



Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan

Help make the
Vision
for our future

Newsletter 9

To all residents and friends of the Piddle Valley

I have recently taken over the chairmanship of the Neighbourhood Planning Group from John Browning. I would like to thank him for all the work he has achieved over the last 18 months, since the inception of the group, to bring us to where we are now. He proposed that the chairmanship should rotate every six months, so his has been a sterling effort.

John steps down having guided us to a point where our research and ideas are forming nascent policies. These policies, based on the feedback you've already given us are outlined in the following pages.

We have identified a need for smaller homes, both for those who want to buy their first homes and those looking to downsize. Do you think these should be built, and if so, where ?

I think it worth reiterating that the Neighbourhood Plan is about the future. If accepted by you, and ratified by the inspectors, the policies within it will become the planning policies for the Valley for the next 15 years.

The Piddle Valley plan could include a policy that

No public house should be given change of use into a residential property

If that were so and the Plan were in place now, that would be the case. But we live in the present and the Piddle Inn has just ceased trading. If you want to keep the building as a pub, please come and talk to us at the fetes. As soon as more information is available, it is hoped a village meeting can be arranged open to the whole Valley, at which the community could make representations.

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Paul Johns

Working Group Chairman

telephone 01300 348154

email suevasa@aol.com / npchair@piddlevalley.info

Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan

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

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

The number of households who have close family or work ties with the Valley and are seeking accommodation (as identified from our survey and West Dorset District Council housing lists) totals 50. This is a high figure and greater than any other similar areas in the district, going to show how keen people are to stay in our beautiful valley and close to families. The number is higher than can be housed in the near future but does indicate the importance of more local (affordable) housing being built to meet demand over the next 15 years (the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan).

It has also become apparent that there is a very large demand for small one and two bedroom dwellings, which could be provided by houses or flats. The Working Party will soon be debating housing targets over the period.

A joint meeting held with the Environment, Landscape and Farming group demonstrated that we have both developed very similar approaches to the use of land and allowed us to endorse the sites identified for potential building. These are being shown on maps at the summer village fetes.

Our policies for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan are crystallising and will include:

- The need to develop opportunities for the building of local housing to allow local people to remain in the valley.
- The need to protect the quality of the built environment and ensure there is no impact on the beauty of the valley.
- Protection of designated green or wooded spaces within and around villages to maintain community resources and historic features.
- The need to protect certain views as seen from public rights of way.
- The drawing up of village boundaries to control growth.
- Criteria for accommodating new housing within villages.
- Identification of sites where houses may be built without damaging the character of the villages.
- Support for conversion of historic or older buildings for housing where they have no other agricultural or community use.
- Support for replacing existing large houses, or older housing, of poor design quality with modern eco friendly dwellings which make better use of the land available.
- Criteria to assist in the design of new buildings being sympathetic to those around them.

Transport, traffic speed, footpaths, cycleways and communications

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

The Neighbourhood Plan will support new ways of managing traffic along the B3143 (the valley road) by :

- Supporting local and strategic traffic management to reduce HGV vehicles through the Piddle Valley in order to minimise their adverse impact, whilst managing new development so that they do not have an unacceptable traffic impact on local residents.
- Encouraging pedestrian and cyclist safety through lower traffic speeds and volumes.
- Creation of an all weather surface to the existing bridleway from Piddlehinton to Piddletrenthide, with possible extension to Alton Pancras for use by cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and disabled users.
- Encourage the introduction of faster Broadband speeds to all Valley communities.

Draft policies

- Initiatives which promote improved traffic management by reducing traffic speeds and volumes; improve safety and access for pedestrians and cyclists in a way which respects the amenities of the neighbourhood.
- Initiatives which improve local and strategic traffic management through routing of HGV traffic away from the valley roads will be supported.
- Where appropriate, new initiatives will make provision for pedestrian and cycle access to the proposed all weather bridleway.
- Pursuing the extension to Alton Pancras of the existing bridleway from Piddlehinton to Piddletrenthide.
- Encouraging faster Broadband speeds to all communities in the Piddle Valley; all future developments should consider connectivity requirements at an early stage.

Reasons for our policies

Residents expressed concern regarding transport and traffic issues to the NP Working group at 2013 village fetes, in the 2012 Piddle Valley Parish Plan questionnaire and the 2013 Piddle Valley First School Travel Plan. The main issues were speeding traffic, the impact of HGV traffic along the valley road, risks to pedestrians and cyclist safety, so our traffic policies are designed to manage traffic, including that arising from new local development and to improve access to alternative forms of transport.

As the community wishes to encourage cycling and walking as safe options, the NP aims to improve highway safety, minimise conflicts between road traffic, cyclists and pedestrians through the creation of the all weather bridleway.

HGV vehicles pass daily through the Piddle Valley (in connection with farming); we seek to minimise those heavy movements not connected to local businesses.

Good telecommunications is increasingly important in the modern world, so Broadband is even more important in our isolated rural area.

Environment, landscape and farming

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

The following aspects are a brief description of our policy areas :

- Protect and enhance the environment of the Piddle Valley.
- Protect the higher landscapes and fine long distant views.
- Develop a policy to manage the Valley woodland in order to enhance it's contribution to the landscape.
- Improve protection of the Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs).
- Ensure a high standard of management and effective Rights of Way signposting.
- Minimise light pollution – Enterprise Park, etc.
- Encourage re-use of redundant farm buildings for housing and small businesses.
- Contain new housing within the existing boundaries of the five communities.
- Ensure high standards of design and materials for all development.
- Designate green open spaces within each community.
- Ensure farm building developments minimise environmental impact and take advantage of improved design and new, more sensitive materials.

If the above does not include aspects which you feel are important or wish to raise any other points, please do be in touch.

Community energy generation and low energy design

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

The Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan will support a range of energy initiatives to benefit residents, businesses and community facilities :

- A hydropower scheme utilising the River Piddle to generate power for use by Piddle Valley First School.
- A woodland management scheme to generate woodland fuel and bi-products using fallen and storm damaged trees, the reintroduction of coppicing and new planting to enable woodfuel generation into the future.
- A solar advice scheme enabling creation of small solar fields to benefit community facilities.
- Guidance on the specification and positioning of solar tiles and panels and the opportunities for low level installations.
- Climate Change measures to limit flooding and run-off.
- A Community Land Trust as a vehicle to procure and manage community projects.
- Guidance on energy saving measures for residential buildings.