



Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan

*Help make the
Vision
for our future*

Newsletter 12

Happy New Year to you all.

At the end of last year we held a series of meetings in each of the villages to find out your views on the draft proposals for the Neighbourhood Plan. I found the meetings enjoyable and informative. It was gratifying to find that the vast majority of you are in favour of having a Neighbourhood Plan; however the devil is in the detail and there were different views on the Plan's content.

Thank you to all who came and filled in the Housing questionnaires. We have not yet had time to analyse these fully so unfortunately the results will be in the next edition of News and Views. (Because of printing deadlines I am writing this at the beginning of December with Christmas just two weeks away.)

We have proportionally far more feedback from Piddlehinton than the other villages. This is in part due to a form being delivered to each of their houses so that they could be completed by people unable to attend the meeting. We think this was a good idea and so this month we will be doing the same for the other villages. I encourage you to fill these out – it is your plan and we need to know what you think. These will be delivered separately from News and Views so that all villages are treated in the same manner.

A topic that was regularly brought up at the meetings were the existing problems with flooding and sewerage. Indeed it was the dominant issue for Piddletrenthide. The correction of the existing problems is out of scope for the Neighbourhood Plan which is about the future. But the Plan must not exacerbate these problems. It is clear that more information at a detailed level, only known by local people who experience the problems first hand, is needed to address this now and in the future, so we have included yet another questionnaire. We have enlisted the help of our MP Oliver Letwin who has agreed to visit the Piddle Valley later in January to inspect the problems that many continue to experience. Your response and supporting information will be greatly appreciated.

Paul Johns, Working Group Chairman
telephone 01300 348154

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

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

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

Five meetings were held in November and December, one in each settlement, to consult on Neighbourhood Plan policies and housing suggestions and they were very helpful to the Working Party in providing many clear views and advice on our proposals. All were chaired by Geoff Wright an independent planning expert with extensive experience of Neighbourhood Plans. We are also very pleased that Jo Witherden recorded the meetings as she will be assisting us with the writing of the Plan and has very up to date knowledge of Neighbourhood Plan requirements having until recently been a senior planner in the WDDC Planning Department.

Attendance at the meetings was generally good with 42 at Alton Pancras (plus 10 members of the Neighbourhood Plan team), 39 at Piddletrenthide (plus 12), 27 at Plush (plus 12), 25 at White Lackington (plus 12) and 52 at Piddlehinton (plus 15).

A questionnaire seeking comments on the suggested development sites in each settlement was distributed at each meeting (with the audience being asked to take copies away for others) and the number of responses received to these (by the closing date of 8 December) was Alton Pancras 26, Piddletrenthide 14, Plush 7, White Lackington 8 and Piddlehinton 29. It should be noted that 70 responses have also been received from Piddlehinton residents from the questionnaires delivered to each address in that parish

With the exception of Piddlehinton, the NP Working Group consider that the number of responses received may not accurately represent residents thoughts, therefore they propose to hand deliver questionnaires to every address in Alton Pancras, Piddletrenthide, Plush and White Lackington early in 2015, which will give everyone in these settlements the opportunity to complete a questionnaire. An analysis of all comments received will be carried out and acted upon by the Housing Group. A report will be published in the next edition of News and Views.

Finance

led by John Cox, Chairman, Piddle Valley Parish Council

j.cox@madasafish.com / 01300 348454

With the impending village and settlement meetings planned for November and December 2014, the Working Group considered the benefit of an independent facilitator and recorder. This decision was taken to ensure that the control and reporting of the meeting would be completely unbiased and funded from monies the Parish Council has received to produce the Neighbourhood Plan from Locality, Dorset Community Action and West Dorset District Council. The major proportion of this funding had to be spent by December 2014 and failure to spend the funding would result in any unspent monies being returned.

Sewage/flooding

At the Piddletrenthide village meeting on 27th November, residents voiced overwhelming concern about both the sewage system backing up and flooding in the village. Whilst the Environment Agency does publish a map of flood risk zones the information is largely worked out by computer and may not reflect the real situation.

As a consequence, the Working Group decided to send you a further questionnaire (included with this issue of News & Views) to seek information from all valley residents about these important issues. This detailed information would be beneficial both for future development planning in the Neighbourhood Plan and for residents in order to work together to try to resolve immediate problems. This information can only come from those who live with the problems.

Subsequent to that meeting, a member of the Working Group contacted Wessex Water, and their query and Wessex Water's response is reproduced below. We have also requested a copy of Wessex Waters Operational Management Action Plan.

We are acutely aware of the sensitive nature of this topic to residents, however we believe it is a genuine issue, and hope residents respond with as much information as possible.

If you have any such knowledge, please would you complete the questionnaire, marking locations on the map, and sending any photographs or other documents you may have by the 16th January to

PVNV Postbag at Piddletrenthide Post Office & Stores.

If you would prefer to forward the questionnaire and supporting information by email, then please send to

npchair@piddlevalley.info

1 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Query to Wessex Water, 28th November 2014 :

It is now some 11 months since my last communication, and with winter approaching I would like to know what works have been carried out in Piddletrenthide since the winter of 2013/2014 to mitigate the overflowing of the sewers, which has occurred here in the last two winters, necessitating the use of road tankers to remove the overflowing sewerage result in any unspent monies being returned.

2 Wessex Water Response, 8th December 2014 :

Thank you for your email of 28th November about our flood prevention work in Piddletrenthide. Since the construction of the combined sewer overflows in 2011, we are required to report to the Environment Agency on an annual basis and have continued to deliver an Inflow Management Plan. As part of this plan, we monitor the water quality in the receiving watercourse to confirm there is no detriment to the water quality from the screened overflows. This year we have recorded groundwater levels, sewer levels and water quality to monitor the performance of the sewerage system. We have carried out further sealing works where groundwater infiltration has been identified.

WS Atkins, acting as our consultants, are carrying out further modelling of the system to review the performance of the current overflows and identify possible locations for additional overflows which would relieve the system and provide further protection. This is in the early stages and any proposals would require approval from the Environment Agency.

As a direct result of the last two wet winters, an Operational Management Action Plan has been prepared which sets out the operational measures to be taken in circumstances of high groundwater levels. This has been issued to our Operations team. We have written to Dorset County Council to advise we will be objecting to further development in locations at risk of groundwater flooding and where no groundwater strategy is in place. We will be reporting again to the Environment Agency in April 2015, with an update on our work this year. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Steinhausen, Customer Relations

Broadband

Most valley residents will have noticed the erection of new BT green cabinets at Wightmans Orchard in Piddletrenthide and The Cross, Piddlehinton, which are for the introduction of Superfast Broadband into most of the Piddle Valley area by Spring 2015, with the Egypt area of Piddletrenthide and Alton Pancras following in Summer 2015.

With regard to the Enterprise Park, we contacted the Superfast Broadband team asking them why the Enterprise Park area of Piddlehinton was excluded, and have now received the following request from the Superfast Team:-

"Following your enquiry I have raised the Enterprise Park with my Superfast Dorset and BT Openreach colleagues. We think it would be valuable to have a meeting with the managing agent or owner of the business park to clarify how the network operates in this area and discuss options for the future. Do you have contact details for someone we could get in touch with to represent you on this matter?"

We have responded, enclosing contact details as requested.