

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	Pewsey Retained Fire Station, Recruitment
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Summary of announcement:

Information taken from a letter sent in early November from the Pewsey Area Crime and Community Safety Committee Chairman to the Station Manager Jason Underwood. This is included to bring the Area Board's attention to the problem.

At the recent meeting of Pewsey Community Area Crime and Safety Committee the problems of Pewsey Fire Brigade staff shortages and recruiting were discussed. As Chairman I am writing to express the deep felt concerns that this raises.

Recent staff shortages have been made up by drafting into Pewsey operational personnel from other forces and, although it is understood that this is the way forward when the 'Hub' system comes into being it must surely be better to fully man the Pewsey force with their own retained men.

It is understood that potential recruits are required to have both GCSE Maths and English at C grade and to then pass the Fire and Rescue entrance test. Experience has shown that the academic requirement severely reduces the numbers of applicants.

The meeting discussed ways to encourage recruiting and it was thought that by dropping the academic requirement to GCSE D grade followed by a rigorous Fire and Rescue physical test many more potential firemen could be attracted. At the recent Carnival 'Have a Go' the display and involvement by the Brigade was very popular with youngsters many of whom might well have been interested in joining had they had the right qualifications.

Pewsey Retained Fire Brigade has a long and distinguished history which continues to provide a first rate immediate service to the Vale. Both this committee and the Parish Council are most concerned at the present recruiting problems and suggest that the above solution might be trialled at this station to see if helps to alleviate the poor recruiting situation.

PE Deck

Chairman
Pewsey Area Community Crime and Safety Committee

cc: Cllr J Kunkler
Wiltshire Police - Insp Armstrong
Area Board – Community Area Manager
Pewsey Parish Council- Chairman
Pewsey Community Area Partnership – Chairman