

# BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY

November 2014

## Business

First assessment of Enterprise Park by Sue Hennessy two years ago in 2012

Recent years have seen change from traditional sources of employment. Rough figures suggest :

- Enterprise Park businesses employ some 230 people but few live in the Valley. The overall turnover is probably in the region of £15m
- Valley firms mainly serve residents as may be seen in the Piddle Valley News & Views.  
Only one shop; those at Piddlehinton and Buckland Newton have closed  
Jaspers Hairdressers, one or two agricultural engineering businesses, a number of home/offices and workshops all together have turnover of some £5-6m
- The school employs about 12 but is still under-populated by local children
- Farms are now larger and employ fewer than 40 people in the Valley over 11,000 acres; they generate nearly £20m turnover

Future progress can best be achieved by :

- Parish and District Councils to better supporting entrepreneurs to establish new businesses but also to expand once there
- Building closer links between Enterprise Park stakeholders and local community
- Helping fast track the rollout of superfast broadband for Enterprise Park and elsewhere
- Campaigning for better mobile phone reception
- Mitigating the lack of transport to work

- Exploring more locations for small business in disused farm buildings
- Resisting conversion of commercial property to residential use
- Supporting the needs of local farmers

## Community

- Recognising the needs of the many local groups for a wider choice of suitable venues
- Assessing future viability of existing halls and churches, rationalising and improving buildings on a planned programme
- Recognising what is missing : gym, one larger venue, use of churches to protect future
- Improving and supporting the range of local catering establishments

## Finally

The guidelines of the Piddle Valley Design Statement still pride the best agenda for resolving the tension between the creation of more business opportunities and the need for new housing with the protection of the rural landscape in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.