



Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan

*Help make the
Vision
for our future*

Newsletter 7

During a period when we have been only too aware of the fragility of the valley infrastructure, we have been taking note of your comments and advice in seeing how our Neighbourhood Plan can incorporate additional measures to help make the landscape of the Valley more sustainable in these extreme but perhaps recurrent conditions, by managing the power of the water, run-off and soil drainage, planting and natural absorption. This clearly affects housing design but this is not new so we need to work with the authorities to develop this programme and include plans within our new policies.

Housing, community and business needs continue otherwise to provide the greatest focus otherwise for our attention in view of the complex issues surrounding these subjects but we believe that real progress is being made and this enables us to concentrate on formulating policies that will underpin the basic structure of our Plan.

At the same time as this all moves forward, we still address the effects of fast moving traffic and alternative, safer means of circulation within our countryside. The schoolchildren's 'Keep Us Safe' placards still encourage drivers to keep speeds within limits, particularly now that speed monitoring is also in operation. High Speed Broadband has come to a more informed head recently; we now know what people manage with at the moment and what is planned for 2016, if in a less than complete way and two years ahead, but it may be possible to bring a scheme forward earlier and more comprehensively. A private technology company is operating effectively elsewhere in Dorset and might work here. You will find a form in this issue inviting you to express your initial interest in exploring this further.

The community energy investigation is now combining with landscape and climate change considerations to outline a way forward by giving this whole subject some backbone for future plans. More will be available soon on this subject.

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Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan

Transport, traffic speed, footpaths, cycleways and communications

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

Broadband Speed

As reported in previous editions of PVNV Superfast broadband should be available to the majority of properties in the area by September 2016 and will deliver speeds of at least 24 Mbps.

It is currently understood that the following postcodes will only receive improved broadband, which will be available for those who have a download speed of less than 2Mbps :-

- DT2 7QZ – Egypt area of Piddletrenthide
- DT2 7RW – Alton Pancras south of Keepers Cottage
- DT2 7UA – Enterprise Park, Piddlehinton

A local rural Internet Service Provider (ISP) based in North Dorset has made us aware of their interest in providing an alternative super-fast fibre & wireless Internet service coverage to the Piddle Valley area. We understand that this ISP is fully operational in the Lyons Gate and Glanvilles Wooton area and have recently commenced installations in Ansty and Melcombe Bingham.

Their service is based on an installation cost (dependant on the number of users in an area) plus a monthly rental.

We now ask residents to let us know of their possible interest in this alternative service by filling in and returning the form enclosed with this issue of PVNV, to the PVNV Postbag at the Piddletrenthide PO Stores. Depending on the response, we will arrange a meeting with the provider and invite all those interested if they wish to attend.

Traffic on the Valley Road (B3143)

The results of the traffic survey carried out by Dorset County Council at Rectory Road, Piddlehinton have now been received and are currently being analysed.

Business and community needs

led by Colin Dean colinsuedean@btintemet.com / 01300 348524

It is still early to identify specific trends and needs and compare them with potential space that might become available but this is now ongoing and further reports will keep you informed. It may be enough to say that the interests of current users of Enterprise Park are incorporated as well as current business and community functions in the Parish as a whole. It has been noted that there is a demonstrable need for new small business units within the villages to allow small firms and workshops to develop and provide future employment and to provide for a wider range of community activities.

Environment, landscape and farming

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

There can be little doubt that Valley residents greatly appreciate the surroundings in which we live, although most of us would be hard pressed to identify all the factors which contribute to the enjoyment of living here.

Change in our environment is inevitable but properly structured can be a force for good. The Focus Group is working on the basis that a Neighbourhood Plan developed within the community provides the opportunity to bring together policies more sensitive to our needs than distant National, County and District Plans.

Building in the five communities has, with a few exceptions, taken place very close to the Valley bottom. Our splendid Valley landscape consists of relatively steep slopes and higher level areas which were determined by geology and today's appearance results primarily from the development of agriculture over many generations. Fortunately, our farming can still be described as mixed in terms of the combination of livestock and arable enterprises with its contrasts of grassland and arable crops – far more attractive than the monoculture of the eastern counties. Within the five communities green open spaces are also important features we need to protect. The substantial area of woodland combines relatively small woods and is another factor adding to the value of our landscapes. Appropriate management can increase the contribution this makes and as a source of fuel. There are many Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Land of Local Landscape Importance for which we can encourage additional protection.

The Valley environment is enhanced by amenities: an excellent school, shop, four public houses, well structured farms, shooting syndicates and business activities at Enterprise Park, Piddlehinton. Developing appropriate policies to protect and enhance aspects of the environment we appreciate, will also attract visitors who could generate additional income within the Valley, as well as for our own present needs.

Our Neighbourhood Plan must be inspirational to be acceptable to the community. Objectives can be supported by protection and enhancement of our landscapes, containing future development within natural boundaries.

Community energy generation and low energy design

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

Hydropower

Outstanding survey work on the River Piddle and visits to hydro schemes have been put on hold due to local water level and flows and significant flooding.

Woodland energy

By agreement with landowners, an assessment of Valley woodlands is to be undertaken by an experienced woodland consultant and will include the potential for wood fuel. Existing models for wood fuel generation are being studied and a plan will be put forward showing how a community scheme could operate enabling logs and kindling to be available for purchase in the Valley.

We have accepted a Woodland Trust invitation to take part in a training event in Bristol to better understand the opportunities for managing woodfuel for the community.

Reducing energy costs

Guidance for existing, listed and new buildings with sustainability advice to

- reduce the energy required
- avoiding throwing energy away
- switching to renewable or low carbon energy
- use of air thermostats

Climate Change Workshop

Following National Climate Change Week 2014 (3 - 9 March), DDC are offering a workshop for residents in the Piddle Valley to explore the possible local impacts of severe weather associated with climate change and then identify possible solution. Please do get in touch with me by email or telephone if you would like to attend. Once we have an agreed date (7th,8th 9th April are possible) and venue, full details will be advised to all registering an interest and will also be included on www.piddlevally.info

Recycling

A reminder that the new refuse arrangements commence through the Valley on Friday the 7th March. Plastic bottle tops from cartons as well as plastic bottles can now be included in your Recycling wheelybin (green lid). See

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/recycle-for-dorset/recycling>

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

led by Malcolm Johnston malcolm.johnston@zaffre.co / 01300 34869

Our work over the past two months has been primarily concerned with gaining better understanding of the present Defined Development Boundaries and future developable sites. The former provide an outline around areas within villages that are considered to be suitable to allow development, subject to normal planning applications and procedures. Developable sites can be designated within or outside these boundaries and are where applications to build will be assessed positively provided they comply with defined environmental and design restrictions which will be similar to those being adopted for Neighbourhood Plans emerging in other areas of the country. We are also reviewing the natural boundaries of the villages as they meet the countryside and their relationship to previous Defined Development Boundaries.

In considering potential developable sites we have been identifying land that might well be considered appropriate for building with regard to likely services availability, vehicle and pedestrian access and, most importantly, the factors of visual impact, availability of services and building density. Owners of land in these sites may have no current interest in development but as the Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted over 15-20 years there will be potential for future use of this land. Others have identified land they own for consideration in this regard. To provide a degree of objectivity we are developing the assessment criteria which we shall propose in order to establish whether a piece of land is appropriate and graded within such designation during the plan period

Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan Timeframe remaining

Information gathering ends	March 2014
Drafting Plan Policies ends	May 2014
Strategic Environmental Assessment	June 2014
Statement and Summaries by end	July 2014
Liaison with WDDC ends	July 2014
Approval from Parish Council	August 2014
Community Consultation for 6 weeks	September 2014
Independent Examination	October 2014
Further adjustments	November 2014
Submission to WDDC	December 2014
Referendum	January 2015

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Save the date....

Riddle Valley First School will be holding their

May Fayre Music Fest

On Saturday 10th May, 12 – 3pm

An afternoon of maypole dancing,

stalls, games, food, music & fun!

Including a table top sale & bouncy castle

Hog roast & bar and live music from

Jazz Trio, Half Dead Darlings &

The Unpredictables

If you would like to have a stall, table top pitch or take part in the event,
please contact the school on 01300 348 219

