

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

23 October 2012

**Public Participation
Item No. 11 – Second Tranche Campus Proposals**

PEWSEY

Statement from Mr Bob Woodward, Chairman of the Pewsey COB

‘Bringing Modern Services Back to the Pewsey Community Area’

- Mass postal canvassing plus wide face to face consultations.
- Three key themes emerged; Leisure, Youth and Community Services
- Also accepted split site, based (largely) on the present old Leisure and Youth Centre building, and the new Library which has some facilities at the rear which can be used to advantage.
- A little history of the leisure centre; first opened in the late 60s as an open air swimming pool raised by local subscription backed up by a local benefactor (match funded), remained under local control until early 70s when taken over by WC and the pool was covered. Further extensions then added in the late 70s, including sports hall. A fitness suite was then funded by KDC in the early 80s.
- Sadly under-invested over the intervening years and still largely stuck in the 70/80s.
- Population over that period, and up to 2026 is forecast to rise from 2500 when the pool first built, to about 4700 (ie nearly doubled) in Pewsey alone, proportionate increases across the whole community area up to approximately 15000 by 2026). Thus need dramatically increased.
- So, modern Leisure and Youth facilities head our needs, together with other community services including access to WC services by appointment, plus (from a long list) Register services for births and deaths.
- Central to our whole plan is the desire to physically link and integrate with Pewsey Vale School to our mutual advantage; to increase the school's access to sports and youth facilities, and to enable greater access to the school by the wider community – adult learning for example, access the school kitchens for senior's lunch clubs, or even a community meals on wheels service etc.

- Also full partnership working with Pewsey Primary School, the Children's Centre, Leisure, Youth and Library services, and with the police.
- Pleased to have the option of an enhanced option. Whilst the core option will (just) meet most of our requirements, the enhanced option offers significantly more scope for:
 - Maximising the potential for extensive reconfiguration of the internal facilities into more flexible spaces for a wider range of activities on offer.
 - Greater potential for long-term sustainability through better insulation throughout (including complete re-roofing and wall cladding etc) and modern heating and power systems.
 - Developing the concept of a mobile facility for taking adult and community services direct to outlying villages (Pewsey Community Area over 30 miles E-W, with 30 villages and settlements).