

# Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

A U T U M N 2 0 1 8

## BRING BACK WESTBOURNE'S BUSES

Over 900 people have signed a petition to bring back the bus service in Westbourne, which was severely reduced last year amid pressures on public transport nationally. Now just the 54 bus runs to Chichester, on a reduced timetable, leaving many in the Parish unable to use the service.



Cllr Roy Briscoe, said: 'A Parish such as Westbourne with a population of roughly 2,300 people should have a frequent bus service which links it to the rest of the District and nearby towns in Havant Borough. It is not acceptable that such an important service for so many people, including elderly and young people or those without access to a car, has been reduced to such a level and with limited routes that travelling by bus is effectively no longer an option. Without a bus service, Westbourne has become cut off, which is a problem for the Parish if people are not able to get on with their daily lives.'

'This issue has become a regular topic of debate at our Council meetings and we are frustrated that no progress has been made by West Sussex County Council, who are responsible for public transport, to find a solution.'

'The Parish Council congratulates the residents who collected the 900 signatures. It was presented to Cllr Viral Parikh, West Sussex County Councillor, at the Parish Council meeting on 13 September as evidence of how unhappy local people are with the current bus service. The Parish Council urges Cllr Parikh to take note of the petition and to do everything in his power to ensure Westbourne has a sustainable, frequent and well-connected service in the near future.'

To comment directly to Cllr Parikh on the bus service, email [viral.parikh@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:viral.parikh@westsussex.gov.uk) or call 07474 741345. To add your name to the petition, [www.westbournepc.org](http://www.westbournepc.org)

## WATCH YOUR SPEED!

A Community Speedwatch Group has been set up with the support of the police and has been out on the roads in Westbourne over the summer to monitor the speed of passing vehicles using speed detection devices.

Cllr David Mack said: 'Speeding in our village is one of the main concerns of many in our community. We have reported over 300 vehicles driving above the speed limit to Sussex Police. The aim is to educate drivers to reduce their speed, and if this is ignored and there is evidence of repeat or excessive offences, enforcement or prosecution may follow.'



'I'd like to thank the volunteers who have given up their time to receive the training and be out on the roadside. The Parish Council hopes to improve traffic calming measures by installing speed indicator devices, a mobile system fitted to lamp posts, which shows the driver the speed at which they are travelling. An application for funding has been made to Chichester District Council and we are in discussion with West Sussex County Council about their exact locations.'



If you are interested in taking part or would like to find out more, please contact the Parish Council – contact details are on the back page.

## COMMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, CLLR RICHARD HITCHCOCK

I often hear people talking about the village and this almost invariably involves ways in which it could be made an even more pleasant place to live. Many of the ideas

are exciting and innovative, whilst others – though no less relevant – have been around for some time. Roads, traffic and parking are concerns at the forefront of many people's minds but issues such as the continuing existence of our pubs and businesses, the maintenance of public open spaces, the protection of the natural and built environment, health facilities and the care of our elderly and vulnerable residents and public transport are often not far behind.

It's wonderful to hear these concerns and ideas but it is important that they do not remain mere topics of conversation; it is vital that they result in some action.

Whilst some of these actions can be carried out by individuals, joint action is likely to prove far more effective. This is where the Parish Council comes in.

Our powers are strictly limited but we do have access to important decision-makers, authorities who are more likely to listen when approached by a Parish Council rather than a private individual. However, you need to let us know what it is we are required to do on your behalf!

Many concerns are already known to the Parish Council but you may not always be aware that is the case. Moreover, you may not know what actions are being taken to address these concerns. Attending regular monthly Parish Council meetings is one way to find out what is going on but, if that is not exactly your cup of tea, information is available in our newsletter and at [www.westbournepc.org](http://www.westbournepc.org).

And, to take this one step further, by applying to join the Parish Council, or to become a member of a committee, you can become part of the team that is striving to make Westbourne an even better place to live.

## THE BATTLE'S OVER – A NATION'S TRIBUTE

On 11 November 2018, the United Kingdom and its friends overseas will mark the day 100 years ago when the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War. The Parish Council will remember the sacrifice of millions of men and women, and in particular those from the Parish of Westbourne, at a beacon lighting event.



This beacon will be lit on Sunday 11 November at the Rectory Lawn on Westbourne Road, opposite the Church and War Memorial, in Westbourne. Residents are invited to



attend at 6.45pm when the names of those killed in action from Westbourne will be read out before the beacon is lit at 7pm, followed by the Church bells ringing out in celebration of the end of the First World War.

Cllr Nigel Ricketts said: 'We hope that you can join the Parish Council at its beacon lighting ceremony to commemorate this important moment in our history. The beacon is one of thousands that will be lit across the UK as a tribute to those who gave their lives during the First World War, and it is an opportunity to pay our respects as well as hear and share stories with others. The beacon complements the other commemorative events that are taking place in Westbourne in remembrance.

'The Parish Council gives an annual donation to the Royal British Legion and will once again be laying a poppy wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Day.'



## PROGRESS ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Since the Independent Examiner's preliminary report was received in April, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have been communicating with the Examiner via Chichester District Council regarding the recommendations that were made when the Plan was examined.

The Group voted unanimously in August that it had achieved as much as it could and that it needed to move towards referendum, which is the most effective way of protecting the Parish from any undesirable development.

On 13 September, the Parish Council agreed to give the Group permission to proceed with the Examiner's recommendations to date. It is hoped the Plan will now progress through Chichester District Council's Cabinet and will go to referendum early next year. Please keep an eye on the Parish Council website for developments.

[www.westbournepc.org/neighbourhood-plan/](http://www.westbournepc.org/neighbourhood-plan/)

## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

Work is underway to repair and refurbish the Parish Council's 12 fingerpost signs. Westbourne is fortunate to have retained its traditional style cast iron and oak signs and their restoration will help to preserve the Parish's street heritage for many to enjoy for years to come.



## END OF YEAR AUDIT

Westbourne Parish Council's 'Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2017-18' has now been completed and signed by the Council's external auditor, Moore Stephens, without any comments. This completes the financial audit for the year ended 31 March 2018. The Annual Return is available for inspection by any local government elector in the area of Westbourne at: [www.westbournepc.org/finance/auditing/](http://www.westbournepc.org/finance/auditing/)

## NEW HOMES BONUS FUNDING

The Parish Council has been awarded £5,000 in New Homes Bonus Funding - a grant paid by Chichester District Council to reflect housing growth in the area. The Council aims to spend this on installing speed indicator devices, which show the driver the speed they are travelling at, to further improve traffic calming measures in Westbourne.

## WELCOME TO CLLR CHRIS EATON

The Parish Council would like to welcome Chris Eaton, who was co-opted to the Parish Council in September and brings a range of skills and experiences. Cllr Chris Eaton said: 'I'm pleased to have joined the Council and join a friendly and committed team, as well as have the opportunity to get involved in its work and be able to influence local decisions.'



Chris lives locally with his partner and son. Having served for 15 years in the Royal Navy, which included active service in the Falklands War in 1982, Chris left and worked in Borneo before moving to Westbourne in 2005. He now works as an IT & Systems Manager in Portsmouth. His hobbies include Ballroom & Latin Dancing.

The Parish Council now has eight councillors who volunteer to serve the local community and influence decisions for the benefit of the Parish. One place is still available; please contact the Parish Council if you are interested in joining. Contact details can be found on the back page.

## A HOST OF GOLDEN DAFFODILS

The Parish Council would like to give its thanks to Greening Westbourne, who have planted 1,000 wild daffodil bulbs at the village gateways. These are at the 5 entrances to Westbourne and by the tree planted for Major Tim Peake at Monk's Hill playground. They will give a fine floral display in the spring and will grow and multiply for years to come.

## A PLACE TO 'PARK' YOUR BIKE

Some of you may have noticed the new cycle stands outside the Coop and on the triangle in The Square. This project was initiated by Greening Westbourne, who received a Community Chest Grant from the Parish Council for the works, while the stands were donated by the South Downs National Park Authority. If your community organisation would like to apply for a small grant from the Parish Council, please go to [www.westbournepc.org/finance/community-chest-grant-scheme/](http://www.westbournepc.org/finance/community-chest-grant-scheme/)

## NEW HEIGHT BARRIER

A new vehicle height barrier has been installed at the entrance to the recreation ground on Mill Road in Westbourne. The old barrier had been frequently damaged by vehicles turning at the end of the road and

unfortunately it was recently damaged beyond repair. Its new location and visible yellow colour should hopefully help to protect it, and the land that it safeguards, for many years ahead.

## KEEP WESTBOURNE TIDY

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints from residents about the amount of dog fouling and littering that is seen across Westbourne. Residents are kindly asked to ensure that litter bins are used for litter and dog waste and, if one is not available, to take it home with them. Chichester District Council has launched a Green Dog Walkers scheme to help reduce dog fouling and encourage responsible dog ownership. Find out more at [www.chichester.gov.uk/greendogwalkers](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/greendogwalkers)



## HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

All Westbourne residents will shortly, or already have, receive a Housing Needs Survey form by post. The survey

is being run by the Chichester Housing Team at CDC. It is very important that every household completes this survey and returns it by the deadline. The results will be the determining factor in assessing what housing is needed in Westbourne for our young, elderly and disabled in the parish and will be the basis of the Westbourne Community Land Trust's proposals for what to provide.

We neither want to provide too little, or too much, housing; in short we want to get it just right, as far as we can. So please, help the community by completing the survey and then return it in the pre-paid envelope provided.

## REFURBISHING THE MEETING PLACE

The Meeting Place on North Street in Westbourne has been allocated nearly £30,000 of Section 106 funding – a contribution from a developer towards local infrastructure – from Chichester District Council as a result of the new housing at Long Copse Lane in Westbourne. A meeting with representatives from The Meeting Place and the District Council will take place soon to decide how the funding will best be spent on refurbishing the facility.

## CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Call:	07775 654483
Email:	<a href="mailto:westbournepc@outlook.com">westbournepc@outlook.com</a>
Write to:	Clare Kennett, Clerk to the Parish Council, 53 Skylark Avenue, Emsworth, PO10 7GB
Website:	<a href="http://www.westbournepc.org">www.westbournepc.org</a>
Facebook:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/westbournepc">www.facebook.com/westbournepc</a>

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Richard Hitchcock	Chair	01243 389096	<a href="mailto:rahitchcock@btinternet.com">rahitchcock@btinternet.com</a>
Cllr Nigel Ricketts	Vice-Chair	01243 371865	<a href="mailto:nigel58ricketts@googlemail.com">nigel58ricketts@googlemail.com</a>
Cllr Roy Briscoe		01243 696376	<a href="mailto:westbournepcroy@talktalk.net">westbournepcroy@talktalk.net</a>
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Cllr Syd Smith		01243 378438	<a href="mailto:sydsmith@btinternet.com">sydsmith@btinternet.com</a>

## DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mark Dunn	District Councillor	01243 535202	<a href="mailto:mdunn@chichester.gov.uk">mdunn@chichester.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Viral Parikh	County Councillor	07474 741345	<a href="mailto:viral.parikh@westsussex.gov.uk">viral.parikh@westsussex.gov.uk</a>

**The Parish Council meets every second Thursday of the month at 7.15 pm at the Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne, PO10 8SL. Residents are very welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting, which is held in public.**