

# Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

A U T U M N 2 0 1 9

## PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY RESULTS

The recent survey, sent to every resident in the last newsletter, which aimed to find out opinions on what's important for the future of Westbourne has now closed. Results show that residents consider crime levels, traffic flow, and parks and open spaces are the most important. Residents also said traffic calming and crossings in The Square, and public transport are a top priority.

Cllr Lade Barker said: "Thanks to everyone who took part in the survey. Your views will help us, and organisations we work with, to develop plans that meet the needs and wishes of the community. We will analyse the results to incorporate the feedback into our Business Plan, which sets out plans to improve the Parish."

An analysis of the results, and the revised Business Plan, can be found at [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk).

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

We decided to delay the newsletter until after the general election, but it gives us the chance to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Thank you to Westbourne Weekend and residents for all their efforts to make The Square look so festive.

## VACANCIES REMAIN FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Two vacancies remain for parish councillors. It involves working with a variety of people and organisations to represent the voice of the local community and make improvements to the Parish. The Council has ambitious plans to create a thriving community where residents and business can prosper alike, but more people are needed to help make these plans a reality.

The Parish Council is particularly interested in finding a new member, or members, from Aldsworth to ensure full representation from across the Parish. For information about the Council and the role of a parish councillor please see [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk)

## DIVERSION DURING EMSWORTH COMMON ROAD CLOSURE

The Parish Council would like to thank residents who contacted West Sussex County Council with concerns about the diversion of traffic through Westbourne during the closure of Emsworth Common Road in October.



Thanks to everyone's efforts, the works to repair a culvert on the Hampshire side of Emsworth Common Road were allocated additional funding to finish ahead of time in four weeks. Parking restrictions along East Street and The Grove were not implemented, which lessened the impact on local residents and businesses. More signage was displayed so that vehicles avoided the route, but there was still a noticeable increase in traffic, particularly HGVs.

Cllr Richard Hitchcock, said: "We are aware of the village's vulnerability as a thoroughfare during road closures and, increasingly, as a result of new housing

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developments nearby. We are working proactively with Chichester District Council, as the planning authority, and the County Council, responsible for highways, to limit the impact on roads.

“Congestion and the speed of traffic is of concern to many, and we are taking steps to monitor speeding and encourage careful driving, working with the police. We are continuing to look into options for a village car park to support businesses and visitors, and give residents another parking option. Another proposal is to reconfigure the layout of The Square to improve crossing for pedestrians.”

## LOCAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Westbourne Business Association has recently been set up to help local businesses share information and keep in touch on local issues. The first meeting in November was facilitated by Jan Cox, Westbourne Beauty Clinic, and Tom Joyce, Monster Creative, and was attended by 12 local business owners.

For more information on how to get involved, email: [admin@westbournebusinessassociation.co.uk](mailto:admin@westbournebusinessassociation.co.uk)

## SLOWING THE SPEED OF TRAFFIC

Speed indicator devices, which show drivers their speed, on Monk’s Hill and Foxbury Lane are having a positive impact, as observed by the Community Speedwatch Group.



Cllr David Mack said: “We’re pleased that the devices are working well. They also record data which gives us accurate information as evidence for any future traffic calming measures.

“The Speedwatch Group has been out 67 times in the last year and has recorded 1224 speeding vehicles which we’ve passed to the police who send a warning letter to the owner. So far, the highest recorded speed was 37 mph in the 20 mph zone and 74 mph in the 30 mph zone.

“I’d like to thank everyone who has helped us on the Group. We are looking for more people to join us, so if you have some time to spare, please get in touch.”

Aldsworth residents have asked the Parish Council for help reducing the speed limit on Emsworth Common Road. Currently the limit through Aldsworth is 40 mph but many travel much faster which presents a danger to residents. The Parish Council is working with the police and the County Council to put similar measures in place to those in Funtington and East Ashling.

## PCSO TO RETURN TO WESTBOURNE

Sussex Police has announced that every community is to have a named Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). The new initiative aims to strengthen local policing and address low level issues before they become serious crimes.



Westbourne’s new PCSO, Baylee Reed, will have a regular presence in the Parish, both on foot and in a vehicle, which will act as a deterrent to crime. PCSO Reed will also be giving residents and businesses advice on preventing crime. The Parish Council plans to carry out a walkabout with him to help inform him of local issues and build knowledge of the area.

Cllr Roy Briscoe said: “We welcome this reinstatement as an important and effective means of tackling local crime.”

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## NEW FACILITIES FOR MONK'S HILL

Play, sports and exercise facilities at The Common on Monk's Hill are to be given a boost thanks to £13k of funding received from Chichester District Council.

Cllr Nigel Ricketts said: "We'd like to thank the District Council for approving our bid for funding to enhance the range of facilities at The Common. In the next few months, we plan to install a new piece of equipment in the playground, two football goal posts and some exercise stations on the main part of the recreation ground, as well as more picnic tables and benches.

"We renovated much of the playground in 2018, and this additional funding will help us complete plans to make The Common an enjoyable place for all residents to use."

## COMMUNITY TAXI-BUS

The service, established by the Parish Council in January following the loss of the bus to Havant, continues to be well used. Leaving from The Square on a Tuesday and Saturday at 9am, it takes passengers to Emsworth to get on the 700 bus to Havant. It returns from Emsworth at 12.30pm.



Cllr Ann Pearcey, said: "We are pleased the taxi-bus is being well used and we will continue to fund it to help residents access shops, services and facilities.

"The County Council has announced further plans to cut the bus service to make savings and we are working closely with other parish councils to ensure that services are not lost entirely."

## RESPLENDENT ONCE AGAIN

The fingerpost sign in The Square is looking as good as new following a recent make-over. This completes the Parish Council's renovation of all 12 of its traditional style cast iron and oak fingerposts which are a unique and historic community asset. May it stand proudly in The Square and guide many for years to come!

The Parish Council would like to thank Thomas and Elizabeth Blower and Lynda and Graham Mortimer for maintaining the planters in The Square which look beautiful all year round.



## WELCOME TO MIKE MAGILL

The Parish Council would like to introduce its newest councillor, Mike Magill, who joined in June.



Mike, who works for the Royal Navy, said: "Westbourne is a fantastic place to live and I wanted to join the Parish Council to get more involved and contribute to the area as much as possible." On November 21st Mike was also elected to the position of County Councillor for the

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Bourne Division. After being elected Mike said: "I very much look forward to working with all the local residents and the Parish Councils to ensure that the Bourne division remains a fantastic place to live, and that we are all well represented at a County level. I am very keen to learn of any concerns that you may have and ways in which I can help. I plan to help answer questions and fight the corner of any of our residents."

The Parish Council would also like to thank Syd Smith for the support he gave as a parish councillor, and for his help with the community resilience project and the Community Speedwatch Group.

## COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS

Each year, the Parish Council sets aside £500 to give to local community groups and organisations as small grants to help with their activities.

Cllr Richard Hitchcock said: "We would like to help the many fantastic organisations working within the community that provide a valuable resource and service to residents.

"Our small grants can be used to help deliver a project, event or activity, or buy new equipment. Please do apply - the application is easy and more information is available on our website at [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk)"

## TREE PLANTING

The Parish Council is keen to plant new trees using native species and has been working with its Tree Wardens to identify new locations. It was hoped the verges at Ellesmere Orchard would be suitable but the County Council has concerns about road sight-lines and the presence of underground services. If you know of a good place for a new tree and would like to recommend a variety, please let us know.

Unfortunately, the ash trees at The Common, on the boundary between Monk's Hill and the children's play area, have ash dieback and will need to be felled. The Parish Council intends to carry out the work in the spring and will replant the area.

## ANNUAL AUDIT

Moore, the Parish Council's external auditor, has concluded the audit for financial year 2018/19, stating: "In our opinion the information in sections 1 and 2 of the

Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with the proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."

## SETTING THE PRECEPT

Work is underway to plan the Parish Council's Precept – money raised through Council Tax to fund its services and activities - for financial year 2020/21. The Parish Council must inform the District Council of the final sum by the end of January 2020. It is now scrutinising current expenditure and planning what is required to deliver new initiatives and projects as outlined in the Council's Business Plan.

## KEEPING WESTBOURNE TIDY

The Parish Council would like to thank residents who litter pick the roads and pavements across the Parish. Your help and support in tackling thoughtless littering and keeping Westbourne tidy is much appreciated.

The Parish Council holds an annual village Spring Clean Day every April and would like to encourage residents to take part in this worthwhile community event. Details of the next event will be published in the new year.

We are also looking for residents who would like to help keep The Square looking smart by picking up litter and sweeping between parked cars. Chichester District Council's road sweeper is unable to get between vehicles which leads to a build-up on the road side.

## CONTACT US

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**The Parish Council meets every second Thursday of the month at 7.15pm at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. Members of the public are welcome to attend. View the full list of councillors on our website.**

