

PEWSEY COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP (PCAP)

Thursday 21st October 2021

7pm at Rushall Village Hall, courtesy of Rushall Parish Council

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Dawn Wilson	WfCAP, PCAP Chair, PV Rail User Group Chair, PV Tourism Partnership Chair Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council
Cllr Peter Deck	PCAP Sub Group Lead - Planning
Cllr Colin Gale	Rushall Parish Council PCAP Sub Group Lead - Transport
Cllr Curly Haskell	Pewsey Parish Council PCAP Sub Group Lead - Crime & Community Safety
Cllr Tony Mulliken	North Newton Parish Council
Cllr Mac Maclean	North Newton Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Holden	Easton Royal Parish Council Chair
Cllr John Brewin	Woodborough Parish Council
Susie Brew	PCAP & PVTP Coordinator PCAP Sub Group Lead - Economy & Culture, Heritage & Leisure
Wendy Maxwell	Shalbourne Community Growers
Polly Cox	Shalbourne Community Growers
Cllr Paul Oatway	Wiltshire Council Pewsey Area Board

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the PCAP Meeting of Thursday 22nd July 2021 were approved (proposed Cllr Colin Gale, seconded Cllr Curly Haskell) and signed off.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Hew Helps	Easton Royal resident
Carolyn Whistler	PCAP Sub Group Lead - Environment
Richard Rogers	Wiltshire Council Community Engagement Manager
Cllr Andrew Flack	Upavon Parish Council
Cllr Dave McGarry	Pewsey Parish Council
Charlie Wildman	Avon Valley School Games Organiser

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

5. Shalbourne Community Growers

Wendy Maxwell and Polly Cox from Shalbourne Community Growers attended the meeting to discuss whether they could utilise insurance and banking from PCAP.

Shalbourne Community Growers have been loaned an area of land in Shalbourne where people from the parish can get together to grow vegetables. These are then shared with those who work

on the plot and are also sold as veg boxes to help cover costs. There are benefits not just in building a community, but also with health (getting outdoors and being active) and well-being (particularly mental health). The Group has gone from strength to strength and has the opportunity of receiving grant funding from the Emergence Foundation. However, finding affordable insurance and banking facilities has been extremely difficult. The Group is registered as CIC.

Dawn Wilson had been in contact with PCAP insurers, Zurich, and the only way for the group to be covered is if it became a group under the umbrella of PCAP. As it is a registered CIC, it was felt that this was not possible. They have approached the NFU who are able to cover but it is very expensive. The group was advised to contact Zurich.

Dawn confirmed that they are able to use the PCAP bank account to receive their grant funds, where it will be ringfenced and the processes will be in place as per the other groups that use this facility. Polly and Wendy confirmed they would like to go ahead with this.

The group would also like to help other parishes who might be interested in setting up a group like this. Everyone felt it would be a good presentation for a future Area Board. Cllr Paul Oatway said that he will get Richard Rogers to contact them to organise this. Peter Deck will let them have details of how to get 50% + reduction on seed costs. Cllr Oatway also shared with them the water system that was installed at Upavon Allotments that he supported might be of interest.

The group has hives but no bees yet, although the farm their area is on has 8 hives so plenty of pollinators. They confirmed that currently they did not require funding from the Area Board.

Contact: Polly Cox - polcox33@gmail.com

6. Community Area Plan

a. Economy

The whole of the Pewsey Community Area now has Walkers are Welcome status - providing the area with further marketing opportunities and recognising the quality and variety of walking and the number of documented walks available to people.

The plan now is to set up or get in contact with as many walking groups as possible in each parish, following the model of Judy Haynes and the Bedwyn Footpaths Group. Pewsey Parish is to be the first to set up but we are awaiting a meeting with Ken Oliver from Wiltshire Council Rights of Way team. Susie is following this up. A group already exists in Easton Royal and Cllr Margaret Holden provided contact information.

By setting up a network of groups, eventually the whole area will be covered with regard to maintenance and improvement. It will also enable knowledge sharing to take place - so for example Judy Haynes and her team are now experienced in the installation of kissing gates.

The Itineraries were launched in September and we had good coverage from the press release as well as an interview on BBC Radio Wiltshire. There has been a lot of social media coverage from VisitWiltshire and the Great West Way. We have also received our first enquiry regarding the Pewsey Vale Circular Way. This long-distance route will be completed in the next few months. Gerard Dinnage from Burbage and Ron Forbes from Ham are currently installing waymarkers and any issues (e.g. additional WC waymarkers are required, access, etc) are being progressed by Susie.

Although we haven't had formal sign off yet (we are awaiting the Savernake Trust's meeting to receive this) it looks like they are happy for the Pewsey Vale Circular Way to go through the forest, but we can't put up waymarkers. This is a resolution to which we are happy to agree.

The issue of licensing for group walks by Forestry England has the support of Walkers are Welcome and the Ramblers. You have to have a licence for any groups walks such as Nordic Walking groups as well as community groups. The licence process takes 13 weeks and the fee you pay is not refunded if you are not awarded a licence. This is being progressed.

Fyfield Down north west of Marlborough is a popular place for walkers but it has recently had its status of National Nature Reserve de-declared (i.e. removed). This was raised by Ashley Sandy of WALX Wessex and it has raised huge concerns regarding motivation to do this. It is technically all above-board but the motivation has not been shared. Susie is currently in discussions with Natural England who approved the de-declaration to find out. The North Wessex Downs AONB was also not aware of this until Susie contacted them. The impact is that areas where you are free to roam will be more restricted. Horse riders will need to keep the bridleways. The site remains an SSSI so is still protected.

Great Western Railways have been in contact. Just before Covid struck, they were going to join the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership, however with the temporary nationalisation, they were unable to do any marketing of this type. A call with GWR is organised for 29th October.

b. Transport - Colin Gale

Buses

£650k has been awarded to Wiltshire Council for the Bus Back Better programme. Bedwyn and PCAP have submitted proposals for the project and they are being looked at by Wiltshire Council.

There has also been £1.2 million allocated specifically for Pewsey Rural bus services based on a demand responsive transport system. DRT has not been successful previously, partly because of the statutory requirement for school use which is in conflict with other passenger use. It is likely that the solution will have more time-tabled services as well as demand responsive. The proposal, which has to incorporate a Bus Service Improvement Plan, has been approved by cabinet at Wiltshire Council and is currently with DfT for review and must contain links between the bus service and trains. The funding covers the cost of a project officer. The proposed Devizes - Marlborough route should not be part of this funding. This has been noted.

Trains

A proposal was made to set up a Community Rail Partnership under the TransWilts banner called the Kennet & Avon Line. No further news has materialised since that presentation some weeks ago.

The Devizes Gateway team has submitted its plans to the DfT. Pewsey Vale Rail User Group and the Bedwyn Passenger Group have supported this, providing it does not impact adversely on current (pre covid) services.

GWR Stakeholders meeting took place this week. Bedwyn services are not fully back up and running. The Berks/Hants line is under speed restrictions. The Bus Back Better programme will incorporate integrated ticketing for buses and trains. Colin will check the engagement between GWR and Wiltshire Council on the Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Roads

Upavon sent in a request regarding speeding in the village. They have SID data that shows that there are many vehicles well in excess of the speed limit (e.g. 70, 80 mph). After discussion, the recommendation was that they should contact Wiltshire Council to get the metro strips installed so that Wiltshire Council then has data on which it can act. Cllr Oatway said that the Speed Enforcement Officer is now in place and he is planning to bring him to the parishes so that relationships can be built.

PEAS (Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme) - a reminder to check your parish's salt levels, emergency kits and plans ahead of winter.
<https://ocm.wiltshire.gov.uk/pewsey/is-your-community-ready-for-an-adverse-weather-event/>

c. Planning - Peter Deck

Peter asked whether there had been any progress on the issues submitted with the new Wiltshire Council Planning Portal. The issues had been submitted. Susie will chase this up.

The Planning White paper has been suspended by government currently.

Peter can help parishes with how to review and whether it is worth reviewing local Neighbourhood Plans.

d. Crime & Community Safety - Curly Haskell

After an incident at Pewsey Football Club, all (bar 1) of the perpetrators were caught. This incident demonstrates that it is important that people report them to the police.

The Neighbourhood Watch Crime & Community Survey is now open - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CL72YGJ> and should be completed by all parish councils and individuals.

e. Environment - Carolyn Whistler

Carolyn Whistler provided the following report:

Following on from the last meeting, Susie sent an email to WC about verge cutting. Their reply.... If you have any areas in your parish where the verges require additional cutting because of safety reasons, please could you provide Wiltshire Council with a map, highlighting the stretches of verge where you require an additional cut?

This information should be sent to Louisa Young at Wiltshire Council - louisa.young@wiltshire.gov.uk - with the Subject line 'Pewsey Community Area Verge Information' so that it can be more easily collated by 30th September.

Not sure how many parishes replied with a map, and what happens now. No great visible sign of verge cutting in North Newton parish although the farmers have been cutting in some areas.

Across the country community energy groups are finding ways to engage with the EV revolution and creating spaces for EV charging - where the bigger companies won't go. Some councils are setting up charge points in schools and village halls for owners with no space for their own charge point and some on projects working with local councils to install destination charging points.

Climate change big topic everywhere in the country and WC consultation started in September - awaiting outcomes.

CPRE are promoting the importance of hedgerows and their ancient heritage for conserving wildlife and beauty in the countryside - there are many in the Pewsey Vale.

Rights of way and their upkeep is another "thorny" topic and ongoing - we have to keep up the pressure on WC if we wish to invite and welcome walkers (this links in to the Verges issue above).

f. Culture, Heritage & Leisure - Susie Brew

Dawn Wilson congratulated those involved in the Pewsey Is Open day which was a great success. The new cinema in Marlborough has also been a success and is greatly welcomed.

g. Pewsey Vale Health & Wellbeing Group - Dawn Wilson

Dawn Wilson confirmed that a pot of funding will be available for rights of way improvements and accessibility, such as the installation of kissing gates, equipment for footpath groups, etc.

Cllr Curly Haskell is working with The Messenger team to help get the circulation of the printed copies back up and running. PCAP will write to the Parochial Church Council to support this and underline the importance of this monthly publication.

Cllr Colin Gale thanked Pewsey Parish Council for help with the flu jabs at Bouverie Hall. Cllr Curly Haskell confirmed that the organisation was down to Cllr Ann Hogg.

h. Children & Young People - Dawn Wilson

The Local Youth Network has recently met.

Charlie Wildman - the new Avon Valley Children's Games Organiser has contacted PCAP and was able to join the last LYN meeting. She is hoping to work with the Head of PE at Pewsey Vale School and many of the Primary Schools. The next LYN meeting will be in Jan/Feb to see what projects have developed.

Dawn hopes to attend review of the mental health triage at Pewsey Vale School and discuss a plan for the future.

The Blue Youth Bus is now visiting Burbage and Upavon again and building up numbers. This bus provides activities with youth workers in support. Cllr Andrew Flack from Upavon sent his appreciation of this facility. Cllr Oatway has also arranged for the Blue Bus to visit Upavon Camp to support the 250 families up there.

Annie Whitcher has resumed the planned activities for the Grafton Youth Group.

i. Treasurer - Dawn Wilson

The 2020-21 accounts have been signed off by Charlton Baker and Dawn can send a copy on request. The balance is approximately £9k with about 50% being restricted funds.

Dawn Wilson expressed her sincere thanks to all the Parish Councils who have donated towards the running costs of PCAP. Dawn will bring a set of accounts to the next PCAP meeting (Jan 2022).

7. Pewsey Area Board & Wiltshire Council updates

Cllr Paul Oatway is looking to extend the Blue Bus for youth to the Trenchard Lines- see previous.

There is a Community Governance Review planned by Wiltshire Council. Specifically for the Pewsey Community Area, it will look at Beechingstoke which doesn't have a Parish Council and may look to move this into another adjacent Parish.

Cllr Oatway also highlighted that there have been a growing number of complaints to the Standards Committee regarding parish councils. Training for clerks and parish councillors will be available. Cllr Colin Gale said that courses with WALC already exist.

Cllr Oatway had recently forwarded an email regarding Aires which are areas specifically for motorhomes parking where they are on a 45 degree angle and have charging points. Susie is following up on this.

The C52 Manningford to Prospect road is in very poor condition and continues to have safety issues. Cllr Oatway will be performing a strategic review of the C52 with the parishes involved at County Hall.

8. Parish Issues Report, including Fly Tipping Reports

A question had been submitted by Wootton Rivers regarding the liquid mess that is left by the green bin lorry. Attendees agreed this is a problem, but there is probably little that can be done about it. Susie will contact WC to see whether anything can be done.

9. Items for Next Agenda

None.

10. Any Other Business

Susie Brew informed the meeting that a gentleman called Matt Jones from Only Footprints Events had contacted the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership. They have come across the route of the Great West Way and would like to use the route for an Ultra Marathon Event. He spoke to Ken Oliver at Wiltshire Council as the route uses public rights of way and Ken suggested that he also check with us.

It is highly unlikely that there will be spectators other than at the start and at the end which is at Salisbury Cathedral. They will do a litter pick before the race when they put the sign up and again after the race. It is likely to take place in July/August 2022. The

route is currently in draft and they will do their best to accommodate any requested changes.

Susie has sent an email with the details and a map to all the affected Parish Councils with a request to get back to her by the end of October with any issues. North Newton meets on 1st November, so will get back after that meeting.

Next PCAP meeting is Thursday 20th January 2022 at 7pm, location to be confirmed. The meeting ended at 9pm.

Future Meeting Dates

If you are able to host a meeting, then please let Susie know – pcap@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday 20th January 2022

Thursday 21st April 2022

Thursday 21st July 2022

Thursday 20th October 2022

Future dates and venues are also available on the website - www.pewseycap.org.uk/events

Contact: Susie Brew - PCAP Coordinator pcap@hotmail.co.uk

Signed _____ Date _____
Dawn Wilson, Chair PCAP