



Village Action Plan Monthly Report to the Parish Council

I would ask that the Parish Councillors be made aware of the following please:

Road Safety

The 'map' of perceived problems and possible solutions has been presented to the PC Highways Committee for review. The Road Safety Team awaits feedback and any instructions as to how the volunteers can help the PC further.

Public Transport

It was reported at the last PC meeting that Mick Newman and members of the Plumpton Station Partnership Scheme had been invited to attend the annual awards gala for the Association of Community Rail Partnerships as Plumpton had been short-listed for the 'Adoption Station of the Year' award. Whilst Plumpton was not the overall winner, it was a runner-up. This is no mean feat, given the Plumpton Scheme has only been in place for 15 months, whereas other entrants have been running for over 15 years! Plumpton was one of five stations short-listed out of 14 applicants. I would ask the PC to note the hard work and achievements of Mick Newman and the volunteers in getting this far in such a short space of time.

In the last report it was noted that the Plumpton Station Partnership Scheme had been awarded Southern's 'Station Partnership of the Year' with £1,000 being awarded to further improve the customer experience. The Partnership has surveyed station users, volunteers and attendees at the VAP Annual Meeting and a formal request as to how the award could be spent has been passed on to Southern for consideration. A meeting is to be held with Southern towards the end of October to review the options. The PC will be advised before Southern undertake any work.

Environment

Recycling

Volunteers are continuing to keep the cardboard recycling area as tidy as possible. This has become a much used village facility and clearly is of benefit to a large number of residents. VAP was delighted to hear from Sarah Osborne, our LDC Councillor, that it is the intention of LDC to start kerbside collection of cardboard with effect from 1st April 2012. This is likely to be well used as Plumpton has the highest number of households using kerbside collection in the District. In the meantime, if the Parish Council could assist with reminding residents to fold their cardboard into the bins, this would save considerable space and make the use of the bins so much more efficient.

Footpaths

a) Walks leaflets

To celebrate the grant funding for the reprint of the 16 Walks Leaflets from Collaborate and the SDNP Authority, the VAP Footpaths Team are leading a walk on Sunday October 23rd, meeting at 1.30pm at the Half Moon for a 5.5 mile walk over the Downs via Ashcombe Bottom (walk 6), returning for tea and scones at the Half Moon. These events have always been popular and we very much hope for fine weather and another well-attended event.

b) Walks Book

The VAP Footpaths Team is very much hoping to produce a book of the Walks leaflet. The Team has been encouraged to embark on this exciting project by the offer of substantial sponsorship by Southern Railway which will be match-funded by VAP. The remaining costs will be sought by offering sponsorship opportunities to our local businesses. The PC will be advised as this project proceeds.

Plumpton Goes Green

The VAP PGG Team has successfully won grant funding from the SDNP Sustainable Communities Fund for the purchase of a community Apple-press. The equipment has been ordered. A trial mini-event may be held this Autumn to understand quantities etc with planning taking place for a community-wide series of events in 2012.

Following the Energy Monitoring Audit that the PGG Team organised through LDC for the Village Hall, the Team is delighted to hear that Nick Satchell is discussing a possible community solar scheme for the Village Hall roof with advisors, Ovesco. Obviously if VAP can help with this exciting development any further we should be delighted.

Communications

The VAP Communications Team is in the process of installing six further small boards throughout the parish for the use solely of community groups and societies to advertise events. These will be very welcome assets for the community and thanks to the volunteers for their work and research required in choosing the sites and liaising with Highways. It should be noted that the boards are not intended as boards for commercial advertising or 'official' Council notices.

Policing and Community Safety Team

The Team is hoping to discuss a nationwide scheme called 'Streetwatch' with the Lewes Police. Reg Stone, as the PC representative for policing matters will be involved in any discussions. A date is still awaited.

The Team has had useful discussions with Chris Enser, the owner of the Plumpton Health & Fitness Club (a qualified defibrillator user) about the type of community-based defibrillator equipment that may be suitable for Plumpton. Advice has also been offered by our local Hospital NHS Trust and a meeting is being arranged with a possible supplier. Should this project progress the PC will be kept advised.

Business

The VAP Business team held its third Plumpton Business Breakfast on October 6th. It was well attended again. People heard about an exciting web-based project hosted by the University of Brighton and Action in Rural Sussex which includes a data-base functionality for businesses. A workshop on marketing techniques was also held which participants appeared to find very useful as it generated considerable discussion. A fuller report will be given in the November magazine and it will also be available on the VAP website.

General

It was good to see you at the Village Action Plan 'Review of the Year' on 28th September – we very much hope that you found the evening useful. Thanks also to Terry and Paul for their short talks on behalf of the Parish Council. There was a good turnout of around 50 people – the Councillors may like to see the full presentation on the VAP website www.plumptonvap.co.uk