

## PEWSEY COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP (PCAP)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021  
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
Hew Helps	Easton Royal Resident
Jeremy & Sylvia Wyatt	Great Bedwyn Community Energy Group
Susie Brew	PCAP & PVTP Coordinator PCAP Sub Group Lead - Economy & Culture, Heritage & Leisure
Cllr Caroline Dalrymple	Pewsey Parish Council
Richard Rogers	Wiltshire Council Pewsey CA Community Engagement Manager
Richard Springford	Buttermere Parish Meeting

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. Minutes

The Minutes of the PCAP Meeting of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved (proposed Cllr Colin Gale, seconded Cllr Margaret Holden) and signed off.

#### 3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Carolyn Whistler	PCAP Sub Group Lead - Environment & North Newnton Parish Council
John Brewin	Woodborough Parish Council

#### 4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

#### 5. Community Hub - Joint project with Wiltshire Council

A meeting to discuss the potential of the Pewsey Library with a representative of the Library. However things couldn't move forward immediately as they were waiting for a new manager. A new manager has been put in place who will manage Corsham, Marlborough and Pewsey.

The next thing to do is to go through the list with the new manager to see what could be achieved. 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. Richard confirmed that Laura is very experienced but is not in post yet, but Richard will instigate this soon.

#### 6. Community Area Plan

##### a. Economy

Susie did a presentation on the two main projects that the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership for 2021 - the notes below provide additional information provided at the meeting over and above the information on the slides. These have been able to go ahead due to the Coop Community Fund, who we thank for their support.

Itineraries (slide 3) - If you visit places such as the Lake District or Peak District, you will find lots of itineraries available for walkers, cyclists and so on. Itineraries enable us to create a product using the things to do and places to stay in the Vale (Pewsey Community Area). According to VisitBritain figures, a day tripper will spend about £45 and someone stops overnight, they spend £67 a day. So it is important to convert our day visitors to overnight visitors and from just one or two nights to a week or longer. Travel Trade - we are not proposing that these are marketed to the coach parties arriving of American tourists, but by the Travel Trade being able to see we have a 'product' the Vale may be included as a day in a larger, longer Travel Trade Itinerary. Pewsey Vale Tourism partners will be able to market the itineraries - for example a B&B can advertise the itineraries on their website to attract people to their B&B.

Objectives (slide 4) - Although occupancy rates are good in the summer, itineraries will help to make it more year-round, helping the accommodation businesses, pubs, activities and shops to be more sustainable as businesses. New businesses, such as accommodation providers, may be created as a result of itineraries and any uptick in demand. New services could be created, for example Village Tour Guides (more information later).

Discover Pewsey Vale Information Pack (slide 5) - This is the prototype itinerary to see how it might work, running from Ham to Martinslade, along the Mid Wilts Way (MWW). Notice that on Day 2, the itinerary guides the visitor to do 7.5 miles (Ham to Wilton) along the MWW but then encourages them to get off the beaten track and do a further 3.5 miles to find out more about the Pewsey Vale. Guided tours will also have self-guided options.

Experience & Explore Days (slide 5) - This particular itinerary has 5 days of walking and two days doing other things. One of these is Experience the Vale day and the other is Explore Beyond the Vale. The Experience days invite people to find out more about the Vale, get to meet local people, hear the history, etc. This spreads the income from visitors to anyone who wants to take part. The Explore days invite people to go further afield and demonstrates what a great location the Vale is as so many large attractions are right on the doorstep. We are working with VisitMarlborough for a couple of day visits for this section as well (and will also contact Devizes and Hungerford). Note that the suggestions here have not been validated yet and are provided to generate the ideas of what could be included.

Walkers Are Welcome (WAW) (slide 7 & 8) - This national scheme is about putting something back - helping to maintain our footpaths as we use them either as locals or by our visitors. So it is not just about promoting walking and rights of way, but about putting in place a regular check/audit of those routes to ensure they are maintained. Any issues would be communicated to the relevant Parish Council for progress and we see this as a valuable contribution to help Parish Councils and Wiltshire Council in their responsibilities for maintaining rights of way.

Accreditation (slide 9) - Scope will include the walking routes that we promote (the 18 walking leaflets from the PVTP). Bedwyn Footpaths Group has published 9 walks which will also be in scope as well as the proposed route around the Vale from the Itineraries Project. The audits will identify and report issues, but initially will not necessarily perform the maintenance - we anticipate that this will develop over time and that initially, we are looking to install/replace waymarkers as needed (in consultation with the relevant landowner). The Vale of Pewsey is well placed as an area to meet the WAW criteria - we have PCAP banking and insurance available, marketing of WAW and the scheme through PVTP, contacts already in place with Parish Councils, public transport links through PCAP and the Rail User Groups and we already participate in the North Wessex Downs Walking Festival, so we don't need to run an additional event.

How Parish Councils can help (slide 10) - All these actions are really important to both projects and we would urge you to ensure they take place as soon as possible. We will be publicising the Register Your Support on local online noticeboards, but did not want to do this until we had shared the project information with Parish Councils first.

Itineraries Village Guided Tours - if you have a group or individuals in your parish who might be interested in running these (either for pin money for to raise funds for a local cause or organisation), then please put them in touch with Susie ([susie@visitpewseyvale.co.uk](mailto:susie@visitpewseyvale.co.uk)). The guided tours will be booked in advance based on availability so if the person doesn't want to do it, they don't have to take the booking, so it can work around existing commitments.

We would like to contact landowners to let them know what we are doing and will need help from Parish Councils to make that contact, both on the WAW scheme and for the round the Vale route for the Itineraries project.

Dawn confirmed that we will not be maintaining/checking all the rights of way across the Vale, just the routes that we have said are in scope. During the pandemic, parking has been an issue (blocking gates, etc). The WAW project enables us to encourage people to park sensibly and where there is parking available rather than parking in unsuitable places. Itineraries also helps to spread the demand around the Vale rather than putting pressure on just one or two places. It is anticipated that we will have a Parking Advice page on the website to help people park where it is ok to do so and to let people know of places where they mustn't park (specifically and generally).

Curly Haskell asked whether the projects had contacted Wiltshire Council Rights of Way. Dawn confirmed that Richard Broadhead attended the Steering Group and has been assisting both projects with information and advice. Dawn confirmed they are a small team and so it is very much is a collaboration. Curly asked whether there was a need for Parish Councils to contribute routes and Dawn confirmed this is not the case as the scope is already defined.

Peter Deck suggested a presentation at the next Area Board and asked whether a canal trip had been considered within the Itineraries. Susie confirmed you can hire a day boat from Honeystreet Mill and that will definitely be included as an Explore day. Susie asked for anyone to put forward ideas they have on Explore Days.

Peter Deck and Curly Haskell said that Pewsey Parish Council will support the projects. Cllr Haskell suggested Pewsey Heritage Centre as potentially a Guided Tour for Pewsey, together with a visit to the PHC as a combined ticket. Susie confirmed that Kerry Pycroft is going to speak to Paul Cowan about this.

Susie confirmed that the Itineraries Project is working with Cassie Fowle to identify how people would book an itinerary, make the necessary bookings, etc.

Colin Gale asked for a standard resolution to be provided for the Parish Councils to use to demonstrate support for Walkers Are Welcome. Susie confirmed that could be done and that the two information sheets will also be sent out so that the Parish Councils can discuss the projects.

Bedwyn Footpaths Group are installing green signs - each one requiring painting and takes about 2 hours. Bedwyn History Group may be interested in doing guided walks and she will contact them.

Richard Rogers said that there are 2 unclaimed expenditures from the Pewsey Area Grants that are related to these projects and could be reassigned to a similar expenditure (£900 in total). To be ratified at the next Area Board.

Local businesses are generally closed, some businesses that fell through the cracks of the Government grants were able to make use of the Additional Recovery Grant from Wiltshire Council. Very important to help our local businesses get back on their feet once lockdown and the pandemic is over.

Dawn also added that the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership has submitted a grant request for technology for the Crop Circle Exhibition & Information Centre, so that it can provide

information on the whole of the Vale of Pewsey to visitors to encourage them to visit again, or stay in the area.

Dawn confirmed that Bradford on Avon Walkers Are Welcome is a big boost to the town (Bradford on Avon are providing help on the Pewsey & The Vale WAW accreditation).

#### **b. Transport - Colin Gale**

Transport services are having a difficult time, particularly the trains. GWR are trying to maintain a good service. Both Pewsey and Bedwyn Rail User Groups are keeping in contact with GWR on timetables. GWR have just issued the Stakeholder Report. Now linked up with the Devizes Gateway Team for the new station - it is one of a number of projects currently in performing feasibility. The station would open in 2025. The survey they are currently designing will be to capture how people will use the station. Steve at Bedwyn RUG has provided a catchment map so that the Devizes team know who to target.

Susie asked whether there is likely to be any improvement to the east/west bus routes across the Vale. Colin said that the only improvements would be likely to be the regular bus service from the Gateway station to Devizes centre.

Dawn added that the Devizes Gateway focus was originally on commuter traffic, but with the pandemic and the impact on commuting, they have now switched their focus to leisure travel. Colin said that Devizes businesses were having trouble recruiting people as there wasn't a train service but this may not now be the case (after Covid).

#### **c. Planning - Peter Deck**

Wiltshire Council has run a Local Plan Consultation and there are 2 Rural Visual Meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Pewsey Parish Council are attending on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anyone interested in the future of planning in their parish should attend one of the consultations.

Pewsey PC has started their review of the NDP and currently there are at least three developers having a go at the settlement boundary of Pewsey (in total 95 houses within a mile of each other) and so Peter is working with the Malmesbury group to defend the NDP's. They are currently putting letters together to go to local MP's (who have not been helpful) and Wiltshire Council as well as a press release. Peter will circulate this information once it is available. Planners are currently submitting as many planning applications as they can.

#### **d. Crime & Community Safety - Peter Deck**

Anyone at the Area Board on Monday will know that the Police are asking for an extra £15 per month. This is the fourth year in a row however have we received any benefit so far? The Police used to provide a monthly report of local crime for each Parish Council which was useful information for Parish Councils and often showed a pattern which could then inform action. The Police now are going to do one report at the Area Board which means it will be at a Community Area level and only once a quarter.

Colin Gale agreed and said that their Neighbourhood Watch team would use it, but thought that this was probably the sixth precept increase in a row.

Dawn said that the Police have invested a lot into the technical equipment to enable the officers to be out in the community as well as investment into cybercrime, however agreed that a quarterly report is too infrequent to be of any use. Need to find a middle road.

Peter confirmed that he has asked Jerry Kunkler to ask the Police for something more regular.

Richard Rogers confirmed that you can get up to date crime information at an incident level online - <https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/5428/Crime-Map-for-Devizes-Area-CPT>

#### **e. Environment - Carolyn Whistler**

The following note had been provided by Carolyn Whistler and was read out in the meeting:

Minutes from October Meeting (Jeremy Wyatt) - Community Land South - I have subscribed to their newsletter - Wiltshire is not a member yet, although Hampshire is. There is potential for involvement with the AONB.

The latest AONB newsletter is full of good items this month - Traffic in Villages for one (which gives food for thought on for example Electric Charging Points), and Colour Guidance for development and planning (I expect Peter D will have spotted this!) Also liked the Dark Skies article.

Electric Charging Points could possibly be installed in Pewsey, (see Susie's email correspondence with Danny Kruger) but for smaller rural parishes with "spread out" supplies of electricity e.g. at Village halls, Village shops, could present a problem at the moment. Would need co-operation from the parishes. Grants are available for EV plug ins up to 2022/23. Possible longer-term project for PCAP?

On the Good Verges Guide, I suggest we leave this to follow up until the Spring as there seemed little appetite apart from a few parishes. Susie was hoping to convene a meeting last year but for obvious reasons it could not take place. We hoped to involve Wiltshire Council of course but I understand they are busy with other more pressing concerns.

Keep Britain Tidy have a new campaign for March.

Note - on the Parish Issues review - agree that the litter problem including drinks cans and other effluvia extend across the Vale. We rely on our dedicated volunteers across the parishes to help clear up - outdoor pursuit as part of our daily exercise!

Sylvia said that Bedwyn School has applied for funding to change to sustainable energy and will know the outcome in about 2 weeks.

Dawn confirmed that the Pewsey Community Land Trust are looking into the installation of charging points. Patrick Wilson has the information on this, so should be contacted. Dark skies - there are some distinct differences in street lighting in that some are soft coloured and others are harsh light. Would be interesting to see whether Parish Councils have preference for one or the other. Susie said that the NWD AONB Darks Skies, and say that street lighting must be directional down to the ground.

Curly said that there are 2 electric charging points at The Vale, but need to be more accessible so down by the Bouverie Hall or at the Coop.

Sylvia said that Bedwyn is also trying to set up a community woodland, led by the school but available for the whole village. Colin confirmed that Rushall has a Forest school and Sylvia confirmed that Bedwyn and St Katharine's also have one.

#### **f. Culture, Heritage & Leisure - Susie Brew**

Places are closed under lockdown rules. Events that are planned for 2021 are not being advertised due to the uncertainty of lockdown and the pandemic. Wilton Windmill is planning an event in June, for example, to celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### **g. Pewsey Vale Health & Wellbeing Group - Dawn Wilson**

PCCA are running various projects in support of the pandemic, including a Buddy Telephone Call service which is a befriending phone service for those who are isolated or in danger in their own homes (e.g. balance issues, compromised mobility). Dawn is involved in this project and there are about 17 people requesting the service and about 10-12 volunteers.

Bedwyn Footpaths Group are applying for funding to help with the maintenance of their walking routes. PCAP is supporting the group with insurance.

Shalbourne Connect is waiting to be able to run their community group at the village hall and PCAP supports them with banking and insurance.

The Movement 2 Music group which is organised by Sylvie Clayden and Henrietta MacKinnon, has now moved online whilst the Bouverie Hall is closed. Prior to closure, the classes were running online and in the hall. The classes are very popular. There has been a couple of



instances where issues with an attendee have been spotted before they became a problem - just from being seen once a fortnight has prevented a visit to the GP.

The Memory Café is waiting for when we are able to meet again in the Bouverie Hall and when the client group is able to go out again. PCAP still has ring-fenced funding for a canal boat trip which hasn't been able to run yet.

The Patient Participation Group with the Pewsey Surgery has, since the flu jab roll out, been able to forge a more productive and constructive relationship with the Surgery. Dawn expressed thanks to the Pewsey Parish Councillors who have been helping with the Covid vaccination clinics through all weathers. People should not contact their surgery about appointments as the allocation is being done at a higher network level.

Barnes Coaches are running a small people carrier/bus to help get people to their vaccination appointment, so just call if needed.

Colin Gale confirmed that the Vale surgeries are also doing vaccinations through a centre at Larkhill and the Link service is helping to get people to and from their appointments.

Peter Deck explained that the vaccine arrives in 5-dose containers but in fact hold closer to 6 doses. This means that at the end of the day, they have a surplus and so will call round people who may be able to have the vaccine and who are able to get to the surgery at short notice. This is good use of vaccine that would otherwise be destroyed and the surgeries are penalised if they have too much waste, so it is the best thing to do all round. Curly confirmed that there was 1142 people vaccinated at the weekend with zero waste. He commended the surgery for their achievement in vaccinating so many people, including many NHS frontline workers.

Sylvia confirmed that the Bedwyn Link scheme is also helping getting people to the vaccination centres.

Grant funding is still available for any schemes before 8<sup>th</sup> March - just contact Dawn or Richard if you have a project.

#### **h. Children & Young People - Dawn Wilson**

During December, Dawn was in contact with Nicola Gilbert, head of Pewsey Primary School, and the school had children who did not have technology to study at home. Dawn had also heard from Green Machine (who recycle technology) who had a number of desktop PC's which no one was particularly interested in and so they wanted to gift them to someone who needed it. Green Machine delivered 10 desktop PC's, for which the school was very grateful. The PC's are the property of the school, but are installed in the homes of the children who needed them. Pewsey Parish Council, together with Dawn, funded a further 5 tablets. Dawn also contacted Pewsey Vale School, but they had gone down a different route to ensure children had access to technology. Dawn will check with other primary schools. The push to get unused technology recycled, which was launched by the Fire Service with Green Machine is still underway - if you have unused technology items, then just contact Green Machine to arrange drop off/collection.

The mental health triage project that Dawn has been talking to Pewsey Vale School about, and for which external match funding had been gained, has now been submitted for Area Board funding.

The funding for the Family Fun Day for 13 - 18 year olds is ringfenced and the project will involve The Vale leisure centre.

The outdoor wheeled sports area is still on-going. Pewsey Parish Council is engaging their own acoustic engineer to review and reassess previous acoustic surveys that have been done. Dawn confirmed the announcement by Richard at the recent Area Board in that there is funding set aside for the Rural Youth Project which will bring in professional youth workers to deliver activities and continued support for the Blue Bus once it is back up and running.

Richard also confirmed that the Salamander project is also being worked on. This project delivers a 5 day course from the Fire Service for youngsters who are put forward by their

school, youth offending team and other services. Richard is working with Cllr Paul Oatway on this.

He also confirmed that the £1119 earmarked for the ice rink has not been used so can be allocated to the Family Fun Day. Dawn confirmed this would enable a series of activities to be delivered.

Sylvia will check with Bedwyn school as to whether they have sufficient technology and will notify Dawn.

Curly said that The Little Lunchbox in Pewsey is happy to open up for youth on one or two evenings a week. He confirmed that this needs to be done through the Local Youth Network (LYN) and all the correct safeguarding, requirements and processes need to be in place. This will move forward once the lockdown restrictions are eased.

#### **i. Treasurer - Dawn Wilson**

The bank balance currently stands at £9597.20, of which approximately £4800 is unrestricted and that is purely down to the generosity of the Parish Councils this year. Dawn has been surprised by the support that the Parish Councils have been able to provide, given the current circumstances.

The Movement 2 Music classes are doing well but are continuing to use resources - this is being monitored and further funding will be sourced if required.

### **7. Pewsey Area Board & Wiltshire Council updates**

Richard said the live webinar from Wiltshire Council on 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm on Covid updates is well worth joining.

### **8. Parish Issues Report, including Fly Tipping Reports**

Susie Brew presented the report which comprised of 4 issues - 3 from Wilcot and 1 from Buttermere. The issue on streetlighting has already been discussed and the North Wessex Downs Dark Skies paper will feed into this. The issue on littering is Pewsey Community Area-wide, however in Wexcombe, there is lots of littering, including lots of beer/cider cans which means that people must be literally drinking and driving. For areas that village clear ups don't cover, the litter should be reported to Wiltshire Council and they will clear it up eventually. In Wilcot locals have been out walking much more during lockdown so the litter has been noticed. Dawn asked Richard whether bags of litter that have been collected can be picked up by Wiltshire Council.

The Kennet & Avon Canal, the stretch between Wilcot and Pewsey is degraded and muddy, with areas having fallen into the canal. The Canal & Rivers Trust has not acted on this. This is important that it is maintained for walkers and cyclists. Sylvia said that CRT did some repairs towards Crofton after lobbying by Judy - damage was probably caused by stakes in the towpath for boats to tie up to. Susie will send out a request to the Parish Councils.

The Buttermere issue has a byway that has been destroyed by 4x4 vehicles. It was well-used by local walkers. Susie contacted Richard Broadhead at Wiltshire Council with the issue, who advised that downgrading is very difficult, so the most pragmatic thing to do is to make the track unattractive for these vehicles. Road plainings are sometimes available to make the surface harder. If anyone needs advice on this, then they should contact their local Countryside Access Officer. The Pewsey Community Area is in the Central area - Paul Millard 01225 712821 07788 445292 or Vicky Roscoe 01225 718647 07881 831231. Susie will check to see what was done for the Ridgeway (East Kennett) to see if there is any advice. Dawn suggested that there is a form that you can complete for footpath assessments taking place in 2026 and this can be used to downgrade a right of way to preserve it for walkers. It is a legal document and you have to have at least 12 residents in support of it.

Curly Haskell says that on the Wiltshire Council app you can record an issue, but when reviewing them, the location is lost. He has raised this with Jerry Kunkler who has confirmed that there

are issues. This is on the new app. Have other parishes experienced the same problem? Colin doesn't use it as the issues were being closed down without having been completed. Peter complained that there is no feedback once an issue is passed on. Colin gets a better response from the Parish Steward, providing they are a good one!

**9. Items for Next Agenda**

None.

**10. Any Other Business**

Next meeting is Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021, currently to be online using Zoom.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

**Future Meeting Dates**

**If you are able to host a meeting, then please let Susie know – [pcap@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pcap@hotmail.co.uk)**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 - TBC

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 - TBC

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 - TBC

Future dates and venues are also available on the website - [www.pewseycap.org.uk/events](http://www.pewseycap.org.uk/events)

Contact: Susie Brew - PCAP Coordinator [pcap@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pcap@hotmail.co.uk)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Wilson, Chair PCAP