Easton Royal Parish Council Portfolio Report August 2020 External Meeting**s**

**Pewsey Community Area Recovery Group Meeting Tuesday 16th June via Zoom**

The Pewsey Area Board (PAB), the Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) and Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership (PVTP) invited the Parish Council to attend the Pewsey Community Area Recovery Group (PCARG) meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the issues and identify actions/projects to assist our community as we moved out of lockdown in the post-lockdown era in which social distancing, protection of the vulnerable and strict hygiene would be necessary I

Invitees to the meeting included local community and volunteer groups and organisations, churches, schools, surgeries, Parish Councils and businesses.

Because not everyone has access to zoom or the internet a meeting was also held at The Little Lunchbox Café events room in Pewsey with a link to the zoom participants.

The meeting was well attended and thoughts on the recovery phases where discussed. What had worked well? What are the key challenges? What are the opportunities? How can we continue the momentum of volunteering? How do we move forward as a community?

A short business survey was also sent out prior to the meeting and the main points were:

* Over 75% of businesses surveyed have changed the way they work.
* Most felt that they would reopen and pull through but will need help in doing so.
* The main concerns seemed to be around getting business, keeping customers and staff safe as well as consumer confidence.

Notes of this meeting are available on the PCAP website.

**Pewsey Community Area Recovery Group Meeting Tuesday 21st July via Zoom**

Key Item:

Following the last meeting on 16th June, the lottery announced funds for covid recovery projects up to £50k. PCAP developed some actions from the meeting in June and applied for this grant in partnership with PVTP The application covered providing off the shelf itineraries for visitors, an app linked to the walking leaflets on the Visit Pewsey Vale website, providing recycled IT tech for those not on line with support to use it, providing a youth café, offering pop-up market stalls for an outside market in Pewsey. If not, successful other grants will be sought, and projects delivered as and when funds become available.

Notes of this meeting are available on the PCAP website.

**Pewsey Community Area Partnership Meeting Thursday 23rd July via Zoom.**

Key items:

* Cllr Colin Gale ( Rushall Parish Council Lead on Transport) applied to Better Deal from Bus Users which was a fund from central government, putting forward a proposal for new bus services that linked Burbage, Upavon, Marlborough and Devizes to Pewsey station and possibly including Beckhampton to Calne.
* Film of Pewsey on ITV This Morning was successful, which has been co-ordinated with PVTB.
* PCAP in talks with GWR regarding how they can work with GWR, including possible partnerships with the PVTB.
* There is a Great British September Clean Up from 11th-27th September. It is hoped that those who were going to participate in March will join in on the new dates.
* Memory Café still closed for the time being, hoping to resume in September or October.
* Wiltshire County Council cabinet meetings are still taking place online. A Pewsey Area Board Meeting took place online during lockdown just to re-elect the Area Board.
* Two reports of fly tipping

Notes of this meeting available on the PCAP website.

Margaret Holden

Easton Royal Parish Council