



Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan

Help make the
Vision
for our future

Newsletter 2

Work on our Neighbourhood Plan has been moving apace in the two months since the last report. The January meeting of the volunteer working group saw the setting up of five focus groups (each of five/six people, now growing) to look in more depth at the way we all live and how we can direct change for the next ten or fifteen years. We see the Valley continuing to remain a conserved environment. Many problems and difficulties will be raised but they can be addressed in positive and imaginative ways, shaping development with the means of achieving the highest priorities for community benefit. The direction of the focus groups is becoming clearer so this is a summary:

Environment, landscape and farming

led by Peter Chance peter_chance@btinternet.com / 01300 348311

Establishing a keynote in landscape protection, views into and out of the Valley, protection from new development, green publicly accessible areas, footpath routes and the settings of pubs and eating places, encouragement for farming diversity, limiting light pollution by planning, and restoration of traditional fingerposts.

Housing - both for open market and low cost for local people

led by Malcolm Johnston mjz@btinternet.com / 01300 34869

Walks around all village settlements to understand and record the character, shape of each community, likely need for housing, *particularly for local people*, empty property, proportion weekend residents, possible sites at village centres, support for current activities, sustainable building, variation of development boundaries.

Business and community needs

led by Ian Messer elizabeth.ian.messer@gmail.com / 01300 348580

Detailed study of Enterprise Park development policy, existing buildings, new building and landscape enhancement, level of small business activity in the Valley, demands for young people and existing residents needing new business space or live/work units to develop current small scale activities.

Community energy generation and low energy design

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

Comparison of the different energy sources : coal, coke, wood, straw/dung, biofuels, solar versus gas and mains electricity. Water turbines, development of community solar farms and community woodland, recycling and insulation initiatives and involvement of the School in research.

Transport, traffic speed, footpaths, cycleways and communications

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

Broadband situation, public transport facilities, bridleways, footpaths and cycleway network, maintenance, parking ideas and traffic speed reduction studies combining pinch points with pavement improvements and possible funding methods.

An overall programme has been set out for research and discussion with residents, local groups and societies. The plan boundary for study has now been officially approved and advertised and a date set for the next issue of News and Views on 1st July when we expect to set out the key areas we see forming the basis of our Plan. We shall be including a pull-out section for you to add your own comment and feedback to widen discussion with everyone able to offer a view – we hope that you will all join in for that.

This is becoming an absorbing and surprisingly inclusive and sociable activity for all who have become involved so far, but we would like to see even more people coming forward for information gathering. We meet for the various discussion groups in various houses and pubs around the Valley; it is great fun, so do look at the website, get in touch with group leaders and join in – a warm welcome awaits you !

Contact Working Group Chairman, John Browning

telephone 01300 348981

email john.browning@regenerationpartnership.co.uk

neighbourhoodplan@piddlevalley.info