

C GALE REPORT TO PCAP MEETING – 21st APRIL 2022

TRAINS:

GWR advised that they had nominated Pewsey Station for accessibility improvements under a DfT scheme and GWR had requested letters of support from local organisations. PCAP, PVRUG, PVTP, Pewsey PC and Rushall PC together with letters from the public all responded. The responses identified that the station was almost unusable for a large proportion of the population and the issues were not simply limited to potential disabled users.

GWR have identified significant changes to the timetable for Bedwyn from May as a result of the DfT removal of the IET's from the Bedwyn line. Bedwyn will lose its direct service into Paddington for off-peak travel and the proposed connections have been identified as poor. BPTG have had direct talks with GWR to try and identify alternatives and improvements to limit the impact. Some concessions have been achieved. BPTG are digging in for a long campaign to try and re-establish their direct service. The Bedwyn change is likely to have an impact on the Devizes Parkway bid.

BUSES:

Wiltshire Council have been advised that they have been unsuccessful with their Bus System Improvement Plan (BSIP) bid. It might appear to some that the successful BSIP candidates were selected on a political basis to demonstrate funding in some area's. This has a limited impact on Pewsey as the £1.2M secured for the Pewsey service was under the DfT Rural Mobility Scheme. WC had identified their intent to recruit a dedicated person to manage the Pewsey service improvements. WC advertised the post and although they received 6 applicants there was only one real obvious candidate with the necessary experience. Both Dawn and I were invited to participate in the interview of the candidate which we took up but agreed that only one of us would join. The candidate was clearly suitable and was offered the post and has now joined WC. Dawn and I have been in contact with Paul Sanders, the new man and we are having a conference meeting with him next week. We hope to see what progress Paul has made and how he is going to plan future progress. This is a 3-5 year improvement plan to develop and promote the service. One major issue is that WC does not have a marketing department to promote and make people aware of changes.