



Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan

*Help make the
Vision
for our future*

Newsletter 11

To all residents and friends of the Piddle Valley

I hope that you have seen the ideas of the Neighbourhood Plan that have been published in previous issues of News & Views, and also displayed at each of this year's fetes. We now need to gather your views further, especially about housing, to see whether or not you are in agreement. To that end five meetings have been arranged, one for each of the communities within the Valley, details of which are later in this section. Please try and come because the Neighbourhood Plan should be what the majority of you want. The volunteers working on it are here solely to facilitate your views.

Last month we had a lively and encouraging "dress rehearsal" for these meetings in Piddlehinton. After that meeting there is some background to the Neighbourhood Plan that I think is worth reiterating. The Government and the opposition both want to encourage more houses to be built and make it easier for these to be bought. They are changing planning policy to make it easier to build and there is a presumption in favour of building affordable homes. This means that there will be development in the Valley in the coming years.

What then is the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan? It is so local people can influence the location of the sites and the number, type and size of housing each contains. More importantly to many people, the Neighbourhood Plan can protect green spaces and views so that they are not developed in the next 15 years, the life of the Plan. There is a balance; for the Plan to be accepted it cannot only designate protected green spaces it has to offer some housing sites in return. There are other benefits that can come out of the Plan. Conditions can be attached that can have other benefits to the community such as the provision of a new village hall.

We know from the survey we carried out last year that there are people born, brought up and now working in the Valley who would like to live here, but cannot afford it. There are also people living here, who brought their families up here but whose houses and gardens are now too large for them, that would like to downsize. These are the people we are trying to help. So please try and come to the village meetings, especially if you have or know of a need for local housing.

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Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan

VENUES, DATE & TIMES FOR EACH VILLAGE MEETING

It is hoped that all residents will attend their Village Meeting to contribute view and comments and discuss the developing Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan

ALTON PANCRAS

St Pancras Church

Wednesday 19th November

7.30 pm

WHITE LACKINGTON

Piddle Valley First School

Thursday 20th November

7.30 pm

PIDDLEHINTON

Village Hall

Wednesday 26th November

7.30 pm

PIDDLETRENTHIDE

Piddle Valley First School

Thursday 27th November

7.30 pm

PLUSH

The Brace of Pheasants

Wednesday 3rd December

7.30 pm

Housing - both for open market and low cost for local people led by Malcolm Johnston *mjz@btinternet.com / 01300 34869*

The main focus of our work during the past two months has been consideration of suggested sites for housing in Piddlehinton. The publication of these sites at the local fetes, and in the last edition of Piddle Valley News and Views, prompted some concerned and informative emails about the proposals and comments on the way they were selected. Consequently an informal meeting was arranged for the correspondents, and others interested, and this was held on 8th October in the Piddlehinton village hall. Over 80 residents attended and we were gratified that this represented more than a 20% turnout, an indicator of excellent local participation.

The role of the Neighbourhood Plan was described and the approach taken by the Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan Housing group was described. There followed discussion of the group's working method and issues around the suggested sites for new housing. Full notes of the meeting may be found on the website www.piddlevalley.info

The Housing group has subsequently met to discuss the issues raised and modify proposals. The changes decided by the Housing group relate to the following sites in Piddlehinton :

High Street

Remove the site from our plans but refer it to the Village group for further consideration.

Paynes Close

Leave the site in our plans but ask the Village group to advise further.

London Row

Remove the site from our plans but refer it to the Village group for further consideration.

New Site

A new site at Dales Corner, south of the village, has been proposed for consideration and this has also been referred to the Village group.

In addition, an important outcome of the Piddleinton meeting has been the formation of a group within that village to consider other potential housing options. I am delighted that Vicky Stevens, Alan Philips, Bob Cunningham, Paul White, Katrina Baker Copp and Vicky Miles have come forward to join under Piddlehinton group leader, Sara Milne (saramilne@googlemail.com). This group will pass their ideas to the Housing group.

Towards the end on November through to the beginning of December, a meeting for each of the Valley villages will be held. At each meeting the sets of policies proposed for building within and outside villages will be presented, in addition to the sites identified as having good potential for new houses (see maps in last edition of Piddle Valley News and Views or on our website www.piddlevalley.info).

It will be very helpful to have as many local people as possible at each meeting so we may learn your views and ideas.

Community energy generation and low energy design

led by Dot Browning dot.descon@easynet.co.uk / 01300 348280

The recently commissioned Woodland Report confirmed a significant stock of fallen and poor quality trees sufficient to supply logs and kindling through the Valley for many years to come. By agreement with woodland owners, Forestry Consultant Richard Preston (accompanied by Environment and Energy Group Leaders) inspected six woodlands in the Valley. Subsequent discussion with woodland owners confirmed the extent of activity and management. While a small portion of woodland is managed, the majority of woodlands are unmanaged and much of the woodland throughout the Valley is used by local Shoots.

The Report recommends greater management of woodland to `;

- ensure the flora and fauna natural habitat be better conserved and protected
- enable organised replanting
- encourage the reintroduction of coppicing
- convert fallen timber to logs and kindling

Woodland management can be self-financing and there are successful privately owned as well as community woodland enterprise models in Dorset. Furthermore woodland management would enhance the value of woodland and ensure its long term survival as well as contributing to the Valleys attractive landscape.

A Community Land Trust could be the mechanism for improving the management of woodlands and would enable 'local' logs and kindling to be purchased throughout the Valley.

- creating employment opportunities
- identifying suitable local storage facilities
- funding the machinery and equipment

We need to establish the demand for logs and kindling through the Valley and would appreciate your help by completing the Questionnaire enclosed with the PVNV November / December issue.

Transport, traffic speed, footpaths, cycleways and communications

led by Neil Herbert neilherbert45@yahoo.co.uk / 01300 348479

Broadband

Latest Superfast broadband update from "dorsetforyou" was issued on Wednesday 21 October 2014; see <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/superfast/availability/map>
It would appear that most of the Piddle Valley area should have "Superfast Broadband" available by Spring 2015, with the Egypt area of Piddletrethide and Alton Pancras following sometime later in 2015. Sadly the Enterprise Park area of Piddlehinton seems to be on the "back burner", with availability still in the development stage.

Traffic and Safety

During the village fetes in 2013 and 2014 we received lots of suggestions regarding traffic and safety issues, the majority of which were related to speeding traffic - the Piddle Valley Community Speed Watch was initiated as a direct result of the issues raised by residents, and has been operating in the valley since March 2014. Also, the schoolchildrens "KEEP US SAFE" signs have been erected in an attempt to persuade people to drive within the speed limits. Other ideas were to introduce "Traffic Calming" measures, such as "lower speed limits", "speed bumps" and "narrowing of roads" at various locations in the valley.

With the village meetings in late November / December 2014 it is essential that we get a realistic understanding of what you the residents want - for instance do we continue (or increase) the Community Speed Watch operation? Do we try to instigate the installation of "Traffic Calming" measures? Do we progress with both - **these decisions are yours!**

It must be noted however that persuading WDDC/DCC to install "Traffic Calming" measures could be difficult, if not almost impossible - the "dorsetforyou" website link below sets out the criteria for taking schemes forward :

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/travel-dorset/roads-and-driving/road-information/traffic-management/requesting-new-traffic-management-measures>

Rights of Way

As you are probably aware, we are looking at the feasibility of creating an all weather surface suitable for horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians along the existing bridleway from Rectory Road, Piddlehinton to Church Lane, Piddletrethide.

What other issues are there in relation to Rights of Way in our area, for example what is the current position relating to "BOATS" (Byways Open to All Traffic) on our local bridleways ?

Village Meetings Please make a note of the Village meeting dates and come along and "have your say" – we really do want your input and views.