

# PARISH PLAN

PROGRESS REPORT

TO

PARISH COUNCIL

27 FEBRUARY 2013

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## Introduction

1. This formal Parish Plan report marks the completion of the first round of consultation with the community.

## Consultation

2. This dialogue with the community has taken place as follows:
  - June 2012 – Parish Plan newsletter article
  - 29 June 2012 – Consultation with members of the youth club in the village hall
  - 30 June 2012 – Parish Plan stand at the village fete
  - 17 July 2012 – Public meeting in the village hall
  - 2 September 2012 – Creation of Parish Plan website and on-line bulletin board
  - 24 September 2012 – Parish Plan newsletter article
  - December 2012 – Parish Plan newsletter article. Questionnaires distributed to every household in the parish
  - February 2013 – Parish Plan newsletter article
  - 27 February 2013 – Presentation to Parish Council
3. In addition, there have been 5 meetings of the Parish Plan Steering Committee (3 of which attended by Community First) where committee members have been able to pass on any views and concerns which may have been expressed to them.
4. On this basis, the committee is reasonably confident that everyone in the parish, who may have wished to contribute their views, has had opportunities to do so by one or more of the following means:
  - Face to face with a steering committee member
  - Via email to a steering committee member
  - Via written correspondence to a steering committee member
  - By using the on-line bulletin board
  - By filling in a questionnaire

## Are The Views of the Survey Representative of the Community?

5. A comparison of the demographics of the households which sent in a questionnaire response, compared with that of the Pewsey area in general, suggests that we have a good cross section in terms of age. Albeit there appears to be some slight under-representation from households containing 0-4 year olds and those containing over 75s. See Annex D for more detail.
6. A comparison, by area, of the number of households which sent in a questionnaire response, against the electoral roll, indicates that the major areas of habitation (Enford, East Chisenbury and Coombe) all averaged a 60% return rate, with Newtown and Compton achieving 50% or more.
7. The poorest response was from Littlecott (<20%), however it is entirely possible that some respondents (whether deliberately or inadvertently) may have identified themselves incorrectly. For the smaller communities, this will have a significant effect on the calculated return rate.
8. Overall, the committee feels that the views contained in this report are representative of the community.

## Overview of The Survey

9. Two types of questions were used in the questionnaire – multi-choice tick boxes and free text. The purpose of the multi-choice questions was to stimulate thought, which would increase the likelihood that respondents would then be prompted to use the free text boxes to express ideas and opinions. As had been anticipated, however, most respondents simply answered the multi-choice questions and skipped the others –the bulk of the returns contained relatively little free text.
10. In analysing the responses, however, the multi-choice responses should only be viewed as ‘coarse’ indicators of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the way things are. The really valuable part of the survey is the free text - although it is also probable that some free text responses were prompted more by the question than by any great depth of feeling.
11. For example the question:

*“What new facility do you think would MOST benefit the community (eg. a shop, post office, bakery, allotments, etc)?”*

unsurprisingly returned most votes for: shop / post office; allotments and bakery (in that order). Whereas, reading around responses to other questions, it is evident that very few people are genuinely inconvenienced by travelling elsewhere to shop – what they really want is a focal point in the village, somewhere to have a reason to walk to and someone to pass the time of day with and exchange a bit of gossip – a shop would fit the bill, but it doesn’t necessarily need to be a shop.

12. So, although this report attempts to provide the survey evidence in a neutral manner, there is also some interpretation provided as well since, without this, some issues could be missed.

## Summary of The Responses

13. An in-depth analysis of the results of the survey is addressed in the following section of the report, however a summary of the findings is listed below for convenience.

### Household

14. Only 11% of the population were born in the parish – the rest of us are incomers. Our demographics (as regards age breakdown) appear to match that of the surrounding area. Almost half (48%) of us are in full-time or part-time paid employment, with 25% (second largest category) retired, and 17% in the education system. Our children go to a variety of different schools – there is no focal point. 33% of households have one or more members involved in voluntary work. 20% of households have at least one family member who is either self-employed or runs their own business. Most households rely on more than one fuel – most popular household fuels are: Oil (60%); Electricity (standard rate) (53%); Wood (46%). Despite heavy dependence on oil, only 6% of heating oil users belong to a bulk oil buying scheme. At least a half of people, who use electricity to heat their homes, don’t use Economy 7.

### Transport

15. The majority of us (75%) commute to work or school on a daily basis by car or motorbike, with around half the school children using a school bus. 98% of households get in their cars to do a

weekly shop, and 91% in order to pick up an extra pint of milk – only 2% of households use public transport to get to the shops (suggesting that even those who are entitled to free public transport generally don't use it). Only 6% of us car share on a regular basis (77% say rarely if ever) – the main reasons for not sharing were: difficulty identifying someone with similar travel needs (34%); and not wanting to be tied to someone else's schedule (55%). 25% of us felt that the cost of, or (poor) access to, public transport was affecting quality of life, with 50% of us saying we would make more use of it if it was cheaper and/or ran more frequently. Over 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of respondents were concerned to some degree over road safety, and roughly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of respondents felt there was a shortage of pavement, street lighting and parking in their areas. There are numerous requests for speed limits and traffic calming measures throughout the village.

## Shopping

16. By far the most popular shopping destination is Amesbury, followed by Salisbury and Devizes - these 3 account for 70% of households shopping trips. Around 8% order groceries on the internet. Around 20% of us have regular deliveries of milk, newspapers, etc. 90% of us use the shops at either Netheravon (40%) or Upavon (50%) for small purchases. Over 40% of us grow vegetables or fruit, with smaller numbers breeding chickens, ducks and rabbits. Over 85% said they would buy from a local market (if there was one) – around 20% would sell their own produce. Almost half of us would like a shop/post office in the village, but recognise that it could not be run on an economic basis – a smaller number would also like to see allotments. A number of people proposed using the pubs as part time shops, delivery points for parcels, newspapers and on-line orders.

## Community

17. 72% of respondents said they had good friends in their own locality or elsewhere in the parish – only 5% said they didn't feel part of a community. Amenities were ranked in the following order of importance to the village: Village Hall; Pubs; Paths; Church; Play Park; Parish Hall. 89% of respondents thought that the amount of organised entertainment in the parish was about right - the other 11% thought there was too little - nobody thought there was too much. Of those who claimed allegiance to one of the 2 village pubs, the breakdown: was Swan (70%); Red Lion (30%). Of those households with children: roughly half said their children had used the youth club or taken part in organised holiday activities; and roughly half (not necessarily the same half!) said they were happy with activities and facilities provide for young people. A number of suggestions were proposed as to how children's facilities could be improved. People were mostly happy with the social facilities in the village, however a number of concerns were raised regarding the Swan.

## Village Hall

18. 21% of respondents attend events at the village hall as often as they are able. Another 32% said they attend a few events each year. 47% attend rarely or never. Apart from personal and geographic issues, the main reason that people didn't use the village hall more often was that they were not interested in the type of events. 4% of respondents thought that events were too expensive. Some elderly and/or disabled respondents said they were afraid of going (or didn't wish to go) alone (or were unable to get there on foot. About 20% of households are a member

of one or more of the sporting and recreational clubs. There were a large number of suggestions for different types of entertainment events, and for new sporting and recreational clubs.

## Parish Hall

19. 9% of respondents attend entertainment events in the Parish Hall as often as they are able. Another 10% attend a few events each year. 81% attend rarely or never. Apart from personal and geographic issues, the main reason that people didn't use the parish hall more often was that they were *not interested in the type of events* – the remainder either didn't like the venue or were unaware of what activities were held there. About 5% of households are a member of one or more of the sporting and recreational clubs. There were a number of suggestions for different types of entertainment events, and for new sporting and recreational clubs, as well as a number of comments to the effect that it was not a suitable venue for entertainment, and a number of others who thought it should be pulled down. As might have been anticipated, people are divided.

## Church

20. 33% of respondents don't use the church at all, whereas 10% are regular church-goers. The bulk of the remainder mainly use it for funerals, weddings and the like. A handful of respondents thought the church should be used more as a community space for secular/social events. There were some suggestions as to how services might be improved however, of those that expressed an opinion, the vast majority are happy that the schedule of services meets the need of the community.

## Communication

21. For over 90% of households, the newsletter is the main source of information about what's going on in the parish. Over 95% either read it from cover to cover or, at least, flick through it when it comes through the door. The most useful bits were considered to be: informations about events; trader adverts and NHW / Police bulletins. Two thirds of respondents made use of the parish phone directory, although 20% thought that having a parish phone directory, website, email list or facebook page was in some any way an invasion of privacy. Over 80% of respondents have broadband, and 53% assessed performance as adequate or more than adequate (of the remainder, half thought that performance was awful). 73% of households get a good mobile phone signal throughout the house, with another 22% able to get a signal upstairs or in the garden. 3% get no signal at all. The biggest number of comments related to improving broadband / BT infrastructure, TV and radio reception and more/better/tidier notice boards in the village.

## Governance

22. In all but one instance the majority of respondents thought that the village committees were doing a good job, although 30% of respondents didn't know what the parish council did (43% for the PCC) – and in the case of the parish hall committee, the majority didn't know what they did. Around 40% read parish council minutes, and 86% feel that the level of management of parish affairs is about right (11% think there is too little). About 40% of respondents felt that they contributed enough to the community, another 40% would like to contribute more. The biggest

number of comments related to a desire for more, and better, engagement by the parish council with the community, and a maximum tenure of 3 years for councillors.

### Dislikes

23. On the whole, we rub along fairly well with the military and the farmers, and are not greatly inconvenienced by flooding or vandalism, however we do get annoyed by litter and dog mess, and are particularly concerned about speeding traffic.

### Likes

24. People like living here. The benefits of living in a relatively small community, in the countryside for most people seem to outweigh the disadvantages of not being in close proximity to shops and other amenities.

### Final Comments

25. The final comments re-iterated many issues which had initially been raised in response to other questions. Main themes were: a reduction in the speed and volume of traffic passing through the village; the need to build better community spirit.

### Issues

26. Analysis of the issues arising from the survey is still ongoing however, in the meantime, the Parish Council are requested to respond to the following council-specific proposals which have been developed from the survey responses:
- The Parish Council should engage more with the community and inform the Parish what they are doing:
    - More use made of the newsletter, emails, website and other media to put the PC message across (see the Pewsey PC website for a good example of this <http://www.pewsey-pc.gov.uk/Committees>)
    - Hold occasional 'beer and sandwich' type village meetings where people can talk to councillors in an informal and relaxed environment
  - That vacancies and re-elections are better advertised so as to give more opportunity to recruit new members and fresh ideas.
  - Chair bi-annual meetings with the other parish committees with a view to:
    - Facilitating coordination of event planning
    - Facilitating coordination of mutual assistance between committees
    - Monitoring governance of the parish committees (auditing and publication of accounts and minutes of meetings; holding of regular meetings; periodic turnover of committee members)
    - Agreeing allocation of precept and community fund donations on a basis of need, and on a basis of where they will provide most cost-effective benefit to the community
    - Coordinating and overseeing bids for community area grants and the like

### Further Work

27. Other issues, still to be identified, can be broadly categorised as:

- **Individual Actions** – Things that people can do for themselves.
  - **Community Actions** – Issues which can be tackled, within the community, by existing village committees, or which may require a new project team to be established.
  - **Working In Partnership** – Issues, for example traffic control, which cannot be resolved except in conjunction with an outside agency such as Highways Department.
28. Some of the smaller issues will be able to be resolved quite easily, and at little or no expense – these can be progressed without further consultation. For example, newsletter articles about bulk fuel schemes; promoting the work of the village committees; telling the community where they can find out information about what is going on in the village, etc.
29. Other issues will need to be considered by the various village committees. The next round of consultation will involve discussions with committees in the village in order to establish which of these issues can, and should, be taken forward – considerations will inevitably include cost and resources required to implement them. Some issues will be dropped if considered inappropriate or not-feasible - more issues may well be identified as consultation continues.
30. The final list will then be presented to the community so they can vote on what should, and should not, be included in the final action plan.
31. We are however aiming to deliver a 10 yr plan. So nothing should, at this stage, be dismissed on the basis of ‘we already tried this but we didn’t get anywhere’ or ‘there’s no money’. What is not achievable in the short term may well be a different matter when tackled as a long term project...it may very well be unachievable in the long term as well but we won’t know that until we have tried.

## Outline Timetable

As things stand, the schedule for completion of the Parish Plan is as follows:

- 19 March      Presentation to other village committees
- April              Collate feedback
- May/June      Second public consultation meeting
- August              First draft of action plan for village committees
- September      2nd draft of action plan for public review
- October              2nd questionnaire
- November      Parish plan complete
- December      Plan distributed with newsletter

## **Annex A - Questionnaire**

This is the questionnaire which was delivered to the community with the December newsletter.

## **Annex B – Questionnaire Responses**

The following reports have been generated from a database containing the results of the survey. All the data is contained in the reports – nothing has been excluded.

## Annex C – Results of Other Consultation

The following 2 charts show the results of the various ‘straw polls’ taken at the following venues:

- 29 June 2012 Youth Club
- 30 June 2012 Summer Fete
- 17 July 2012 Public Meeting

Those who attended, registered their ‘likes and dislikes’ and ‘issues’ using postit notes. The results have been collated into 2 charts:

- **Issues** Shows how many people raised each issue.
- **Likes & Dislikes** Shows (using smiley or frowning faces) how many people took either a positive or negative view of these things.

## Annex D – Demographics

The parish-level results of the 2011 survey are not yet available on the Wiltshire council website, do the following analysis is a comparison of the 2001 census *predicted* population figures for the Pewsey area compared with our survey results.

**Q1.** Based on a foot survey, we have around **283** ‘dwellings’ in the parish, however some of these are lets, and some are not permanently occupied. According to the electoral roll, there are **255** homes in the parish containing voters registered in this parish. The fact that we collected **155** questionnaires means that the overall return rate was just over **60%**.

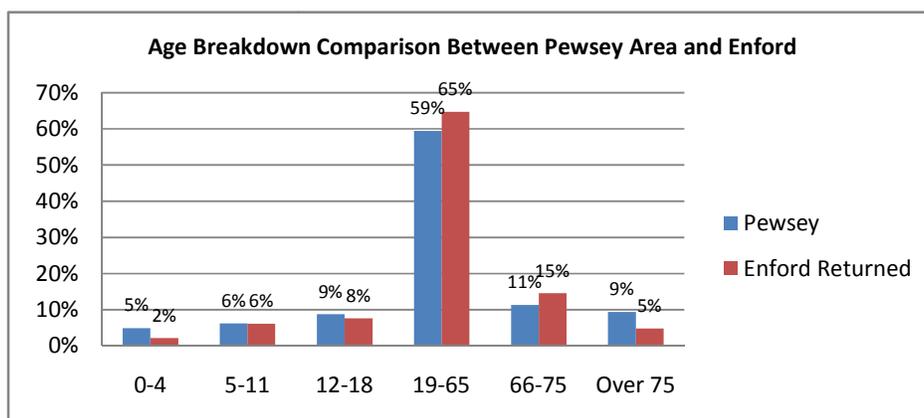
**Q2.** According to the electoral register, there are **511** registered voters (ie. 18 or over) whereas our survey accounts for **319** in the 19+ age groups, with perhaps another **4** more if we assume an even distribution amongst the **29** in the 12-18 year age group.

$$(319 + 4) / 511 = 63.2\%$$

This correlates well with the **60%** return rate, suggesting it might not be unreasonable to estimate the *actual* population, and age breakdown, of the village by factoring up the figures here by **1.6** (if we base village house count on the electoral roll), or slightly more if we want to account for all **283** dwelling

Looking at the overall predicted age breakdown for Pewsey area for 2013, and comparing it to our own return, gives the following table and chart:

	Pewsey (Predicted)		Enford (Returned)	
<b>0-4</b>	690	5%	8	2%
<b>5-11</b>	856	6%	23	6%
<b>12-18</b>	1214	9%	29	8%
<b>19-65</b>	8,244	59%	246	65%
<b>66-75</b>	1570	11%	55	15%
<b>Over 75</b>	1306	9%	18	5%
	<b>13,880</b>		<b>379</b>	

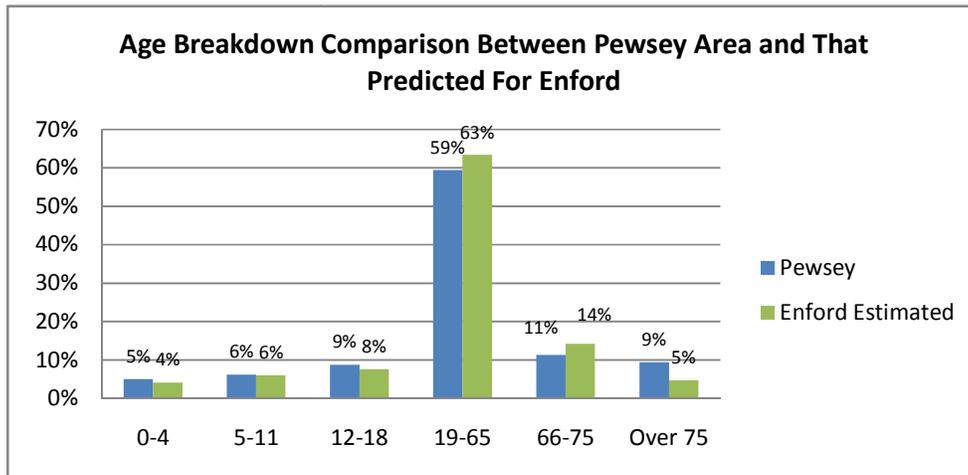


Again, this also correlates quite well. The under-count of 0-4 and over75 years being possibly due to the fact that the very elderly, and households with very young children, will have been less likely to send in a return. Being a rural community, with fairly poor facilities, it may also be the case that the very elderly will choose to live somewhere closer to 'civilisation' where they are able to do so.

If we therefore assume that the proportion of over 75s is about right, but double the number of 0-4 year olds, and factor the whole return by 1.6, we end up with the following estimate for total village resident population.

	Pewsey (Predicted)		Enford (Returned)		Enford (Estimated)	
<b>0-4</b>	690	5%	8	2%	27	4%
<b>5-11</b>	856	6%	23	6%	38	6%
<b>12-18</b>	1214	9%	29	8%	48	8%
<b>19-65</b>	8,244	59%	244	65%	407	63%
<b>66-75</b>	1570	11%	55	15%	92	14%
<b>Over 75</b>	1306	9%	18	5%	30	5%
	<b>13,880</b>		<b>377</b>		<b>643</b>	

The final breakdown, compared to the Pewsey area prediction for 2013, would then look like this.



**Q3.** We have a predominantly immigrant population. The number of households going back more than one generation must be even smaller.

**Q4.** Perhaps not a good representation of the data. Looking at it a different way we can also see that:

- Number of households with no-one in full or part time employment – 55. Suggesting that 55 / 154 (35.7%) households don't have a wage-earner.
- Of these, 46 have one or more retired members (so presumably have some sort of pension), leaving 9 households with no visible means of support.
- Of these, there are 2 households with children attending school or further education.

## **Annex E – Powerpoint Presentation**

Where possible we have tried to condense the information by grouping similar comments into themes. So although we are definitely **not** presenting solutions, or even courses of action, at this stage, some of the more frequently occurring themes are going to look like fairly obvious issues which will need to be addressed in the plan