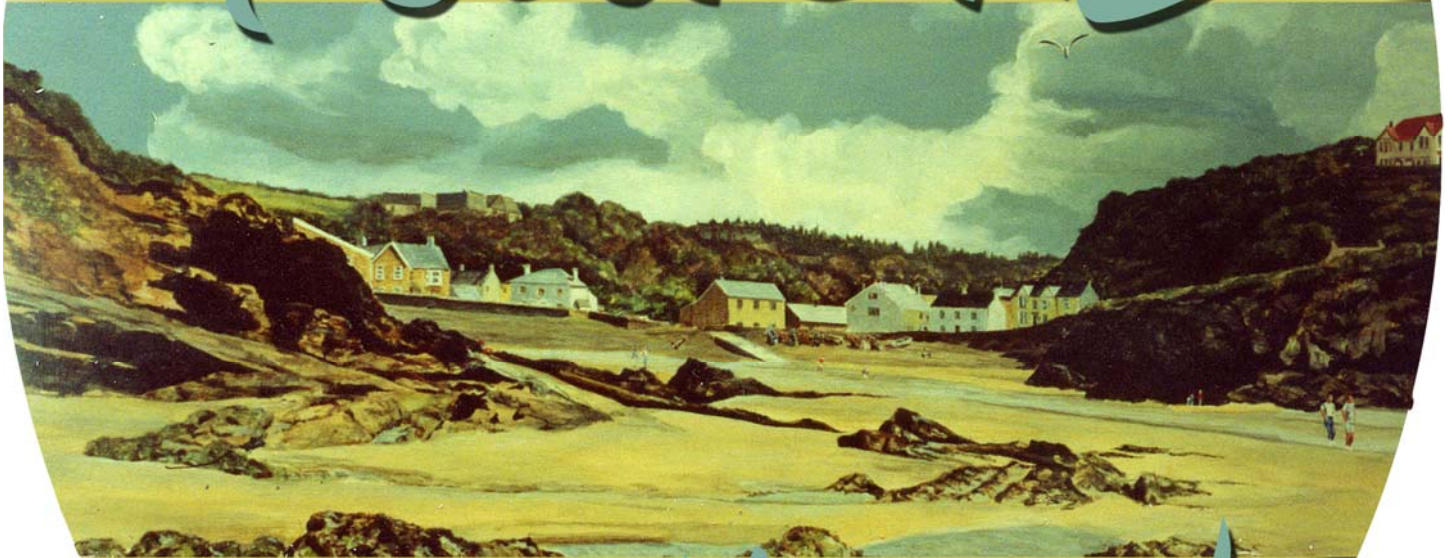


# The

# Heavens



# Action Plan

UPDATED 2008

PLANED's 'Shaping Our Futures' Project is part financed by the National Assembly for Wales through the Community Facilities & Activities programme



# THE HAVENS ACTION PLAN

Prepared By  
**THE HAVENS COMMUNITY**  
In Conjunction With



Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise &  
Development

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*This Action Plan was agreed at the Public Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 following circulation of the Draft Action Plan to households in The Havens community*

## **INTRODUCTION & WAY FORWARD**

The intention of this Action Plan for the Havens is to describe issues and ideas identified by residents, which addressed over the next few years, would improve the quality of life in the community.

The various contributors to the Action Plan realise that progress can best be achieved through discussion and partnership, as proposals involve land or property ownerships, different interest groups and various sources of funding. Although some of the proposals are relatively small scale, they are likely to be of substantial benefit to significant groups within the resident population. In other instances the changes suggested are of a larger scale and may have a major impact on a wider range of interests.

By preparing this community led Action Plan, which stresses the benefits that can be achieved through working together, it is hoped that public and private sector support and funding can be attracted to implement the various initiatives described in the Plan.

## **BACKGROUND TO THE ACTION PLAN**

In 1996 The Havens Community Council and Menter Preseli undertook a Community Appraisal which resulted in the Community Action Plan of 1997 and identified not only a number of areas for improvement but a need to strengthen a sense of community in Broad Haven and Little Haven.

In March 2003 the Havens Community Council invited PLANED (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development) to work with the Council to update the original Action Plan. The invitation stressed the wish to involve all ages and representatives of the various aspects of the community in the formation of any Plan. It was also proposed to establish a Community Forum of local people, voluntary groups and associations to help implement the proposals identified in the Plan.

Improvements achieved between the 1997 and 2003 Action Plans include:

- A car park provided for use by Broad Haven Primary School and the Village Hall
- Disabled access to Broad Haven Village Hall in conjunction with improved toilet facilities including those for people with disabilities
- New furniture for Broad Haven Village Hall
- Disabled toilets in Little Haven Memorial Hall
- New changing room facilities and improved playing field at Broad Haven
- Slash Pond improvements including a boardwalk and entrance porch with interpretation boards
- Haroldston Woods improved footpath access
- Community IT Centre established in the Youth Hostel
- Improvement of the Cabin Club site on the Broad Haven sea front
- The Havens History Group formed
- Luncheon club for elderly set up
- Bus shelters installed.



*Community members participating in the Visioning Workshop*



*'Wetlands & Rivers' workshop at the completed Slash Pond Board Project in Broad Haven*

Two Community Visioning Exercises were held in Broad Haven between March and May 2003 and these were followed by Action Planning meetings with the aim of producing a second Action Plan for circulation among the community.

Since the 1997 Action Plan, major new housing developments involving over 120 dwellings were completed by 2003 and a further 50 dwellings have been constructed or were under construction by the end of 2007. The Joint Unitary Development Plan for Pembrokeshire 2000–2016 does not allocate any further land for development although this Plan is currently under review.

This coastal area contains a high proportion of second homes, and Pembrokeshire generally is seen as an attractive area for retirement. Recent residential developments did not, and do not, include any provision for improvements to local social and recreational facilities. The Havens Community Council recognised that, in view of these vastly changed circumstances, it would be appropriate to update the Action Plan as and when appropriate.

In the Autumn of 2007 discussions were held between The Havens Community and PLANED when it was agreed to review the 2003 Plan as part of a “Shaping Our Futures” exercise which is concerned with sustainable project planning. Invitations were sent to all households and local groups and societies were encouraged to participate and to have displays of their works on show. The associated discussions gave an opportunity to examine how projects already identified by the community in that Plan could be delivered in a more sustainable fashion and to raise the general awareness of sustainability issues among residents.

The two workshops which were held in Broad Haven on 24<sup>th</sup> January and in Little Haven on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008 progressed from a general view of sustainability to the application of the concept to The Havens. Four examples of key proposals taken from the 2003 Plan in the meeting at Broad Haven were subject to evaluation to assess their level of sustainability and three from the Little Haven meeting.

The opportunity was also taken to update the 2003 Plan by recognising the successes already achieved and by updating the remaining proposals or adding new suggestions.

## Achievements since approval of the 2003 Plan

- A Community Forum for The Havens has been established.
- An Environment Group and an Energy Group formed.
- The History Group has regenerated and insurance obtained for their activities.
- An audit of the 'community buildings' at Broad Haven and Little Haven was completed in November 2005.
- An access audit of Broad Haven has been completed and a number of improvements subsequently undertaken including broader pavements and flush kerbs, ramps replacing steps, handrails installed and improved access to premises.
- A link path constructed with footway lighting between the older part of the village and Sandyke Lane / Atlantic Living.
- Major improvements have been made to the Broad Haven play area (under the guidance of the Carnival Committee).
- Data for local walks has been gathered and guided walks are available
- Walk cards are to be supplied by PCNPA this summer (2008) - hopefully laminated.
- PCNPA Ranger Days have been organised during the summer.
- A Business Directory produced.
- Broadband is now available.
- The web site [www.stbridesbay.co.uk](http://www.stbridesbay.co.uk) has been set up
- IT facilities further developed and classes continued.
- Improvements to The Point at Little Haven, including refurbishment of the shelter.
- A book of local photos is available for sale.
- An Orange Bag collection scheme introduced by the County Council
- Traffic calming measures have been introduced along the Front in Broad Haven.
- The charging regime in Broad Haven Centre and Little Haven (PCC) car parks modified to allow for shorter stays as well as an all day fee.

- ❑ Blue Flag status achieved for the beach at Broad Haven.

A number of these projects require continued development to increase their level of success, for example the web site will need to be maintained and the level of IT training increased.

## HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

The Havens is a coastal community situated on the southern side of St. Bride's Bay comprising the parishes of Walton West, Talbenny and Haroldston West. The community possesses two main villages, Broad Haven and Little Haven plus a number of smaller settlements. Most of the community lies within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP) with the long distance coastal path stretching the full length of the area.

There is evidence of human settlements and activity in the Havens area from early times with many archaeological sites with surviving bronze and Iron Age monuments (see Cambria Archaeological records of sites within the *Community of the Havens* 14/09/2001).

There are seven Grade II listed buildings in the Havens:

- ❑ Broad Haven House
- ❑ Haven Fort Hotel
- ❑ The Manor House, Little Haven
- ❑ Lime Kiln at Mill Haven
- ❑ Church of All Saints, Walton West
- ❑ Walton West Farm House
- ❑ Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Talbenny

### **Broad Haven**

Very little is recorded about the settlement with one reference on George Owens map of 1602. Since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century it has gained a reputation as a seaside resort and today the tourist industry is an important element in the local economy.

A new housing estate was built in the mid sixties and further development was completed in the 1980s. The late 1990s saw the conversion of Broad Haven House to flats, and some one hundred and ten dwellings being built on land to its rear. Twelve more flats were added as infill across the seafront. The turn of the millennium brought the demolition of the Broad Haven Hotel with thirty flats taking its place and a further thirty six more houses have been constructed off Sandyke Road.

Since the mid nineties nearly two hundred new dwellings have been built in Broad Haven with no additional social infrastructure.

### **Little Haven**

The first appearance in recent history is on Christopher Saxon's map of 1578 when he recorded the cove as 'Lytle' Haven and the small hamlet of fishing huts and single storey rubble buildings has evolved into the bustling tourist village of today. It seems that the present village owes its growth to two water mills (now gone), fishing and coal (*Cambria Archaeology: Little Haven Settlement*). The stream that divides the village is the boundary between the parishes of Walton West and Talbenny.

Following 1860, Little Haven underwent a sudden expansion with the building of many of the larger dwellings that we see today. Sea Bird Close (The Wigwams) was built in 1973. A further eight houses have been constructed since 2003 on the site of the demolished Little Haven Hotel.

In 1980 a Youth Hostel was opened in Broad Haven with seventy-five beds and study facilities for schools, The Hostel records some 10,000 overnights per year. Caravans and self-catering properties provide the bulk of accommodation for the tourist trade together with a large number of 'second or holiday homes'.

However, since the early nineties two hotels and two private Social Clubs have closed in The Havens

70 responses from the Community Questionnaire were received from a possible 375 posted out. This represented 125 adults, and 17 young people under the age of 17 yrs.

The majority of respondents to the Community Questionnaire had lived in The Havens communities for over 16 years, many indicating that they had lived there all of their lives. Those that had moved to the village more recently gave their reasons as 'to be near family,' 'better quality of life'; 'beautiful scenery and to be near the sea.' Many indicated that they had chosen to retire to The Havens communities or to move there 'to get away from the city' 20% of respondees indicated that work was a contributing factor to their move.

## 1. COMMUNITY FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES

### **Commentary**

The Havens is an area that is particularly active throughout the year. In the summer the area is heavily involved with tourism and numerous outdoor pursuits are popular. Whilst area has a resident population of about 1400 with 544 households in the main summer months it has been estimated that there are about 5600 additional residential visitors per week and up to a thousand day visitors.

### **Broad Haven**

The annual Carnival in Broad Haven organised by the Carnival Committee is well supported, as are the duck race, raft race and the regatta in **Little Haven**. These events provide enjoyment for both locals and visitors alike. However concerns have been expressed over the difficulties experienced in obtaining insurance for such occasions and activities and as a result many popular events have been unable to take place.

Communication is an important aspect of community life in the Havens and as a result a newsletter (the 'Havens Community Diary') and a website ([www.the-havens-communities.org.uk](http://www.the-havens-communities.org.uk)) have

been created to inform residents and visitors of local history, current news, forthcoming events and community activities.

Formation of the Community Forum, as proposed in the 2003 Action Plan, has improved understanding and co-operation among the different organisations in Broad Haven and Little Haven and has made greater use of local expertise and any financial resources that may be available.

The 2003 Action Plan identified that in **Broad Haven** community facilities are inadequate for the current and future needs of the population. At present facilities include; a village hall, an I.T Centre located in the YHA Study Centre and a new changing room on the Recreation Field.

The Village Hall is 125 yrs old and sadly in its present condition and layout can no longer provide the facilities required for modern day activities and use. Space limitations also mean that public meetings held in the Hall are overcrowded and the recommended capacity of 100 persons (80 seated) is demonstrably inadequate for the current size of the Havens community. Baptist Chapel congregations in the summer also exceed the building's capacity. Car parking facilities are also insufficient as they comprise the School playground and the car park at the junction of Marine Road and Trafalgar Terrace; the same areas are used in association with the Chapel.

A feasibility study has been carried out for a major refurbishment of the Hall to meet current and future needs. Practical contractual difficulties and high costs involved in undertaking the project were identified and have led the Management Committee to conclude that a newly built community premises on a new site represented better value for money and would result in a purpose made multi-functional building more suited to meet the current and long term future needs of the community.

There is general consensus that, while a new Community Centre is considered essential in the longer term, it is important that the community makes the best use of existing facilities in the interim.

In November 2005 an audit of existing buildings that could accommodate, with or without adaptations, the various activities identified in the Action Plan was concluded. The audit included:

- i) Broad Haven Village Hall and Little Haven Church Hall
- ii) The old Deckchair Shelter (as a potential site for village office / TIC).
- iii) The Youth Hostel and Study Centre
- iv) The Recreational Field Facilities
- v) Primary School (use after hours)

As part of the 'Shaping Our Futures' workshop in 2008 the development of a multi-function centre was selected as a priority project to meet the needs of an increasing population including those associated with better health and well-being and as a focal point to encourage greater community cohesion. The new building to be eco-friendly incorporating energy saving aspects, with under-floor heating from an earth pump, to be accessible for all and be attractive for use by all ages. It would also incorporate one large space capable of accommodating 200 people and a range of multi-sized rooms to cater for various activities, one of which could be the Youth Club.

The design of the new Centre should also reflect any commercial potential of the building including opportunities for wedding receptions, concerts and tourist information services.

The opportunities for partnership fund raising between the Chapel's congregation and the community and use of the lower portion of PCNPA's car park as a possible site could assist in delivery of this project.

## **Broad Haven**

- Broad Haven Primary School provides facilities for about 115 children aged 4 to 11 from a wide catchment area. Potential developments by the County Council include generally opening the school premises for greater use by the Havens community. As a result of concern being expressed over the lack of childcare facilities, proposals for the provision of a Nursery Unit and Early Years Learning Centre at the school are being consulted upon by the Local Authority.
- There is a very successful Playgroup in Broad Haven meeting in the Broad Haven Village Hall Monday –Thursday with a Parent and Toddler session on Friday mornings. 24 pre-school children regularly attend the sessions.
- The Broad Haven play area contains a variety of recently provided equipment for all ages with the site divided into a section for younger children and a second for those who are more adventurous.

Responses from the community questionnaire indicated that 11 families (out of 66 responses) regularly use childcare facilities. A lack of local facilities results in the majority using family and friends in the community, 6 families use Out of School Hours Clubs and 2 attend the Pre-School Playgroup.

## **Little Haven**

The Little Haven Bowen Memorial Hall is very busy and well used. It accommodates the Bowls Club, W.I, Girl Guides, and the Art Group and holds has four art exhibitions each year and many social functions. Within Little Haven there are four notice boards strategically situated around the village displaying forthcoming events and information. The village is also covered by the newsletter and website.

There is a growing number of children in Little Haven village and the small beach area provides the only space for them to play. Due to

the amount of other activities that utilise the same space, an alternative play area is needed.

## **Proposals**

Work with the Community Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and other Agencies to:

- ❑ **Improve the existing Village Hall in Broad Haven** to provide the best possible facilities until a new centre is built; improvements to include making greater use of the upper floors for storage.
- ❑ **Identify as site and construct a new village hall in Broad Haven** to cater for meetings of up to 200 people and to be attractive and welcoming for all users. The design to be to a high eco standard and to contain a number of rooms to hold various meetings and exercise / keep fit classes. One important user to be the Youth Club, another could be the proposed tourist information centre.
- ❑ **Improve local Health Care and Medical facilities.** The Local Health Board to research the potential of the existing Doctors Surgery, which includes a Pharmacy service, to be used as a one-stop facility and include additional health care services.
- ❑ **A Community Worker / PCC Youth Officer** – to work with the Community Forum to help implement proposals identified in the Action Plan. It is particularly felt in **Little Haven** that any available assistance should be orientated towards the youth in the community.
- ❑ **Development of Adult Education Classes** – consultation with the community has identified a number of training needs
- ❑ **Obtain reasonable community events insurance.**
- ❑ **Improve communications** by installing additional Community Notice Boards in Broad Haven
- ❑ **I.T Centre in the Youth Hostel.** Continue to recruit volunteers and varying levels of technical assistance to manage, administer and supervise during informal and formal use of the Centre. Continue discussions with education providers to broaden the range of skills that can be funded and delivered at the Centre.

## 2. YOUTH

Results from the 2001 Census reveal there are over 260 children in the Havens younger than 16. It is essential that their needs are met and the quality of life improved for the future generation of the Havens community. Currently opportunities include the

- ❑ Beach, sea and local countryside (including the junior rowing team in Little Haven).
- ❑ Play area at Broad Haven.
- ❑ Football pitch and club house also in Broad Haven - although there are no junior or youth sports teams.
- ❑ The Youth Club held in Broad Haven Village Hall.

When compiling the Action Plan, the Havens Community expressed a wish for the voice of the youth to be heard. In July 2003 a Havens Youth Visioning Workshop was organised by PLANED in conjunction with the Broad Haven Youth Club in which a group of local young people identified the weaknesses, strengths and opportunities that exist in the Havens and focused on potential projects and action that young people could take to make them happen

The enthusiasm of local skaters and concern over the noise of skateboarders on the seafront has led to the proposal of a skateboard park in Broad Haven. The proposal has been driven by the strong support from community members and the Community Council pursuing this plan. A site has been identified next to the football field and consent has been given by the owner, for the community to lease it for the purpose of a skate park. Planning permission and grant funding is still required.

More recently consideration has been given to the construction of a multi-use games area (MUGA) which is likely to attract a greater range of activities, including markings for a tennis court, and therefore participation by a wider age range.

Developing a recreational facility would form an acceptable part of the priority project of maintaining the green areas within the centre of Broad Haven.

'Action for Youth by Youth' was one of three priority projects identified at the Shaping Our Futures Workshop held in Little Haven with the concept being based on the involvement of Kids and Teen Voices in sustainable projects (an initiative already being developed by Broad Haven School) and using existing facilities or with the development of new. Use of existing facilities would include the beach for volleyball and the development of new a skate park which must be in a central and visible location (for safety and 'showing off') or a MUGA. Activities could be organised with the YMCA Chapel and the Football Club and promoted using The Community Diary.

## **Proposals**

Work with the Community Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and other Agencies to:

- Play area in Broad Haven.** Continue, with the assistance of the Carnival Committee, to improve the quality and nature of the play equipment.
- Play area in Little Haven.** Identify a site for an adventure-type area as a safe environment for children to play. The main problem is identifying a site within the centre of the village as all land is currently privately owned.
- Develop a Havens Skate Park or MUGA** and involve potential users in the design of the facility and any equipment to maximise its attraction, subsequent use and maintenance. Young people in the Havens have expressed a willingness to work in partnership to supply the required information and assist in raising funds.
- 'Paint the Bus Stop' on Millmoor Way** as a potential youth arts project in Broad Haven which would enable the young people to express their artistic side and consequently reduce

vandalism. The youth group are working with the Community Council. PLANED has offered to assist.

- ❑ **Raise funding for Youth Activities.**
- ❑ **Develop more youth activities in the Havens** The need for transport was identified, for example, access to a mini-bus would enable youth trips to cinemas, theme parks, cliff jumping and to meet with other youth clubs to see what projects they are undertaking in the community and for joint activities. The youth expressed the need for a place to just meet and socialise as well as having organised activities.
- ❑ **Investigate ways of improving the existing Youth meeting place in the Village Hall** – to include storage of equipment. This may not be feasible as space in the Hall is currently very limited. An alternative meeting place for young people may need to be identified.

### **3. RECREATION & SEAFRONT ACTIVITIES**

#### **Commentary**

The Havens community recognises the potential of the surrounding natural environment including the sea, beaches, the waterfront and local wildlife for recreational activities both for locals and visitors of all ages. However, it is also accepted that:

- ❑ These resources are of limited attraction during wet weather and that there is a general lack of facilities available in the area.
- ❑ It will be necessary to manage a balance between the unique attractions of the local beaches and excessive development of that resource.

As a large proportion of the community are retired, more under cover activities and facilities need to be developed to enable a varied, long and healthy lifestyle to be achieved. Improving community facilities and creating additional recreational and keep fit opportunities would not only benefit local residents but also be attractive to visitors in poor weather and during 'out of season' periods and therefore of general benefit to the economy.

All 66 respondents to the Community Questionnaire are interested in looking after their health and would like more opportunities to exercise.

Suggested barriers to exercise included a lack of spare time and better local facilities. Concern was expressed about the state of local footpaths. Specific exercise classes for the over 50's arranged in the daytime was suggested. The most popular ways to exercise are walking and gardening. Swimming and Water sports are also regularly undertaken.

One proposal to diversify the attraction of Broad Haven was for a bandstand for open air entertainment and as a meeting place.

In **Broad Haven**, activities such as windsurfing, surfing, kite surfing and general beach activities take place and lessons can be provided for those showing an interest. Concerns have been expressed as to whether some of these activities should have separate areas on the beach to reduce the possibility of accidents happening.

'Blue flag' status has been achieved for the beach in **Broad Haven** and work will continue to meet the standards required. Some of these include the provision of lifeguards, a dog ban on the north end of the beach, first aid, drinking water and facilities for storage of equipment (at least during the high season).

Due to the number of activities that take place on the beach in Broad Haven and Little Haven, residents have also requested that showers be provided on the seafront.

A recently improved football pitch and clubhouse with new changing rooms are located at **Broad Haven**. Unfortunately no junior team currently exists although the Recreation Association hopes to develop one in the near future.

In **Little Haven** the community makes good use of their close proximity to the sea having a very active rowing club, which consists of teams of all ages, and a sailing club with a boat park close by. The beach and seafront in Little Haven is used by many different groups of people for a variety of activities, some of these include, divers, rowers, swimmers and sailors. It is felt that, like Broad Haven, more needs to be done to provide a safe environment for those wishing to enjoy the sea for recreation.

## **Proposals**

- ❑ **All weather playing surface at Broad Haven** - to enable activities such as basketball, tennis and five-a-side football to take place. SportsLot have indicated potential assistance for this proposal as the second stage of the Recreation Association's funding application. The first stage related to the changing room facilities etc. 30% of the cost will be required to be raised locally.
- ❑ **Broad Haven seafront** - research existing beach activities to identify what is lacking in the area and the opportunities for new recreational uses. As a result, water-based and play activities for children and adults, locals and visitors might be developed. This could also help to generate employment in the area.
- ❑ **Identify a designated areas / channels for speedboats and jet skis in Broad Haven and Little Haven and possibly moored pontoons for swimmers.** This approach would provide safe areas and allow enjoyment of the various activities with reduced risk. Advice received from Dale Sailing has confirmed that this would be feasible in Little Haven. Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) has been approached and the Little Haven Boat Owners Association has met to discuss.
- ❑ **The feasibility of providing public Showers on the seafront at Broad Haven and Little Haven** to be explored.
- ❑ **Increase the number of safe moorings for visiting boats in Goulthrop Bay;** to be discussed with Little Haven Boat Owners Association.

- ❑ **A Beach Officer/Village Warden in Little Haven** to control the boats and activities that utilise the beach and collect the fee for use of the slip. It is considered essential that an officer is employed during the summer season as soon as possible. This role could be in conjunction with the responsibilities of a Village Warden. Seek support and funding assistance, possibly from NPA and PCC.
- ❑ **Reinstate the steps on the right side of the Point at Little Haven** – to allow boat owners and children safe access from the water to the beach.
- ❑ **Investigate reinstating the dive board at Little Haven** – since removal of the board children dive from the rocks which is considered more hazardous and there is concern for their safety.
- ❑ Re-introduce the annual triathlon which had previously attracted participants from beyond The Havens.

## **4. TOURISM, BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT**

### **Commentary**

The Havens is situated in the centre of St Brides Bay, one of the busiest tourist areas in Pembrokeshire, and within easy access from Haverfordwest. There is currently no Tourist Information Centre serving the area as the National Park Visitor Centre in Broad Haven has been closed.

One of the key projects identified at the Shaping Our Futures Workshop held in Broad Haven was to open a Havens Tourist Information Centre staffed mainly by volunteers. The TIC would provide locals and visitors with information about the immediate environment, its history and the services offered including activities and facilities, events, accommodation and as a meeting place for walks and talks. It was also envisaged that the Information Centre could:

- Encourage greater participation by residents in local societies and activities and

- Promote the strengths of the area including local skills and products.

Possible sites for an Information Centre could be as part of the proposed village hall, at Anchor House on Enfield Road or at the Broad Haven Youth Hostel, where I.T. facilities are currently available.

The Broad Haven Youth Hostel currently provides affordable overnight accommodation for walkers, students and schools. However the number of Hotels and Bed and Breakfast accommodation in the Havens has dramatically reduced over the recent years and with it the number of local jobs. Working patterns have changed with the majority of local residents working outside the villages. New businesses in the hospitality industry would help to address this problem, by providing local employment and boosting the local economy.

The area has a history of many residents running their businesses from home, partly due to the lack of premises for small businesses. As a result many concerns have been deterred from coming to the village. Although there is strong community support for looking at the potential for small business



development, no provision for this type of development has been made under the Joint Unitary Development Plan. It is felt that by providing affordable premises for small businesses, not only will the local economy be improved but it would also enhance the visitor experience and increase the sustainability of the area by revitalising the community. Enquiries have been made to the PCNP, however the outcome has so far been unsuccessful.

The introduction of Broadband to The Havens has assisted the retention and development of local businesses.

Responses to the Community Questionnaire included 21 (of 66) from people who own or manage a business in the Havens Communities. Between them they employ nearly 56 part time staff and over 30 full time staff.

Challenges included: – more affordable housing for employees, as well as cheaper rents and rates for business premises. 13 (of 21) expressed an interest in free business advice and in particular that there should be more free business clinics with qualified people to help.

**Little Haven** has a small but thriving hospitality industry serving locally caught mackerel, lobsters and crabs supplied by the local fishermen. This activity contributes to the vibrant village atmosphere that is so often found by the seafront and the reason why so many visitors are enticed to return year after year.

One of the projects identified at the Little Haven Shaping Our Futures Workshop concerned the provision of Craft Workshops in the centre of Broad Haven as the arts scene is well represented at the Havens. Among the crafts suggested in the centre, which could be constructed by the National Park Authority or as an extension of the proposed village hall, were textiles, potters, metal work and a bakery.

Such a centre could prove viable as a large number of tourists are attracted to The Havens and there are no comparable centres within 8 miles. Such an attraction would also complement the beach and the refreshment facilities in the area.

## **Proposals**

Encourage the Havens Community Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and other agencies (including Pembrokeshire Business Initiative) to:

- ❑ **Link the Havens Business Directory** with a Pembrokeshire network of such directories. [www.pembrokeshire-business.net](http://www.pembrokeshire-business.net)  
[www.mypembrokeshire.com](http://www.mypembrokeshire.com)

- ❑ **Provide affordable Premises and associated infrastructure for Small and Medium size Enterprises** to support the development and formation of local businesses and provide them with an opportunity to display their products, in particular local produce and arts and crafts.
- ❑ **Seek and promote different types of business and to offer advice** and support to local businesses, particularly those in the hospitality industry.
- ❑ **Develop a ‘Havens Tourist Information Centre / Village Office** to provide the facilities and promote existing and new tourist opportunities in the area and to represent the needs of both Broad Haven and Little Haven.
- ❑ **Develop eco-tourism initiatives** to include lectures and trails, with the possibility of including accommodation as part of the marketed package. Eco or green tourism involves exploring the opportunities within the environment without exploiting them. These activities would help raise awareness of the unique local biodiversity and provide alternative activities and additional income by making use of the area’s existing resources, e.g. orienteering trails, Slash Pond project, opportunities for coasteering / cliff jumping etc.
- ❑ **Promote a sustainable shellfish industry** and ‘fish week’ initiatives.

## **5. ENVIRONMENT & ENHANCEMENT**

### **Commentary**

The Havens are surrounded by some of the most spectacular natural environment in Pembrokeshire and is of great geological importance. Located within the Pembrokeshire National Park and within easy reach of Skomer, Skokholm, Grassholm and Ramsey Islands, bird and meadow reserves, an unspoilt seaside and a ‘blue flag’ beach, Broad Haven and Little Haven are surrounded by green fields and woodland, some of which (in Little Haven) are owned by the National Trust. Part of Little Haven has been designated as a Conservation Area and the surrounding coastline has been designated as a Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI). The

appearance of the villages and their setting is therefore considered extremely important to residents and it is felt that general enhancement is needed.

Householders' gardens within the villages assist in increasing the attraction of the area, engendering a sense of community pride. Many people take great care and effort in the maintenance of their gardens with spectacular results. This pride is encouraged by the annual garden competition, with different themes and prizes given to the best small and large gardens.

In Little Haven the Amenities Association is very active and takes responsibility for the village environment, planting flower boxes, the communal gardens and strimming. However, it is recognised that due to a lack of time many residents and holiday homeowners are restricted to how much they can do in their gardens and it has been suggested that assistance could therefore be offered in such cases.

The presence of litter and dog fouling was also identified at the Shaping Our Futures Workshop at Little Haven as a particular problem, depreciating the beauty of the local environment and endangering both wildlife and people throughout the Havens area. Although **Little Haven** is designated a 'Litter Free Zone' and signs are situated at the village entrances highlighting this status, problems with litter still persist.

The Orange Bag scheme has recently been introduced to The Havens increasing many of the opportunities for recycling. Linking the days of refuse collection to the mainly Saturday turnover of holiday accommodation would assist in keeping Broad Haven and Little Haven tidy and reduce the opportunities for seagulls to distribute litter. The availability of wheelie bins with tight fitting lids would also assist.

Possible actions to raise awareness and reduce the effect of dog mess include a dog warden and the provision of biodegradable bags in the Lifeguard hut in the summer and available at Londis

stores in the winter. It was agreed that high profile articles in The Havens Diary would raise the conscience of people dropping litter and of local dog owners.

The attraction of the area, which is particularly rich in wildlife / biodiversity, has been enhanced as a result of the Community Slash Pond Walk Project in Broad Haven, providing a species-rich habitat for local flora and fauna. It is felt that the education side of this project could be expanded with a series of workshops and additional interpretation panels. The community have already held one workshop on 'Rivers and Wetlands' in conjunction with PLANED and are keen to develop their own series of outdoor seminars, enlisting specialist help including advice from a forum of environmental organisations with similar experience. Broad Haven School already incorporates rain harvesting techniques.

The **Broad Haven** community is conducting their own wildlife survey /diary, which allows visitors and residents to log what wildlife they see. It is hoped that after each 12 month period the diary will build up a picture of the type of species that can be found in this area. With contributions from specialists such as the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership, the diary will be able to provide the relevant information needed for interpretation panels. Knowledge and understanding of what exists locally in terms of wildlife and local environment needs to be encouraged through interpretation and explanation.

'Going carbon neutral' was raised at the 2007 Broad Haven Workshop particularly in respect of the proposed TIC and opportunities for community composting.

The Havens Environment Group is very proactive within the community. 'Litter Picks' and Beach Cleans are organised regularly through out the year. The wonderful displays of flowers in various locations in the community are a testimony to the dedication of this group to their community and to the environment. It would however, welcome more support from the community.

## Proposals

Working with the Community Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and other agencies

- ❑ **The Havens Environment / Coast Care Group** to continue to encourage local residents to take responsibility for their environment, including the coast, become more actively involved and learn about local wildlife, biodiversity and ecological sustainability. The Group could also be linked with an anti-litter group and involve local schools. PLANED and its specialist partners can provide assistance.
- ❑ **Interpretation Boards (Slash Pond Area, Trafalgar Rd, Sandyke Rd) and Environment Leaflets** are needed to inform local residents and visitors of the rich local biodiversity, the importance of Special Sites of Scientific Interest and the local heritage. Liaise with the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership and Countryside Council of Wales.
- ❑ **Additional Community Environmental Workshops.** A previously held 'Wetlands and Rivers' workshop illustrated that environmental workshops can be successfully used to raise awareness, educate and inform the local community including youth groups. Workshops also have the possibility to provide a 'niche' opportunity for eco-tourism and could be developed by the proposed Environment Group with the assistance of PLANED.
- ❑ **Biodiversity Study.** In conjunction with the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership, establish and monitor the types and number of species in the Slash Pond area and provide information for interpretation boards.
- ❑ **Further development of Slash Pond and Haroldston Woods.**
  - **Encourage youth** and school involvement and produce worksheets to designs which could be prepared by the proposed Environment Group.
  - **Where necessary organise maintenance** works to the Slash Pond area; particularly to the boardwalk.

- **Work with the Wetlands Trust** to protect the Reed Beds in the Slash Ponds.

**Enhancement of the stream in Little Haven** – currently the stream is overgrown. It is cleared once a year by volunteers but it is felt that more could be done to develop it into a feature for the village whilst acknowledging the importance of it as a sanctuary for wildlife.

- **Guided Walks (heritage and environment)** for residents and visitors to learn about what exists locally in terms of heritage and the environment.
- **Better signage for local rights of way** to inform people of the numerous walks in the area. Panels displaying the different walks and horse riding opportunities would be ideal for the whole area and general interest for visitors.
- **A Gardening Club** to share valuable knowledge and encourage the enjoyment and maintenance of local gardens. Efforts need to be made to involve holiday home owners. The gardening club could be linked with the Youth Club or School and / could open up the possibility of a Gardening Service, employing local people. It is possible that this revenue could pay for gardening seminars.
- **Seaside Gardening Seminars.** Residents have experienced difficulty in growing certain plants and maintaining their gardens as a result of the high salt content in the soil. Workshops on this particular subject would assist local residents to be more successful.
- **Support the Community Council to liaise with PCC to investigate problems experienced with refuse collection and examine the following:**
  - **Provision of affordable wheelie bins to local households as the** local litter problem is exacerbated by the presence of gulls.
  - **Alternative refuse collection day or provision of refuse skips with closed lids** to try and solve the problems experienced when holidaymakers leave on Saturdays and the rubbish is not collected until the following Friday.

- **Continue to address the problems of inadequate provision of Litterbins in Little Haven**
- **Improve recycling opportunities at the Trafalgar Road Car Park Broad Haven for items not forming part of the Orange Bag scheme, including glass and most plastics. Ensure the area remains clean and tidy.** Investigate whether Marine Car Park may prove to be a more suitable site.
- **Explore opportunities and possible sites for community composting.**
- **Dog litter bins** to be provided by the County Council in Broad Haven and Little Haven – with biodegradable ‘bag it and bin it’ bags provided.
- **Assess the need for more litterbins and associated collections in Broad Haven** – both on the beach and the seafront.
- **Assess the need for more litterbins in Little Haven, which is a designated ‘Litter Free Zone’,** should increased publicity encouraging visitors to ‘take their litter home’ not succeed. The employment of a Village Warden may assist in ensuring Little Haven remains a litter free zone.
- **Place sculptures in chosen local settings** to enhance the local area. This is an opportunity to involve local youth groups and the Haven Development Trust (an off-shoot of the Community Forum) in their design and development.
- **The Energy Group to undertake a ‘carbon audit’** with an action plan and annual targets.

## 6. HERITAGE & CULTURE

### Commentary

The Havens, is particularly rich in local history with many sites of cultural and historical significance. Current guidebooks mention the Havens only briefly and it is felt that the two villages can offer the visitor experience a great deal more than as just a holiday resort. Some of the local sites of historical interest are in desperate need of restoration to ensure that they are not lost forever. It is important to recognise and conserve local features of unique heritage value.

The History Group has recently been relaunched. A number of good quality old photographs of the area exist and there are many elderly residents who have lived within the community for most of their lives and could therefore offer a valuable oral history of the area.

The area offers enchanting views and as a result attracts a number of reputable artists. It is possible that these could be drawn upon to help the community raise the potential of certain projects. Art exhibitions are currently held every year in both Little Haven and Broad Haven, but it is felt that these should be given more encouragement and promotion.

Unexplained events have also occurred locally in the past (e.g. the UFO sighting in 1978), which may be of interest to visitors, new comers and local residents and so therefore offers a potential for further explanation, possible exhibitions and events. A book currently exists offering a predominately fictional account of the sighting.

Funding has already been identified for interpretation panels, and Forest Art have offered wood sculptures and chimes.

## **Proposals**

- Potential projects of the Havens History Group** to include:
  - Additional research including the coal and agricultural industries.
  - Heritage leaflets and interpretation panels (bi-lingual)
  - A second book of the 'History of the Havens'
  - An oral history of the area.
- A unique themed event / festival** to display and promote local talent and attract visitors with activities and music organised around the chosen theme. It is proposed that the Carnival Committee which organises a popular annual carnival every summer could also run a themed event, either in conjunction with the Carnival or at an alternative time of the year.

- ❑ **Collate a list of local musicians, artists, craft makers and writers** and encourage their contribution in the promotion of local exhibitions, events, workshops, classes, sculptures and projects.
- ❑ **Encourage the sharing of traditional skills e.g. crafts and textiles.** There is a strong tradition of local craft skills in the area. Use the list of local craft makers to explore opportunities to share their knowledge and experience with others, for example, through workshops.

## 7. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

### Commentary

The Havens is a popular spot for visitors, the majority of whom arrive by car. Problems with both parking and congested roads are of particular concern for local residents. Although off-street parking in both **Little Haven** and **Broad Haven** is considered expensive perhaps leading visitors to park on the roads, recent changes to the PCC charging regime permit short term as well as day long parking allowing visitors to stop for lunch etc.

The communities can only be accessed by road and many of the visitors staying at caravan sites, walk to the villages along the surrounding lanes, posing a considerable risk to public safety.

Recent discussions involving the Access Officer have lead to improvements to pavements and to the Front in Broad Haven that have increased accessibility for people with restricted mobility both within the village, to public buildings and on public transport. There are likely to be further examples of the need to improve the quality of access within the two villages.

A bus service runs from Haverfordwest to Broad Haven 5 times a day with an additional two journeys on schooldays. There is no service on Sunday.

The Puffin Shuttle operates on three days a week during the winter connecting Broad Haven and Little Haven as part of its coastal journey from St Davids to Marloes with connections to Haverfordwest and Milford. A more frequent service operates during the summer months.

The Youth have identified their need for mini bus transport.

Car sharing is suggested as one method of improving accessibility and reducing the carbon footprint. Cycling was also encouraged as a means of recreation and for local journeys. The provision of cycle parking and cycle ways would encourage their use.

The JUDP indicates a safeguarded cycleway running south from Newgale and turning east along Millmoor Way towards Haverfordwest.

The results of the community questionnaire identified the car as the most popular mode of transport for accessing work, shops and facilities. 62 people (of 66) who replied to the questionnaire used their car for visiting the doctor, dentist or the hospital, with 42 driving in order to exercise at facilities in neighbouring communities. 11 (of 66) would prefer to use the bus/ public transport where possible, with 24 happy with their present transport arrangements.

The environment, health and cost were all reasons given for using alternative forms of transport. The main challenge to using public transport was given as 'regularity of service'

## **Proposals**

Work with the Community Council and Pembrokeshire County Council to:

- Improve enforcement of the on-street parking regime** to prevent cars parking along and near the seafront in Broad Haven and Little Haven, including parking over drop kerbs; proposals which are strongly supported by residents in both villages.

- ❑ **Investigate traffic calming measures for the Havens** - to include: -
  - **A 30mph speed restriction zone for the whole of the Havens area including** the area surrounding Broadway.
  - **A 20mph speed limit for Little Haven and the centre of Broad Haven in view of the narrow steep streets in Little Haven and the volumes of traffic in the summer.**
  - **Additional traffic calming measures** that do not compromise the character of the area e.g. no flashing lights or speed bumps.
- ❑ **Investigate alternatives for disabled parking along the seafront** – to relieve problems experienced with parking on this road.
- ❑ **Undertake a second accessibility audit of the villages** (reflecting recent improvements) and identify locations where further improvements are required.
- ❑ **Bus operators to use low floor buses.**
- ❑ Investigate the possibility of a Havens minibus to augment the existing bus services and provide transport for the youth club and sports etc teams
- ❑ **Horse riding trails** to be developed which would offer potential tourism opportunities and could include accommodation.
- ❑ **Approach landowners** regarding the creation of a bridleway from near Bower Farm to Broad Haven to provide safe passage for visitors staying at the caravan sites and local riders that normally use the B-road.
- ❑ Identify the needs of cyclists, short and long distance, install cycle racks and signpost appropriate routes.
- ❑ Promote car sharing arrangements.

## 8. HOUSING

### Commentary

Due to the beauty of the area and easy access to the beaches The Havens have become a popular location for holiday and second homeowners, some having returned generation after generation. However, it is felt that there are too many second homes and a lack of affordable housing for local residents. In Little Haven, of the two hundred properties in the Conservation Area, only 47 are permanently occupied. Four new houses are being built, only one of which will be permanently occupied.

There are plans for the redevelopment of the old turkey farm, which will include five houses.

After WW2 it was proposed that Broad Haven would be a designated 'honey pot' area for the development of affordable residential housing within National Park. The recent housing developments are the results of that proposal. However, it is felt that the developments so far have been too dense, little has been done to improve the community facilities to cater for the increasing population and the development has actually raised the proportion of second homes, for example, thirty-two 'holiday' flats have been developed adjacent to the seafront. Three affordable houses were proposed behind these flats, however, these did not materialise despite local views for the need for affordable housing. Not one of the studies undertaken by statutory bodies has identified the need for affordable housing and there is no more land allocated for housing development. Concern over the impact of any new housing on the local environment has also been expressed by local residents, along with issues regarding access.

As part of Shaping Our Futures Workshop residents resolved that maintaining the 'green lung' in the centre of Broad Haven was one of their four key projects as the open space provides:

- a central meeting place for all parts of the village and

- ❑ additional activities could be generated with the possibility of an all-weather play area for football, tennis and basketball and perhaps a skateboard park or MUGA.

Replies to the community questionnaire (66) suggested that 14 families would be seeking a new home in the next two years. 4 would be looking to purchase affordable homes, 4 private homes and 5 requiring council/ housing association homes. The main reasons for people moving from the area were identified as work and education.

### **Proposals**

- ❑ **Affordable housing.** That appropriate provision is made in The Havens for affordable housing, including social housing, and year round access to rented accommodation to keep young families and young people in the area. The Havens Community Council to work with Pembrokeshire Housing Association, Pembrokeshire County Council and PCNPA to address this demand.
- ❑ **No further development within the central green area in Broad Haven** (other than for community or recreational use).