

Pewsey Area Board - 10 January 2011

Proposal by Great Bedwyn Youth Group and Great Bedwyn Parish Council to fund transport for youth from Great Bedwyn and other St John's catchment villages in Pewsey Area to/from 'youth events' in Marlborough

Members of Great Bedwyn Youth Group have notified Great Bedwyn Parish Council that there are activities which have been provided this year by St John's School Marlborough, Marlborough Youth Service and Marlborough Town Council to which they are invited/included but they are currently unable to access because transport is not provided.

This is in contrast to young people in other villages which are also in the St John's catchment area (eg Ramsbury, Aldbourne, Baydon) where a minibus service to events is provided by the Marlborough Area Board Youth Transport projects fund. Young people in Great Bedwyn and similar villages are therefore being disadvantaged by not being able to attend events advertised to them; this is of course contrary to Wiltshire's policy of equality of opportunity.

The events provided so far are varied and are spread throughout the year – an example being youth events at Azuza nightclub. We do not know how many similar events will be provided during the rest of the academic year. We do know that there are currently over 100 young people living in Great Bedwyn who attend St John's school and to whom these events will be advertised.

As there is currently no provision for transport for young people living in the St John's catchment area and in the Pewsey Area Board, our initial proposal is that funding from the Pewsey Area Board Youth Transport projects be put aside for a 7-seater taxi service to forthcoming youth events in Marlborough as they arise and as is requested by young people. This seems the simplest and most economical way of managing transportation of young people to such events.

Another possibility which we could explore is linking up with the existing minibus service, by requesting an extension of its route to Great Bedwyn and Shalbourne to collect/drop off St John's pupils to youth events when they occur. However, we need to know we can fund this before exploring it further.

We estimate that a fund of £500 would be sufficient for taxi costs this year. We envisage this fund will be managed by Great Bedwyn Parish Council and Great Bedwyn Youth Group working in partnership. Young People will notify the Youth Group of advertised youth events in Marlborough and the Youth Group will apply to the PC for transport funding as needed. Were funding to be provided, we would work with neighbouring Parish Councils such as Shalbourne and Burbage to advertise the taxi service to St John's pupils in their village when events arise.

We hope the Pewsey Area Board will look favourably on this case as it seems only right that St John's pupils living in the Pewsey Area are given the same chances of access as their fellow pupils in other villages.

Karina Nicholson – Great Bedwyn Parish Councillor
23 December 2010