pewsey,
- supporting the Movement 2 Music Together to go online then back in the Bouverie Hall,
- relaunching the Memory Cafe in the Bouverie Hall,
- taking the Memory Cafe clients on the Canal boat trip and offering a similar trip to the Churches group,
- supporting the new community cafe on Tuesdays at the Bouverie Hall,
- working with Pewsey Parish Council supporting the Wheeled Sports Park project,
- supporting the Community Land Trust looking to purchase the police House site in Pewsey in partnership with Green Square Accord,
- keeping the Pewsey Rail User Group running and listening to The Devizes Parkway group and Transwilts plans for a Community Rail Partnership for stations from Kintbury to Frome,
- challenging the financial controls of Wiltshire Council on the Rowde SEND School project which has increased from £23m to £35m in 18 months,
- running the Area Board Health and Well-being meetings and Covid Recovery meetings,
- supporting Pewsey Vale School to bid for funds for a mental health triage team on site,
- supporting local youth groups to restart and providing two Fun Days for young people in Pewsey this summer,
- supporting wildlife verges whilst maintaining safety,
- tracking fly tipping across the Vale,
- working with CRT to get the towpath repaired through our patch,
- supporting the excellent work of Susie and the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership on the Walkers are Welcome accreditation and staycation walking itineraries for three routes in the Vale, including the new Pewsey Vale Circular Way covering 82 miles of rights of way as a walking and cycling route,
- attending CATG meetings,
- providing banking services and insurance cover for constituted community groups who serve their community,

and last but not least

- engaging with Option 24/7 and Wiltshire Council on the Buses Back Better plan and the Rural Transport 5 year Project.

If you feel we have added value across the Vale this year, we would ask you to consider making a financial contribution to our core running costs and overheads. As you know, we bid for funds from various grant organisations for projects we deliver but the day to day costs of around £3,500 are never recovered fully.

This year, we also welcome three more parishes to our membership and hope they find PCAP useful, approachable and willing to support them in their endeavours.

Here's to celebrating another successful, and hopefully better, year ahead.

Dawn Wilson
Chair of PCAP