



Alton Pancras

Plush





Piddletrenthide

White Lackington

Piddlehinton



INTRODUCTION

Parish Plans are part of a Government initiative to "enhance the quality of life of local communities". The Government's rural white paper 'Our Countryside, The Future (2000)' proposed that all rural communities develop Parish Plans to address the needs of their community and produce an action plan to address the priorities as they arise. It is a document that outlines how a community sees itself and sets out a view for the future and how it can be achieved.

This Parish Plan 2012 will be one of the building blocks of community growth and sustainability and should be considered in conjunction with the Piddle Valley Design Statement, which was adopted by West Dorset District Council in November 2004. Together they help create a shared vision; not only for the parish, but will influence plans in the wider area, as they will provide valuable information that can be used by service providers to ensure the needs of local people are recognised and acted upon. They can also be used as a tool for seeking funds to support various community developments.

Parish Plans are tailored to each community's specific needs; there are no set rules about how they should be produced or what they should look like and in order for them to have maximum effect it is important that the plan not only engages and motivates local people into action but also influences others to ensure they take on board local priorities. This plan, which will be reviewed in five years, is to be seen as a starting point for a structured way forward for the next ten years in our community. It sets out our vision for the future from today's standpoint, and the ways in which we think we can get there. It is about our community identifying, tackling and resolving its problems, pinpointing goals for the future and achieving them.

In order to produce this document a number of hard working volunteers have invested a considerable amount of time in preparing a local questionnaire delivered to every household, collating and analysing the information and finally producing the Piddle Valley Parish Plan. Circumstances and needs have evolved since the questionnaire was produced in 2008 and the action plan reflects the current situation in autumn 2012 and also takes into account the concerns and suggestions passed to the Parish Council since 2008, including the public event in November 2010

The government has recently enabled communities to have yet more direct influence over the development of their local areas with the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans. Unlike Parish Plans which have a holistic approach to the future of the community and are advisory documents, Neighbourhood Plans are democratically approved, statutory statements which can determine the building and infrastructure development allowable in an area. In effect, a Neighbourhood Plan could be our own local planning regulations and if agreed future applications would need to be in line with the community approved Neighbourhood Plan.

Without the invaluable input from local residents, working together to share views, opinions and ideas, it would be impossible to develop the actions that will shape and hopefully improve the future of our community.





The community comes together for the Jubilee celebrations July 2012





SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO 2008

QUESTIONNAIRE

There was a 60% response rate with 194 completed questionnaires, covering 395 residents of the Piddle Valley.

Your Household and Employment 1.

The age profile of the respondents was as follows:-

5 to 12	22	5.5%
13 to 17	20	5.1%
18 to 24	17	4.3%
25 to 59	165	41.8%
60 to 79	144	36.5%
80 +	27	6.8%
	395	



A further 5 children under the age of 5 were reported. The above indicates a low proportion of people under the age of 24.

121 respondents were retired. Of the remainder, those employed reported that they worked from:

Home	34	16.9%
The Valley	24	11.9%
1 to 10 miles	66	32.8%
10 miles plus	77	33.4%
	201	_

47 respondents reported difficulties in obtaining work, of these, 24 attributed the problem to lack of transport. Therefore this indicates a lack of local employment opportunities.

- Attract families with young children and teenagers to the area
- Improve employment opportunities within Piddle Valley
- Support existing businesses
- Investigate and mitigate reasons for lack of transport to work



Piddletrenthide Shop & Post Office









Piddlehinton Enterprise Park

2. Your Community, Housing etc

Most respondents were satisfied with the public services available, although dissatisfaction with public transport was revealed in the response to later questions. From a suggested list of areas of concern to the community, road safety was mentioned by 67.6% respondents, followed by fly-tipping and litter with 36.4% responses.

The response to the questions concerning housing was limited, perhaps because the questions could have been differently worded. 17 respondents said that they were prevented from finding a home in the Valley as a result of a shortage of properties, whereas 115 reported that this was not the case. With regard to the high price of properties, 27 being unable to purchase due to cost, with 135 indicating they were not concerned, although the reasons were not recorded. 10 respondents said that they were seeking to rent a property, 20 to purchase outright and 9 to participate in some form of assisted purchase or shared equity scheme, 6 were seeking a single property or flat, 20, a small family house and 13, a large family house.



Identified Needs

- a. Investigate and rectify cause of dissatisfaction with local transport
- b. Improve road safety
- c. Reduce incidence of fly tipping and littering
- d. Increase availability of open market family housing
- e. Increase opportunities of rented and affordable housing

3. Environment

82.5% respondents were aware of the AONB and its protected status, compared with only 6.8% unaware.

Among the types of pollution seen as possible threats to the environment, litter was cited by 30.4% respondents, followed by noise with 23.5% mentions. It has to be said that the majority of respondents reported no concerns with any form of pollution.

There was strong support for recycling, particularly of plastic for which there is at present no doorstep collection service. Difficulties in disposing of garden waste were reported by 34.9% respondents, although 53.9% reported no problems.

- a. Reduce littering
- b. Investigate causes and reduce noise pollution
- c. Improve recycling facilities by arranging collection of plastic
- d. Consider options for disposing of garden waste locally

4. Rights of Way

83% respondents felt that access to the surrounding countryside was satisfactory, while 30 felt that it was not



61% felt that the existing footpaths and bridleways were well maintained and signed, compared with 27.8% who felt otherwise.

There was strong support for an off-road all-weather bridleway running from Piddlehinton to Alton Pancras, 74.9% being in favour and 18.2% against. All respondents were agreed that motor vehicles must be excluded and there were some reservations concerning cyclists.

Identified Needs

- a. Ensure rights of way are properly maintained and signed
- b. Consider off road, all weather bridleway between Piddlehinton and Alton Pancras
- c. Discourage use of rights of way by motorised vehicles

5. Roads

There was a large response to these questions.

66% respondents felt that road maintenance was inadequate while 22.3% considered it acceptable.

Verge maintenance attracted less criticism.

46.6% respondents supported the introduction of a 20mph speed limit through the villages at various vulnerable pinch points e.g. by the school, with 35.7% against it. The difficulty already experienced in enforcing the 30 mph limit was frequently pointed out. Generally, the respondents were against a blanket 20mph speed limit.

There was much greater unanimity in the wish to have the Valley roads removed from sat-nav usage and for signage indicating their unsuitability for HGV's.

Identified Needs

- a. Encourage and support Piddle Valley Parish Council in its regular efforts to ensure that DCC maintains the Piddle Valley roads and signs in a fit condition.
- b. Investigate ways of controlling the speed of vehicles through the Valley by the use of speed monitors, in conjunction with the Police.
- c. Investigate the possibility of removing the Piddle Valley roads from vehicle sat-nav systems and of introducing appropriate signage to discourage heavy through traffic.

First School and campaign to urge ers to slow down

6. Older People

50.4% respondents were satisfied with the facilities for the over 60's and 8.1% dissatisfied.

Areas of dissatisfaction included the need for better public transport and the lack of village shops outside Piddletrenthide.

Identified Needs

- a. Identify what other facilities would be useful
- b. Support and improve current facilities
- c. Support and improve access to transport





7. Healthcare

Access to all forms of healthcare was considered good by a large majority if respondents, although a number highlighted the widespread problem of registering with an NHS dentist. There was general satisfaction with the local surgeries.

There was strong support for the setting up of a First Responders scheme, although by no means all of those in favour were willing to be involved themselves, only 54 out of 295 were interested.

Identified Needs

- a. Access to NHS Dentist
- b. First Responders scheme



8. Transport



Piddlehinton Village Hall and Bus Stop

Roughly two thirds of respondents regarded public transport as important.

32.2% used the local bus services, principally for shopping or to access social and leisure activities.

23 respondents depended on them for travel to work.

There was considerable criticism of the services, particularly in respect of timing, reliability and the choice of routes served.

- a. Improve timing, reliability and choices of routes for public transport
- b. Also see 1d, 2a, 6c

9. Leisure Facilities

All of the existing facilities were used to some extent, but a majority of respondents felt that they were inadequate, especially for teenagers. There was particular interest in the provision of a Petanque Piste.

The most frequently requested additional facilities were after-school/evening clubs and social activities and improvements to existing sites, for example the provision of shelters.

Identified Needs

- a. After school or evening club provision
- b. Consider site for Petanque Piste
- c. Improve existing sport and recreational sites
- d. Provide shelters in recreation areas.



Play structure, Millennium Green

10. Public Issues

New Village Hall

234 respondents were in favour of the construction of a new village hall to serve the whole valley, with 100 opposed to the idea, primarily residents in Piddlehinton.

217 said that they would use such a hall, including 11 of those opposed to the concept, while 89 said that they would not do so, including 18 who had approved it.

This is the only topic over which there was a noticeable difference of opinion between respondents from the individual villages within the community.

Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall



Alton Pancras Church

(and community meeting place)

Piddlehinton Village Hall



Security

87.8% respondents said that they felt safe in the community by day, with only 1 saying otherwise.

83.5% respondents said that they felt safe in the community by day, with only 16 saying otherwise.

TV, Radio and Mobile Phone Reception

The responses were rather confusing. While for all three services many respondents judged the reception unacceptable, in the case of TV and radio a greater number found it fair or good.

There was no obvious geographical trend and inhabitants of some areas recorded different opinions of their reception of TV and radio.

47.8% respondents favoured the construction of new TV and radio masts in the Valley, while 22.3% were opposed and 13.4% had no opinion.

The availability of broadband was widespread, with 68.1% respondents using it, although only 36.2% were satisfied with its speed.

Identified Needs

- a. Investigate the feasibility of building a new village hall to replace one or both of the existing halls and/or possibility of community centre for Alton Pancras
- b. Investigate ways of making people safer
- c. Improve TV and radio reception
- d. Improve mobile phone coverage in the area
- e. Improve speed and access to broadband

11. General

89.4% respondents confirmed that they felt part of a community while 14.2% felt otherwise.

The next two questions invited respondents to give their views of the Valley as a place to live. Inevitably, these were largely subjective, with a fair number of directly competing views.

The issue which predominated was once again the question of traffic - the number of overly large vehicles using the narrow roads, their speed and the noise they generated.

Asked to identify topics omitted from the questionnaire, a small number of respondents pointed out that green energy needs must be addressed in any future community planning.

- a. Encourage participation in community events and activities
- b. Provision of Petanque Piste
- c. Explore renewable energy options in the Piddle Valley
- d. Encourage energy efficiency in the Piddle Valley



CONCLUSIONS

In general, respondents expressed satisfaction with the Piddle Valley as a place to live.

By far the most frequently cited concern was the state of the roads - their condition and the problems caused by heavy traffic using them, which contributed to fears concerning road safety. It was felt that an off-road bridleway linking the villages could provide a partial solution to this.

Housing was not a major issue, but there is clearly a demand for the provision of at least some additional affordable and open market housing.

Communications presented problems for some, although a perhaps surprising number of respondents were satisfied by the quality of TV, radio and mobile reception. One issue raised which will become of increasing importance was the speed of available broadband.

Clubs and societies within the community were generally well supported, but there was a significant body of opinion that both of the existing Village Halls are showing their age and that the lack of parking limits their usefulness.

Summary

The Parish Council, with the help of the questionnaire, identified key areas and possible actions indicated below, which would benefit from a structured and active approach that will shape and hopefully improve the future of our community.

Roads - address issues regarding road safety especially speeding, condition of road surfaces and signage; reduce heavy traffic and improve parking.

Rights of Way- maintain rights of way in good order and retain status as footpaths and bridleways rather than as new Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATS); create new footpath between Alton Pancras and Piddlehinton.

Transport – campaign to improve and extend current services; create a community transport scheme for work, health, shopping and social purposes

Housing – enable additional open market, rented and affordable housing in the area according to need

Business and Employment – improve local employment opportunities by attracting new and supporting existing businesses; improve communications, mobile reception and broadband speed

Health, Welfare and Safety – improve awareness and communication; attract an NHS Dentist to the area.

Leisure, Sport and Tourism – promote and support current amenities, encourage new opportunities.

Community Facilities and Services – support existing facilities and services, assess needs, identify and calculate feasibility of new amenities including new village hall and youth shelter(s).

Environment – reduce littering, dog fouling and fly tipping; promote and support recycling initiatives; encourage energy efficiency and reduction in CO2 emissions; consider community renewable energy schemes.

To tackle many of these issues will need the active support and participation of all who live and work in the area, especially if we are to ensure the long term sustainability of our community. In practical terms, this means making the effort to promote and use the amenities, facilities, services, businesses and clubs in the valley. It also means communicating with those that are responsible and letting them know what they are doing well, as well as how they can improve and notifying them of any particular concerns.

The Government has recognised that that local people are in the best position to make decisions and take responsibility for the development and sustainability of their own area. Some of the key areas, such as housing, can be addressed by the preparation and acceptance of a Neighbourhood Plan. There is already a working group made up of people from the community including Parish Councillors, who are considering the feasibility of producing a neighbourhood plan for the area

Other specific issues such as road safety and transport will need volunteers from the community to take the lead, with support from the Parish Council, perhaps by appointing a community co-ordinator or designating a Parish Councillor to cover this area to move things forward.

Any change or improvements will need close liaison with West Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council, Dorset Police and other organisations, to help us achieve a better quality of life for all in the Piddle Valley, now and in the future.







Acknowledgments

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Special Thanks to Andrew Cowley for the analysis of the data from the questionnaire and also David Webb for the preparation of the questionnaire.

Finally, Piddle Valley Parish Council, especially John Cox and Terry Cowley.

PIDDLE VALLEY	PARISH PLAN 2012			A	CTION PLAN
Topic	Need	Proposals	By Whom	Complete by	Action to date
1. Household and Employment	a Attract families with young children and teenagers to area	 Enable access to all types of family size accommodation Encourage Parent Social Group Set up a youth group/youth club 	PVPC/WDDC PVPC /School PVPC/DCC Children's Services	Dec 2013 June 2013 Sept 2014	- Feathers Pre-School - Breakfast and After School Clubs available at Piddle Valley C E First School - Play Areas, Piddle Valley Playground, Millennium Green Play area -Piddle Valley Tiddlers
	b Improve local employment opportunities	-encourage local businesses to advertise their jobs locally first, notice boards or on PV website - take action to encourage business to locate in the area - identify opportunities for attracting tourists	Local businesses PVPC WDDC All, PVPC, WDDC	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	 Piddlehinton Enterprise Park is advertising vacant units National Planning Policy and Local Plan support sustainable development WDDC Economic Regeneration
	c Support existing businesses	- encourage closer links between business and community, esp Piddlehinton Enterprise Park - support existing businesses by making good use of them	PVPC WDDC All	Ongoing Ongoing	- advertising available through PV News and Views and website - Piddletrenthide shop saved by local landowner
	d Investigate and mitigate reasons for lack of transport	- carry out transport survey - appoint volunteer to promote and administrate local car share to work	DCA or DCC, WDDC PVPC	April 2014 Sept 2014	new company responsible for bus serviceDorset County Council have car share scheme in operation
2. Community & Housing	a. Investigate and rectify cause of dissatisfaction with local transport	See above	PVPC	April 2014	- See above

Topic	Need	Proposals	By Whom	Complete by	Action to date
2. Community & Housing (continued)	b. Improve Road Safety	 drive with care and attention and keep within speed Take note of number plate details of speeding vehicles and report to Police 	All / Police	Ongoing	 Dorset Safety Partnership periodically attends with speed cameras Speed Indicator Devices uses periodically
		 request regular attendance of speed camera and indicator devices 	PVPC	Ongoing	No Excuses campaignRural Roads protocol, removing white lines
		 set up Speed Watch group with own equipment and training from Police 	PVPC, Police	Apr 2015	Road surface repairs and renewalsPiddle Valley School campaign to get drivers to slow down
		 encourage pedestrians and cyclist to wear lighter or high visibility clothing 	All and possible DCC	Ongoing	
	c. Improve parking facilities	- park responsibly and with consideration to others	All	Ongoing	- roadside parking freely available but not always safe
		- consider ways of resolving parking issues	PVPC	Dec 2013	- highways and police notified of issues regarding illegal parking
		- continue to report parking problems to PVPC and DCC Highways	All	Ongoing	
	d. Reduce incidence of fly tipping and littering	 Report incidents of fly tipping to WDDC or PVPC Promote litter picking Consider signage re waste disposal sites and penalties for fly tipping and littering 	All PVPC PVPC & WDDC	Ongoing Ongoing April 2013	- Annual litter pick ongoing - Volunteer litter picking - Ability to report fly tipping to WDDC on 01305 251010 or via dorsetforyou website

Topic	Need	Proposals	By Whom	Complete by	Action to date
2. Community & Housing (continued)	e. Increase availability of open market family housing	- Widen and/or introduce Defined Development Boundaries - consider renovation, redevelopment or conversion of redundant farm buildings in appropriate locations -consider carrying out a neighbourhood plan	PVPC WDDC C	2012/2013	- infill within defined development boundary - large houses being converted or returned to smaller dwellings -policies in place for increased awareness and actions to reduce empty properties
	f. Increase opportunities for rented and affordable houses	- carry out needs assessment - consider sites for affordable /rented new build properties -consider carrying out a neighbourhood plan	WDDC PVPC All PVPC	Dec 2013	- as above
3. Environment	a. Reduce littering	- see 2d	- see 2d	- see 2d	- see 2d
	b. Reduce noise pollution	- consider neighbours - investigate causes and act on results	All PVPC WDDC	Ongoing	- B3143 partially resurfaced - ability to report noise pollution to WDDC, phone 01305 251010 or via dorsetforyou website
	c. Improve recycling facilities	- Encourage all to take items to waste disposal sites - Encourage recycling of other or larger items through Freecycle sites etc	PVPC WDDC All	Ongoing Ongoing	- Glass, tins, paper and batteries already recycled - Household and Waste management tips at Dorchester & Sherborne - Dorset Waste Partnership introducing new waste collection including garden waste, food and plastics recycling in 2014

						ACTION PLAN
Topic		Need	Proposals	By Whom	Complete by	Action to date
3. Enviro		d. Local options for disposin garden waste	g of - dispose of garden waste appropriately - consider local amenity for disposing of garden waste, composting or chipping - ascertain if a local business would consider providing service	All PVPC PVPC	Ongoing Dec 2014 Dec 2013	- Dorset Waste Partnership is proposing a chargeable new waste collection service for garden waste, depending on the size of container you have, some properties could club together and share costs and containers – not expected to be introduced until 2014.
4. Rights	of Way	a. Ensure rights of way are properly maintained and signed	- inform DCC or PVPC of problems with rights of way - landowners do their best to keep rights of way accessible - PVPC continue to monitor and report any issues to DCC Highways	Rights of way users Landowners PVPC DCC	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	- Reporting system in place to DCC, phone 01305 224463 or via dorsetforyou website - Public inform landowners or Parish Council of any issues - Volunteers already assist with keeping rights of way clear
		b. Discourage use of rights o by motorised vehicles	f way - monitor inappropriate use of rights of way and report to the Parish Council or DCC Rights of Way Officers	All	Ongoing	 vigilant landowners and rights of way users monitoring of campaign to change bridleways etc to BOATS
		c. Create off road, all weath bridleway between Piddlehinton and Alton Pancras	er - seek agreement with local landowners, DCC and WDDC planning - access funding	PVPC (Working Group)	Apr 2014 May 2014	- discussions at Parish Council and Village Meetings are broadly in support
5. Roads		a. Encourage and support Poin its regular efforts to endouble DCC maintain roads in fit condition	sure problems with roads	All PVPC	Ongoing	- reporting system in place, phone DCC on 01305 221020 or via dorsetforyou website

							ACTION PLAN
Тор	oic	Need		Proposals	By Whom	Complete by	Action to date
5.	Roads (continued)	b.	Control speed of vehicles using the Piddle Valley roads	- see 2b	- see 2b	- see 2b	- see 2b
		C.	Reduce vehicle use of B3143	- Investigate possibility of removing B3143 from sat nav systems	PVPC	Jan 2013	- some improvement since W & S Recycling ceased their activities in the valley
				- investigate possibility of discouraging heavy through traffic	PVPC DCC Highways	June 2013	
6.	Older People and Vulnerable Adults	a.	Identify what services and facilities would be useful for older people and vulnerable adults	- carry out survey to determine needs, both practical and social	PVPC or WDDC or DCC	Dec 2015	 excellent clubs already available in the valley including lunch club, coffee mornings etc Village shop, hairdresser, church and pubs in area, also mobile library available POPP Development Worker
		b.	Support and improve current facilities	 possible new village hall (see 10a) improve communication regarding events and transport 	PVPC PVPC	Ongoing	- Jaspers (Hairdressers) has extended and improved their premises
		C.	Support and improve access to transport	See 1d	See 1d	See 1d	 bus provider has changed taxi firm available in the valley good network of volunteer/friends/family drivers
7.	Healthcare	a.	Access to NHS Dentist	 make a list of NHS dentists within travelling distance publicise it in PVNV and on noticeboards see if we can attract an NHS Dentist to the area 	PVPC	Sept 2013	

Topic	Need	Proposals	By Whom	Complete	Action to date
7. Healthcare (continued)	b. Community First Responders Scheme	- consider training to be a First Responder and let PVPC know if you are interested - review annually - consider alternative options for prompt or emergency healthcare - support Dorset Air Ambulance	All PVPC All	by	- has been discussed at length with South Western Ambulance Service and requests for people to train as Community First Responders has not been taken up
8. Transport	a. Identify specific transport needs	- see 1d	see 1d	- see 1d	- see 1d
	b. Improve timing, reliability and choices of routes for public transport	- continue to report concerns to bus company and DCC	All		- report concerns re reliability etc to bus company, Damory Coaches 01258 452545
9. Leisure Facilities	a. After school or evening club provision in the area	- do a needs assessment - look into scouts and guides options and consider reviving youth club	PVPC PVPC	Dec 2015	Piddle Valley Kids ClubPiddle Valley TiddlersRainbows and BrowniesPuddletown Rugby Club YouthTeams
	b. Provision of Petanque Piste	Consider site for a Petanque Piste	PVPC / All		 Piddletrenthide Football Club Plush Youth Cricket Club Archery Club Table Tennis at Piddlehinton Village Hall Badminton Club
	c. Improve existing sport and recreational sites	identify and prioritise specific projectsaccess funding	All Sports and Leisure Club organisers PVPC	Dec 2013	- ongoing for all clubs and site owners

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Topic	Need	Proposals	By Whom	Complete by	Action to date
9. Young People (continued)	d. Provide shelters in recreation areas	- Assess need through workshops with young people, if need confirmed, identify possible sites and access funding	PVPC	Dec 2015	
10. Public Issues	a. Investigate feasibility of building a new village hall to replace one or both existing halls		PVPC	Apr 2014	
	b. Investigate ways to make people feel safer	Maintain and improve communication with the police Continue to support or establish neighbourhood watch and awareness	All	Ongoing	- good relationship with PCSO, attends Coffee Morning, last Friday of each month at Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall and Parish Council Meetings. Also available on 101 or 07500 816291 Dorset Police Ringmaster information available on http://www.piddlevalley.info/ringmaster.php
	c. Improve TV and radio reception				Advent of digital TV and Radio appears to have improved reception
	d. Improve mobile phone coverage in the area	- Consider approaching mobile providers and DCC re planning regulations	PVPC	Dec 2013	
	e. Improve speed and access to broadband	- continue to lobby for better broadband speed	All WDDC DCC	May 2015	DCC and WDDC already committed to improving broadband speed in Dorset

					ACTION PLAN
Topic	Need	Proposals	By Whom	Complete	Action to date
			ł	by	
11. General	a. Encourage greater participation	- promote events and activities	All	Ongoing	- Piddle Valley News and Views
	in community events and		PVPC		- Piddle Valley website
	activities				
	b. Explore renewable energy	- look into renewable energy	All	Dec 2013	- many houses already have solar
	options in the Piddle Valley	schemes both private and	PVPC		panels
		community			
	c. Encourage energy efficiency in	- lead by example	All	Ongoing	
	the Piddle Valley	- encourage better housing design	PVPC &		
			WDDC		
Key:	PVPC – Piddle Valley Parish Council	WDDC – West Dorset District (Council DCC	C - Dorset	County Council
	All - All of us, as member	ers of the community DCA - I	Oorset Community .	Action	