

**Parish Council/ Pewsey and District Carnival Partnership**  
**Pre reading for the meeting on 11/3/13**

From: Bernie Bradshaw Chairman Pewsey and District Feast and Carnival (PADFAC)

When I took over the Chair of PADFAC in 2012 I conducted a number of interviews to understand what the aim of Carnival was. Although raising money for good causes came high on the list many people believe that the annual Carnival is about much more than charitable donations. I summarised these under four headings, although you personally may believe there are more:

Neighbourliness

This is about being friendly, helpful and generous. There are many examples of this over the Carnival fortnight

Inclusiveness

This is not just about encouraging people to be in Carnival but also about volunteering to put it on. Some strong and happy relationships have been made a diverse range of individuals by getting involved in the various events

Fun

Fun means different things to different people. Carnival is about as many people as possible enjoying themselves whilst having respect for others and their property. There's nothing wrong with having events that involve alcohol but over the next few years I'd like to see more family events that don't rely on a drinking scene. See a proposal below for teenagers 13- 17 years.

Charity

Donating money is important in supporting others in our community. Pewsey and District Carnival have collected money for good causes from the very start in 1898. It was in fact the initial reason for the procession!

We brought these four areas together under one main aim: To Build and maintain a strong community.



It's my belief that this is the same objective as Parish Councils in the District, and as such I recently met with Pewsey Parish Council to discuss how we might form closer links and how the Council might use the Carnival as a vehicle for achieving our common goal.

The second insight from my interviews was that we are the Pewsey **AND DISTRICT** Feast and Carnival (District meaning the whole of the Pewsey Community Area). Although a number of residents of villages outside Pewsey volunteer to help in Carnival, with some playing a major role, there is no structured liaison

which allows communities to work together. With this in mind I'm keen to create opportunities that allow the villages in the District to participate more fully if they wish to.

The Carnival Committee is looking for a long term relationship and as such we propose working together on three ideas for 2013. This will give us an opportunity to see what we can achieve; what's the best way of communicating; and ironing out the inevitable issues that a new relationship will bring.

### Proposal for your consideration

1. Defining areas in the villages that people recognise as Carnival.

In Pewsey we are considering the use of the car park outside the Bouverie Hall as a central area for parts of the Carnival. In concept this could be our "Village Green". We could investigate lighting the area with a similar arrangement to the lights around King Alfred's statue. The circular arrangement of lights would give the feel of a virtual tent. Not necessarily this year but in the future we might look to lay artificial grass on part of the area with benches etc. The aim is to make the area feel welcoming, pleasant and safe. This would be a family friendly area with no alcohol.

The prime time for use of this area would be Carnival day and evening; the children's party; a potential teenager event for 13-17 year olds; Opening and closing ceremonies. Wheelbarrow race and Cossors auction would need to use it as they have in past years.

In the other villages in the District I'd like to consider with Parish Councils how they might want to establish locations and events as a part of the Carnival Fortnight

2. Urchfont Scarecrow Festival is hugely successful in maximising returns from their community event. Their big seller is tea and cakes, but a beer tent and savoury food stalls add money to their cause. We attract large numbers of people from outside the area on Wheel barrow race night and Carnival night. The intention is to have two initiatives:
  - a. **Tea and Cakes.** Together we need to rally local support to make cakes, lots of cakes! These would be sold at: opening and closing ceremonies; the duck race; Carnival day.
  - b. **Savoury foods** (Pig roast; burgers; Indian cuisine; pies...) could be run by local businesses in the food trade. The big ticket events are Carnival evening and night; Wheelbarrow race night; four-legged race night; Car boot sale; Cossors Auction. The Carnival would look to make some money from these sellers but primarily it would be seen as a community initiative to help businesses raise revenue as strong healthy businesses are essential in our community
3. In a review in October 2012 it was noted (again!) that there were no events for 13-17 year olds. With Karen Brown (Shak youth leader) and the Area Youth Council we intend to build a special event. The working title is "Have a go at Carnival". A paper outlining the idea is attached.

### So what would we do?

At the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> March I want to get feedback from Councillors about this proposal. The key decision for me is whether we build a closer working relationship between the Carnival Committee and the District's Parish Councils.

If some people are interested in exploring further we would arrange a meeting. This doesn't have to be an all or nothing scenario, we might decide to scale down the proposal or try something different. We have a number of years to build a different relationship, the important element is that we explore and exploit the opportunities we have to strengthen our communities.

## **Have a go at Carnival time!**

*Events for young people 13-17 years*

### What's the problem?

During the review of last year's Carnival it was noted that we don't provide an event aimed at teenagers between 13 and 17 years of age.

### So what can we do about it?

What we would like to do in 2013 is to provide these teenagers with opportunities to "have a go" at something they've never tried before. This could be taking part in a football training session; being coached at tennis; water polo; clay pigeon shooting; a class on how lighting and sound works in a theatre; an art class; how to bake a cake; how to make a curry; how to knit; how to fish... the list is endless.

### How will it work?

The idea is that people in the community 'offer' to run a session(s) for a specified number of teenagers eg 4 people for clay pigeon shooting; 10 people for a class on baking a cake... at a specified time over the Carnival period eg Tuesday evening 6.00 to 7.30 at X. An alternative is to run all events over the middle weekend... to be decided.

We would publish all the 'offers' and the teenagers would enrol in the session(s) they wanted to experience. We would ask teenagers to sign up for an 'offer' that they've not experienced before or perhaps one at which they are not very able, but would like to learn more.

We are the Pewsey and ***District*** Carnival and we would like 'offers' to come from across the district, from Bedwyn in the east to Marden in the west, Oare in the north to Upavon in the south.

### Who's interested?

It is hoped that the project will be run through a partnership between a number of parties:

- Karen Brown of the Shak. Karen will be the leader for this project given her experience and expertise she is the ideal candidate
- The Pewsey Area Youth Council
- Churches
- Scouts
- Carnival Committee

The centre of the project design and control will be the Shak

Although Pewsey Vale School cannot directly "partner" this initiative they are keen to offer resources and communication to parents as a way of getting volunteers.

### What do we need next?

The details need to be thought through but in essence the idea is that simple.

We need to agree an initial meeting with all interested parties; brainstorm the tasks; allocate who's doing what; and start contacting organisations!