

MINUTES

Meeting: PEWSEY AREA BOARD
Place: The Bouverie Hall, Pewsey
Date: 28 January 2010
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 9.10 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

James Hazlewood (Senior Democratic Services Officer) 01722 434250, Tel: 01722 434250 or (e-mail) james.hazlewood@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Jerry Kunkler (Chair), Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Vice-Chair) and Brigadier Robert Hall

Cllr John Thomson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Services) and Cllr Richard Gamble (Portfolio Holder for Public Transport)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Caroline Brailey, Pewsey Community Area Manager
Ian Gibbons, Service Director for Legal and Democratic Services
Allan Creedy, Transport and Development Manager
Lucy Simms, Communications Officer
James Hazlewood, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Parish Councillors

Burbage Parish Council – Susan Gray, John Powell
Charlton and Wilsford Parish Council – Neil Golding
Enford Parish Council – Stan Bagwell
Grafton Parish Council – Susie Brew
Great Bedwyn Parish Council – Sally Rhodes, Steve Hobson
Ham Parish Council – Susie Eldridge
Manningford Parish Council – David Proto, Bernard Gaskin, R Netherclift
Marden Parish Council – Mark Noble

Milton Lilbourne Parish Council – Paul Oatway
Pewsey Parish Council – Joan Cooke, Alex Gardner, Terry Eyles, Pat Keers
Rushall Parish Council – Colin Gale
Shalbourne Parish Council – Lesley Green, Robert Green
Stanley St Bernard Parish Council – Joyce Hale, Richard Tilbury, M Frankton
Upavon Parish Council – Robert Bruce
Wilcot and Huish Parish Council – Jack Torrens
Wootton Rivers Parish Council – Michael Farr

(Savernake Parish Council – Joan Davies)

Partners

Wiltshire Police - Inspector Andy Peach
Wiltshire Police Authority – Gill Mortimer
MOD – Lieutenant Colonel Mick Cotton, Bill Dowling
Pewsey Community Area Partnership – Peter Deck, Hew Helps
PACT Centre – Mike Winterbourne
Campaign to Protect Rural England - Kennet – C Spickernell

Members of Public in Attendance: 18

Total in attendance: 63

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
1.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome, Introduction and Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Area Board Members, the officers, and the visiting Cabinet Representative, Councillor John Thomson.</p> <p>It was noted that a Health and Wellbeing Fair was being held on 22 March, with a drop-in event from 4pm-6pm with various health checks and information stands, followed by a workshop on the health statistics for the Pewsey Community Area from 6.30pm-8.00pm.</p> <p>Parish Councils were encouraged to respond to the Speed Limit Review by the deadline of 5 February 2010.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that, due to the cancellation of the meeting previously scheduled for 11 January 2010, the Board would have missed the deadline for responding to the Budget Consultation. However, the deadline had been extended to allow the Board to contribute to the consultation and the voting cards had been included within the agenda packs. The DVD introducing and explaining the process had been shown before the meeting, and the Chairman allowed five minutes for people to read and complete the cards. These would be collected and processed and the results reported at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>Responding to a question regarding the element of Council tax for the Police, Councillor Wheeler explained that this was set by the Police Authority, and that the Council merely acted as a collecting agent for that precept.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Fletcher (Alton Parish Council) • Margaret West (Voluntary Action Kennet) • Mike Way (North Newnton Parish Council) • Jo Howes (NHS Wiltshire) • Mike Franklin (Wiltshire Fire and Rescue) • Carol Grant (Pewsey Vale School) • Jim Fletcher (Woodborough Parish Council) • Caroline Dalrymple (Pewsey Parish Council) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicola Gilbert (Pewsey Primary School) • Martin Hamer (Burbage Parish Council) • Patrick Wilson (Pewsey and District Chamber of Commerce) 	
3.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Decision</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Cabinet representative - Councillor John Thomson</u></p> <p>The Chairman introduced Councillor John Thomson, Cabinet Representative for Adult Care, Communities and Libraries, and the Deputy Leader of the Council.</p> <p>Councillor Thomson gave an update regarding the refurbishment of Pewsey Library. The relocation of the library to temporary accommodation in advance of the building works had been postponed at short notice to allow additional features to be added to the design. Although this last minute delay had been unfortunate, it was considered that the new design features, which would include changing facilities for adults with disabilities, and additional meeting rooms, would be of significant benefit to the community in the long term. Councillor Thomson offered to provide updates to future meetings of the Board on the progress of the building works, if so requested.</p> <p>The extra features would cost an additional £150K on top of the original budget of £1 million. The new design was still subject to planning approval, however it was anticipated that the original completion date of Christmas 2010 could still be met.</p> <p>The completed library would have an addition 90m² of space, which would make it approximately a third bigger than its current size. The hours would also be extended, and the Area Board would be consulted on this in due course. There would also be an increase of around 30% in the number of books, and suggestions from users and the community would be welcomed at the stage of stocking the library.</p>	

	<p>In relation to the Adult Social Care element of his cabinet responsibility, Councillor Thomson commented that the nature of Wiltshire, with an ageing population spread over a wide area, offered particular challenges. It was estimated that by 2025 there would be over 8,000 people of 85 and 45,000 over 65.</p> <p>An on-going review of this service was aiming to cut costs where possible without impacting on frontline services. This could involve increased use of the voluntary and private sectors. In addition, planned changes to the budget system would see service users given more control over their “personal” budget. Although the Council welcomed this change, it would require changes to the way in which services were delivered.</p> <p>Responding to a comment that Adult Social Care staff were often low-paid, Councillor Thomson explained that some pay had been increased recently to maintain the high quality service level. However, this challenge would increase with forecast budgeting cuts of 20% and a continuing growth in demand for services.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Councillor Thomson for the presentation and for attending the meeting.</p>	
6.	<p><u>A338 / A346 Working Group Report</u></p> <p>The Chairman invited Councillor Charles Howard to present the report which had been produced by a working group supported by the Tidworth Community Area Partnership, and comprising representatives from the Tidworth, Pewsey, Marlborough and Bourne Valley areas. The full version of the report was available on the Collingbourne Ducis Parish Council website.</p> <p>The report considered several factors relating to the A338 / A346 corridor from Salisbury to Swindon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of traffic – around 7,000 vehicles used the corridor daily, rising to 16,000 between Marlborough and the M4. • Priority locations – such as bridges and towns, where the road was particularly narrow. • Future increase in traffic – new Distribution Centres planned for Solstice Park and Andover Airfield were likely to increase Large Goods Vehicle (LGV) usage of the corridor. • Accidents – The corridor had a higher than average accident rate, with 205 accidents in five years, resulting in 343 casualties (including 8 fatalities and 75 serious injuries). 	

The report had concluded that the corridor was unsuitable for the volume of traffic it currently sustained, in particular the volume of LGV traffic. This was impacting on the local area in terms of noise pollution, vibrations and air quality.

The Working Group had identified two options to reduce the impact of the volume of LGV traffic:

- Bypasses – Previous attempts to secure bypasses along the corridor had been unsuccessful, and costs were likely to make this option unviable. In addition, bypasses would encourage increased use of the corridor in the long term, which would only exacerbate the existing environmental and social impact.
- “De-priming” – The A338/A346 corridor currently formed part of the National Primary Route Network. As such, it was not possible to impose weight/width/length or night-time restrictions on the roads. If the route were to be removed from the Primary Route Network, then such restrictions would be possible.

Councillor Howard advised that the Working Group’s preferred option was to apply to the Department for Transport for the A338/A346 corridor to be de-primed, and that the Area Board’s support for this approach was now sought. It was emphasised that further studies/consultation would be required prior to any restrictions being imposed.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Howard for his presentation and welcomed to the meeting Allan Creedy, Transport and Development Manager, and Councillor Richard Gamble, who was present in his capacity as Portfolio Holder for Public Transport. At the Chairman’s invitation, comments and questions were raised as follows:

- De-priming was a relatively rare approach, and involved a fairly bureaucratic and resource-intensive process. The (DFT will consider, need reason and alternative route etc).
- Concern was expressed regarding the potential impact that de-priming or alternative measures would have on the A345 and other routes.
- It was suggested that liaison with SatNav developers could be a mechanism to reduce through traffic. Councillor Howard, commented that this had been considered by the working group, and that mapping overlays would take a long time to be updated.

	<p>Following discussion, Councillor Stuart Wheeler moved a motion which was seconded by Councillor Jerry Kunkler.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> It was agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The report be noted and the Working Group be thanked for their hard work in undertaking the review. 2. Pewsey Area Board acknowledges the problem of the high level of LGV traffic on the A338/A346 corridor and supports the principle of addressing the issue. 3. Pewsey Area Board recommends to Cabinet that a full review of LGV traffic on the corridor be undertaken, to develop a range of solutions to protect the community from the impact of LGVs, which might include de-priming. 4. Any such review should also consider the potential adverse impact of the solutions identified, particularly the risk of increased traffic on the A345. <p>The Chairman called for a show of hands on the above motion, and the majority of those in attendance at the meeting supported the Board's decision.</p>	<p>James Hazlewood</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Wiltshire Police</u></p> <p>Inspector Andy Peach commented that a detailed written update was included within the agenda pack. The Pewsey Community Area had not experienced any significant problems over the Christmas / New Year Period with only three isolated incidents of violence or antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>(b) <u>Wiltshire Fire and Rescue</u></p> <p>In the absence of a written update, or a representative in attendance, Councillor Robert Hall gave an update, in his role as Chairman of Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority. The Authority was in the process of setting the budget for 2010/11 and was hoping to keep its element of the Council Tax precept to a minimal increase.</p> <p>Responding to a question regarding a proposed Central Communications Centre in Exeter, Councillor Hall commented that the current Regional Control Centre for the Fire Service was in Taunton, one of nine across the country. In addition there was a tri-service communications centre in Devizes.</p>	

Thanks was expressed to the two members of Wiltshire Fire Service who had travelled to Haiti to help with the response to the recent earthquake.

(c) NHS Wiltshire

The written update from NHS Wiltshire was noted.

(d) Pewsey Community Area Partnership

Peter Deck, Chairman of the Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) gave an update on the work of PCAP and the thematic groups.

The Chamber of Commerce were planning an event on 4 March regarding tourism, in advance of the 2012 Olympics and the opportunity this would bring for developing tourism in Wiltshire.

PCAP had responded to Wiltshire Council's draft Core Strategy (part of the Local Development Framework), and noted that levels of development in Pewsey remained within guidelines.

Peter referred to Wiltshire Council's recent consultation on the Review of Speed Limits. Concern had been raised that the consultation with the Police had only been undertaken through the traffic officers only, and not through the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. In addition, Stan Bagwell, Chairman of the PCAP Transport Sub-group, read out a statement raising concerns that Parish Councils had only been consulted on the results after the completion of the review. In addition, the Sub-group was disappointed that previous correspondence from Parish Councils regarding speeding issues did not appear to have been considered as part of the review.

Councillor Thomson explained that the process for the review had been set out by the government. He encouraged Parish Councils to bring their concerns over speeding to the Area Boards.

(e) Parish Councils

Rushall Parish Council requested the support of the Area Board to a proposed way forward following a study into pedestrian safety. It was noted that Councillor Brigadier

Robert Hall had responded as the local member.

Decision

The Pewsey Area Board endorsed the response submitted by Councillor Hall, supporting the conclusions and recommendations of Rushall Parish Council's "Study into Safe Pedestrian Access in Rushall".

(f) MOD

Bill Dowling of 43 Wessex Brigade and Lieutenant Colonel Mick Cotton, Upavon Garrison Commander, were in attendance to update on proposed developments to the garrisons around Salisbury Plain.

Bill Dowling commented that the number of military personnel based around the plain would increase from 10,000 to 12,500, with a similar 25% increase in dependents. The MOD was putting plans in place to ensure a level of community integration.

Despite earlier plans to move the Upavon garrison to Andover, it was confirmed that the Upavon garrison would now remain. In addition there were plans for an HGV route on the plain, to take some MOD traffic off local roads.

Lieutenant Colonel Cotton reported that troop and civilian movements at the Upavon Garrison were likely to increase as a result of the plans to remain at the site. In addition, activity on the airfield would increase, with plans to refurbish three hangers. The 161 existing married quarters would be refurbished and it was likely that the mothballed school would be brought back into operation as the troops coming in would have young families.

As Upavon was a relatively isolated site, Lieutenant Colonel Cotton hoped to engage more with the Area Board in the future.

Councillor Thomson requested that new troops be encouraged to register their names on the Electoral Register. In addition to the Council welcoming the democratic involvement, this would maximise the level of funding which Wiltshire Council receives from the government.

8.	<p><u>Speed Prioritisation Matrix</u></p> <p>The Area Board noted the site listed in the matrix set out at page 29 of the agenda. Caroline Brailey, Pewsey Community Area Manager, reported that the speed testing strips were now down at most of the 12 sites noted at the previous meeting.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Community Issues</u></p> <p>Councillor Stuart Wheeler updated the meeting on the Community Issues which had been received by the Area Board. It was noted that items which had been referred to officers would be listed as “closed” on the issues system, although they could be re-opened if further consideration was requested following the response from the officers.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Community Area Grants Scheme</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to 11 applications for Community Area Grants. The Chairman invited the local councillor to introduce each application following which a representative of the applicant was given an opportunity to give a brief overview of their project to the Board.</p> <p>Caroline Brailey reported that applications 1 and 4 (as listed in the report on page 37 of the agenda) had now secured the remaining funding, and so the recommended conditions as noted in the report could now be removed.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Great Bedwyn Youth Group was awarded £2,000 towards set-up costs for the group. <i>Reason The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2009/10 and would enable the establishment of a youth group in this area.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Grafton Parish Council was awarded £170 towards a volunteer run community news publication. <i>Reason The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2009/10 and would support this initiative to communicate news and community activities.</i></p>	<p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p>

	<p><u>Decision</u> Coronation Hall, East Grafton, was awarded £870 to provide technology for those in the parish who do not have access or who need training. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2009/10 and would support this community initiative.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Pewsey Parish Council was awarded £2,500 towards moving existing play equipment from a small area to a new larger site including the installation of a safety fence around the new play zone. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2009/10 and would support Phase 1 of the Parish Council's "Operation Lift Off".</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Chirton Parish Council was awarded £240 towards installation of seven kissing gates on footpaths in Chirton and Marden. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2009/10 and would improve access to rights of way in this area.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Ham Parish Council was awarded £736 towards replacement of five stiles with self-closing gates <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2009/10 and would improve access to rights of way in this area.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Manningford Memorial Hall was awarded £1,000 towards replacement of white goods in the kitchen. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2009/10 and would increase the potential for use of this hall.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Manningford Parish Council was awarded £950 towards purchasing gates at three sites incorporating existing 30mph signs to slow down traffic <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2009/10 and would support improved road safety and the visual appearance of the village entrance.</i></p>	<p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p>
--	---	---

	<p><u>Decision</u> Rushall and Charlton Village Hall was awarded £1,000 towards replacement of the boiler in the kitchen and dryers in the toilets.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2009/10 and would increase the potential for use of this hall.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Easton Royal Village Hall was awarded £1,000 towards rewiring and refurbishment of the village hall electrical system.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria for 2009/10 and would increase the potential for use of this hall.</i></p> <p>It was noted that the application from Pewsey Environmental Action Team (PEAT) for £1,000 towards start up costs, may be resubmitted in the future.</p> <p>The Chairman commented that, following the approval of the above grants, the Area Board had £588 remaining in the budget for 2009/10. Applications for consideration at the Area Board meeting on 29 March 2010 should be submitted by 12 February 2010.</p>	<p>Caroline Brailey</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><u>Performance Reward Grant Scheme</u></p> <p>It was noted that no expressions of interest for the Performance Reward Grant Scheme had been received.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p><u>Evaluation and Urgent Business</u></p> <p>The Chairman reported back on the results of the consultation on spending priorities which had been undertaken at the start of the meeting:</p> <p>The services coming top for prioritisation were: maintenance of existing roads, youth services, and adult social care for older people,. Those services identified as areas for potential savings were: archives, trading standards, museums and road safety.</p> <p>It was noted that these results would be fed into the Council's budget setting process.</p> <p>The Chairman encouraged those present to complete the evaluation forms included within the packs.</p>	

	There was no other urgent business.	
13.	<u>Future Meeting Dates and Close</u> The next meeting of the Pewsey Area Board was scheduled for Thursday 29 March 2010, 7pm at Bouverie Hall, Pewsey.	