

MINUTES

Meeting: PEWSEY AREA BOARD
Place: Bouverie Hall, North Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5EQ
Date: 10 September 2012
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 9.00 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Jerry Kunkler (Chairman)
Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Brigadier Robert Hall
Cllr Dick Tonge (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Ian Gibbons – Director of Law and Governance
Caroline Brailey – Community Area Manager
Adrian Hampton – Head of Local Highways and Streetscene
Donna Mountford – Marketing Officer
Nicole Smith – Head of Strategic Housing

Parish Councils

Alton Parish Council – Steve Hepworth
Charlton and Wilsford Parish Council – Trevor Trigg
Chirton and Conock Parish Council – Stef Robertson
Easton Parish Council – Hew Helps
Enford Parish Council – Ken Monk
Ham Parish Council – Susie Eldridge, Jacki Barnwell
Marden Parish Council – Peter Bell
North Newnton Parish Council – Carolyn Whistler

Pewsey Parish Council – Bob Woodward, Peter Deck, Terry Eyles, Brian Tubb, Darren Eyles

Rushall Parish Council – Richard Tilbury, Colin Gale, John Rogers

Stanton St Bernard Parish Council – Michael Frankton, Joyce Hale, Wendy Tarver

Woodborough Parish Council – Jim Fletcher

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Ron Peach, Gill Mortimer

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue – Jason Underwood

Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) – Karen Hyde

Pewsey Shadow Community Operations Board – Caroline Baynes (formerly Maddocks), John Rogers, Bob Woodward

Total in attendance: 52

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
18	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Area Board Members, the officers and the visiting cabinet representative, Councillor Dick Tonge.</p>
19	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from:</p> <p>Mike Franklin (Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service) Paul Oatway (Milton Lilborn Parish Council) Curly Haskell (Vice President of the SCOB) Bob King (Chairman of PCAP) Susie Brew (Grafton Parish Council)</p>
20	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Decision</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
21	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
22	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the Board's attention to the announcements provided within the agenda, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Street Light Savings b) State of the Environment Report c) Wiltshire Online: Digital Literacy in Wiltshire d) Wiltshire & Swindon Local Nature Partnership e) Minerals Sites in Wiltshire and Swindon f) Barrier Busting Proposals g) CATG Update
23	<p><u>Cabinet Representative - Councillor Dick Tonge</u></p> <p>Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport was introduced by the Chairman and asked to provide an update on his area of responsibility.</p> <p>Details were provided on the areas covered within his wide-ranging portfolio which included all highways issues, road repairs, flooding, car parking, speeding</p>

issues, markets, cemeteries and public toilets.

With specific reference to the over-height vehicle consultation Cllr Tonge confirmed that this was undertaken via delegated decision which commenced on 17 February and was initially expected to close on 5 April. However the consultation period had subsequently been extended to ensure that Area Boards had an opportunity to provide comment and to ensure that accurate information was considered. This included that a further traffic count was undertaken on the A342 Nursted Road as the initial traffic count had failed due to a mechanical fault with the counter.

The consultation also included a report by the consultant, Mouchel, dated November 2010 and an internally prepared report dated September 2011. A further report prepared by Mouchel in relation to the Chocolate Poodle bridge carriageway lowering dated 3 November 2010 was also considered.

The information provided within the initial Mouchel report highlighted two key areas of concern. This included the calculation of over-height vehicle usage figures which had been based on national statistics and had not been taken from Great Cheverell itself and indicated an average usage of 51 high-sided vehicles per day.

In addition the report proposed that a more detailed review of the geometry and two way traffic flow should be carried out in relation to the bridge at 'The Clock'.

As a result an internal report had been prepared. This report suggested that the actual number of vehicles was likely to be significantly lower than indicated. A survey was then carried out using laser height measuring equipment that showed that only 5 overheight vehicles a day used the diversion route through Great Cheverell.

Upon further investigation regards to 'The Clock', no personal collisions involving HGVs had been recorded within the last 10 years in relation to the bridge. Visibility was considered good in both directions and there was sufficient signage in place to warn of the narrowing road.

The final decision was published on 20 August as a result of the consultation and took into consideration an additional traffic count which compared usage of the A342 in June 2010 (of the 7217 vehicles counted, 326 were HGVs) and again in June 2012 (of the 7307 vehicles counted, 308 were HGVs). This demonstrated that the advisory diversion signs in place had not increased the number of HGVs using this route.

A further report from Mouchel related to the lowering of the carriageway under the bridge at Chocolate Poodle as an alternative to the diversion signs and was estimated to cost in the region of £1m. It was therefore agreed that as the cost would require at least 50% of the discretionary budget available the works in the current economic climate would not be justifiable and would deviate funds away

from other road safety improvements across the County.

Upon opening up debate to the floor, concern was raised that not all the questions received during the consultation process had been answered within the report. Clarification was provided that the consultation was in relation to over-height vehicles only and that all comments received in relation to this had been considered before the final decision had been made.

Questions in relation to pedestrian safety and the impact that large vehicles were having on the verges through Rushall had been received during the consultation process. Although these were not relevant to the over-height consultation Cllr Tonge confirmed that these issues should be raised through the Area Board's Community Area Transport Group (CATG). The Head of Local Highways and Streetscene would be requested to attend the next meeting of the CATG to address the issues.

Comment was also made in relation to the Clock Bridge near Devizes with concern raised that 12 wheeled vehicles had been registered travelling through the A342 onto the A345. The Highways Engineer had been contacted and had requested that details of the vehicles in question be provided if possible to allow him to investigate further the rationale for using this route and to discourage this from happening further.

It was felt that the sign on the splitter island at the town end of Nursteed Road could also be changed to ensure that only high sided vehicles were directed along the A342. As a result this may help to alleviate the usage by 12 wheeled vehicles.

In noting the points raised the Board were also asked to take into consideration that some of the over-height vehicles using these routes may be linked to businesses located within the local area itself.

Further questions received related to commuter parking in residential areas of The Knapp in Great Bedwyn and concern that the CATG had proposed that the issue be removed from the Issues List (details of which can be found under Item 11 of the agenda).

Although this was to be covered under Item 11 Cllr Stuart Wheeler confirmed that the CATG has proposed the issue be closed temporarily whilst Highways carried out works. However, because of concerns raised by the Knapp Residents Association it was agreed that the issue would remain on the system whilst the outcome of works underway was known.

Decision

That the Community Area Transport Group consider a formal assessment of the options for improving safety in Rushall;

	<p>That the data from the recent traffic survey on the A342 in April 2012 be made available to the Area Board and other interested parties;</p> <p>That the ambiguous sign on the splitter island at the town end of Nursteed Road be changed to ensure that only high sided vehicles are directed along the A342; and</p> <p>That Mr Hampton (Head of Local Highways and Streetscene) be invited to attend the next CATG meeting to address maintenance issues on the verges in Rushall.</p>
24	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Wiltshire Police</u></p> <p>Inspector Ron Peach referred the meeting to the written update in the agenda.</p> <p>Upon questions received in relation to the detection rate provided in relation to non-domestic burglary Inspector Ron Peach confirmed that arrests had been made and that these would be reflected in the next update.</p> <p>(b) <u>Wiltshire Fire and Rescue</u></p> <p>The written update provided in the agenda and further update as circulated at the meeting were noted.</p> <p>(c) <u>NHS Wiltshire</u></p> <p>The update provided on how primary health care will be commissioned in future was noted.</p> <p>The Chairman proposed that the Board hold a meeting to receive further details on the reforms and how this would affect the local community. Maggie Rae (Director Public Health and Wellbeing) would be invited to attend to provide details on the impact of the transfer of commissioning responsibilities for public health to Wiltshire Council.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>That NHS Reforms would be added to the Forward Work Programme and that the Director Public Health and Wellbeing would be invited to attend to provide further details on the transfer of commissioning responsibility for public health.</p> <p>(d) <u>Pewsey Community Area Partnership</u></p>

	<p>Karen Hyde, the new co-ordinator for PCAP was welcomed to the meeting. Clarification was provided that now the appointment had been made work would be undertaken to improve the profile of PCAP.</p> <p>The next meeting of PCAP was to take place on 27 September at 7:00 pm at Rushall Village Hall – all welcome.</p> <p>(e) <u>Parish Councils</u></p> <p>Chirton Parish Council - Chirton School was to remain open for at least another year.</p> <p>Pewsey Parish Council – A meeting was to be held on 11 September to consider the latest position in relation to the car parks. Issues for discussion will include whether the Parish Council is entitled to take revenue generated from the market and whether the parking lines can be redone jointly between the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council as part of the transfer of responsibility.</p> <p>(f) <u>Pewsey Community Area Young People’s Issues Group (CAYPIG)</u></p> <p>Several activities were taking place including a carnival workshop and later in the year a music night.</p> <p>(g) <u>Pewsey Campus – Shadow Community Operations Board</u></p> <p>The update as circulated was noted.</p> <p>The next meeting would be held on 18 October.</p> <p>(h) <u>Wiltshire Involvement Network (WIN)</u></p> <p>The update was noted.</p>
25	<p><u>Youth Advisory Group</u></p> <p>The Wiltshire 11-19 Commissioning Strategy, agreed by Cabinet and the Wiltshire Children & Young People’s Trust in September 2011 included the formation of Youth Advisory Groups to enable young people to have a real say about services in their local area. These were to be chaired by a young person under the age of 25 with over 50% of the membership under the age of 19.</p> <p>The Area Board were invited to appoint a Pewsey Area Board and Parish Council representative to the Group.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u></p> <p>Cllr Jerry Kunkler was appointed the Area Board representative.</p>

26	<p><u>Police and Crime Commissioners</u></p> <p>Gill Mortimer from the Wiltshire Police Authority was in attendance to provide a presentation on the changes to police forces in England and Wales with the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). This role was introduced by government to increase accountability of the police and would, locally, replace the Wiltshire Police Authority (WPA).</p> <p>Elections would be held on 15 November with PCCs expected to take office from 22 November. The position of Chief Constable would still remain for operational matters.</p> <p>To ensure as smooth a transition as possible a Shadow Police and Crime Panel had been established by the local authorities to monitor the transition of service. Once the PCC was in place the Panel would provide scrutiny over the role of the PCC. Wiltshire and Swindon Councils will jointly be responsible for maintaining the Panel.</p> <p>A Partnership Board had also been established with the current Wiltshire Police Authority Chairman undertaking the role of PCC at meetings until the PCC was appointed in November. The Board was setting up operational processes although these may be changed by the PCC once in place.</p> <p>It was unclear at present where the PCC will be based but it was likely that the post will be within the Wiltshire Headquarters in Devizes initially.</p> <p>The expected transition timelines were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-election period begins (Purdah) – October 2012 • Last point candidates can declare – 19 October 2012 • Elections of Police and Crime Commissioners – 15 November 2012 • Police and Crime Commissioners take office – 22 November 2012 • PCC sends draft budget for 2013/14 to the Police and Crime Panel – 21 December 2012 • PCC's Police and Crime Plan is published – March 2013 <p>The Chairman thanked Gill Mortimer for the presentation.</p>
27	<p><u>Housing Need and Review of Wiltshire's Housing Allocation System</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Council is undertaking a full review of its housing allocations policy following the introduction of the Localism Act which has granted new freedoms on the way in which allocation policies are applied.</p> <p>Nicole Smith, Head of Strategic Housing Wiltshire Council and Julian Payne, Regional Director of Aster Communities were in attendance to present further details on the current allocation system.</p>

The presentation included that the population of Pewsey was approximately 13,690. Of this figure approximately 58% were of working age and 24.1% of retirement age (over 65). The average house price within the Pewsey area was approximately £300,000. The basic stock profile of Pewsey was divided as follows:

58.5% Owner Occupied
24.1% Social Housing
9.5% Private
7.9% Other

Further details of the current banding categories of Platinum, Gold Plus, Gold, Silver and Bronze showed that of the 17,088 currently on the housing register 370 households had a first preference for Pewsey, only two of which were in the Platinum category.

Since April 2012 the total number of lettings across Wiltshire was 611 households, 3 lettings of which were in the Pewsey area and were allocated based on a local connection.

In April 2013 the under occupation ruling would come into force as part of the Welfare Reform measures which, as a result, was likely to affect approximately 63 households in the Pewsey area. A breakdown of the areas likely to be affected are detailed below:

Alton	2	Beechingstoke	1
Burbage	6	Chirton	2
Grafton	5	Great Bedwyn	10
Manningford	2	Milton Lilbourne	5
Patney	1	Pewsey	20
Shalbourne	1	Upavon	5
Wilcot	1	Wootton Rivers	2

In relation to Aster Communities, clarification was provided that this was a 'not for profit' organisation which had started as Sarsen Housing in 1995 and held over 700 properties in the Pewsey area.

Aster Living was also part of the organisation which was created by bringing all care and support work together. It was a major provider in Wiltshire through the Help to Live at Home contract.

Aster Homes was responsible for the building of properties and would be merging with Dorset based Synergy Housing. They build approximately 350 homes per year which included affordable rent, shared ownership, private sale/rent and extra care.

To demonstrate their commitment to customers and the local communities Customer Boards had been established to ensure that customers were able to

	<p>contribute towards budgetary discussions.</p> <p>Wider issues for the Group included that grant funding subsidies received from central government towards the cost of affordable housing was disappearing. As a result rent levels had been increased although these were still below the market average.</p> <p>Following the presentation the Board was asked to vote on their preferences on the future allocation policy the results of which were as follows:</p> <p>How should Wiltshire Council consider Local Connection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an open housing register for all 8 • A local connection to Wiltshire is required to join 7 • Priority to those with a local connection to an area 24 <p>What is a Local Connection to an area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed in the area 15 • Lives or previously lived in the area 13 • Family currently reside in the area 12 <p>Should additional priorities be given to the following?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under occupation 13 • Employment 19 • Training 1 • Those who volunteer in the community 7 <p>Should we include any exclusions within the policy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those with no identified housing need 8 • Those evicted or caused severe Anti Social Behaviour 31 • Those with significant rent arrears 2 <p>The Chairman thanked Nicole Smith and Julian Payne for the presentation.</p>
28	<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.</p> <p>Clarification was provided that issue number 1594 would now remain open at the request of the Residents Association and that the highways issue in relation to speeding through the village of Oare although missing from the Issues List had been included.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u></p> <p>That issue number 1594 would remain on the Issue’s List.</p>

29	<p><u>Community Area Grants</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered a number of applications for Community Area Grant funding. 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 Area Board.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Pewsey Parish Council was awarded £500 towards the production and publication of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2011/12 and would support several Community Area Plan priorities, including ensuring appropriate levels of affordable housing.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Woodborough social Club was awarded £4,400 towards a new boiler for the provision of heating and hot water. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2011/12 and would support several Community Area Plan priorities, including ensuring community facilities and events are maintained.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Little Bedwyn Playing Field Trust was awarded £4,000 towards the rebuild of the wall to the playing field, conditional upon the remaining funds being raised. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2011/12 and would support several Community Area Plan priorities, including supporting sustainability in the area.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Pewsey Vale Youth Football Club was awarded £323 towards the under 14's football kit via a Small Grant Application. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2011/12 and would support several Community Area Plan priorities, including the continued provision of sports for young people.</i></p>
30	<p><u>Street Light Switch Off Request</u></p> <p><u>Decision:</u> To approve the street light switch off request from Charlton & Wilford Parish Council.</p>
31	<p><u>Urgent Business</u></p> <p>There was no urgent business to be considered.</p>
32	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates and Close</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Pewsey Area Board was scheduled for Monday 12</p>

	November 2012, 6:30pm at Burbage Village Hall, Eastcourt Road, Burbage, SN8 3AJ.
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	The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.
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