

Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

S P R I N G 2 0 1 7

NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE

The village website, www.westbournevillage.org, has had a makeover thanks to its new editor, Anna Tonkin, who has recently taken the reins.

Anna plans to grow the website and social media accounts by filling them with interesting and useful content for residents, and for people to keep in touch from far and wide. The website aims to support organisations in the village who work hard to make it a great place to live, including Westbourne's local businesses, the Parish Council, Greening Westbourne, Westbourne Allotments and the Westbourne Weekend team to name just a few.

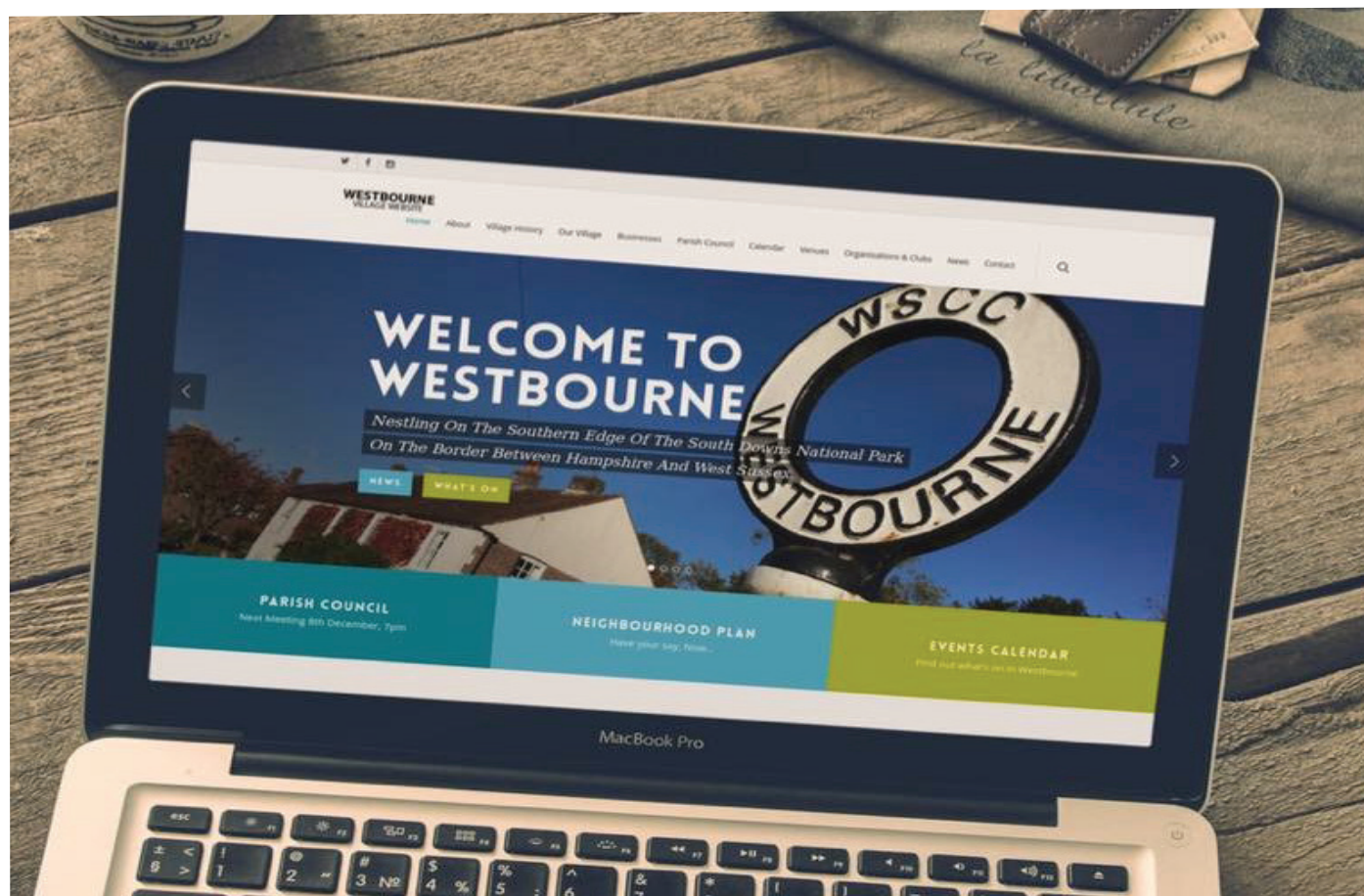
Anna said: "We moved here over two years ago, having fallen in love with the area through work connections. When I heard the site was looking for a new web master, I was instantly interested. Working in the web and creative industry, I hoped I had the skills to complete the task and also the contacts to help it grow as a community tool. For me, the community is at the heart of a village and

it's important that events, activities and facilities are well supported.

"Having met the website's editor, Jim Barlow, and listened to his passion for the project I knew I had to take it on. He's been very supportive and I hope he's pleased with how it's going."

Cllr Richard Hitchcock, Chairman of Westbourne Parish Council, said: "I would like to thank Jim Barlow, on behalf of the Parish Council, for his hard work and dedication in developing such a valuable resource. The website is a great success, recently reaching 100,000 visits, and has supported many community initiatives. I wish Anna the very best in her new role and look forward to seeing the website develop."

To share your news and comments with the village community, or to add your business to the listing section, you can contact Anna at hello@westbournevillage.org. Please also continue to like, follow and share on Facebook which has now grown to over 500 followers.



NEW PARKING FACILITIES

Residents have repeatedly told the Parish Council, through its Neighbourhood Plan consultations, that better car parking facilities are needed in Westbourne. Improvements would help residents use local services, including visiting shops, businesses, family and friends, and attending local events.

The Parish Council's new Business Plan, which sets out a number of priorities for the Parish, will also look at options for a car park. Cllr Piers Mason, who is leading on the Business Plan, said: "We are trying to identify the future needs of the community to support the Parish over the coming years to help it prosper. Traffic congestion and car parking will continue to be an increasing issue for Westbourne and we are looking at ways we can alleviate pressures for the benefit of residents and businesses alike.

"The Parish Council is at initial discussion stage and no plans for the exact location of a car park have been decided yet. We are still identifying sites and looking at the suitability of each one. Only those that are viable for a car park will be put forward for public consultation, which is likely to take place in the autumn. If you are aware of any sites which could be suitable, please let us know."

A BUDGET TO IMPROVE SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The Parish Council has approved a Precept of £77,800 for its operations in 2017/18, which will support its aims of improving services and providing new parish facilities.

Efficiencies have been made to keep the Precept as low as possible, including cuts to the cost of the two playgrounds, the cemetery and general administration. A band D Council Tax property will contribute roughly £77 towards the running of the Parish Council in 2017/18.

Cllr Nigel Ricketts, Chair of the Finance Committee, said: "Our aim is to start providing better services and facilities to residents in Westbourne to help the

Parish prosper in the coming years. The Precept for the next financial year will help us to start working on our plans."

The Parish Council is continuing to work on its Business Plan and a consultation will be held later this year to ensure that proposed services and facilities are welcomed by residents.

COMMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, CLLR RICHARD HITCHCOCK

This is the third issue of the Parish Council newsletter and I hope that you will agree that it is proving to be an excellent means of communicating with the Parish. Since the first publication, we have noticed an increase in the number of people contacting us and we would like to thank all of those who have done so. Though many of your concerns ultimately need to be addressed to and by the District or County Council, we are often a very useful first port of call, knowing exactly who to contact and how to get things done. So please do talk to us: we are there to serve the Parish and communicating to us what it is you want or need will enable us to do so.

COMMUNITY SPRING CLEAN DAY, SUNDAY 9TH APRIL

Join our Community Spring Clean Day on Sunday 9th April to help collect litter around the village. It's a



great opportunity to meet local people and to contribute towards making the village a place you are even prouder to live in.

Last year's event was a great success and the Parish Council was joined by 27 volunteers who collected 28 large bags of rubbish that had

previously been littering the streets and hedgerows.

No experience is necessary - all you need to do is to meet at **The Square at 2.30pm on Sunday 9th April**, finishing at 4.30pm for refreshments at The Meeting Place in North Street. Litter picking tools, protective gloves, fluorescent vests and plastic sacks will be provided.

PARKING AT MILL ROAD

A number of residents have contacted the Parish Council about cars parking on the verges on Mill Road and surrounding area, which is creating muddy conditions on the roads and pavements.

The Parish Council has been in discussion with West Sussex County Council, the authority responsible for highways, about improving the situation. In addition, the Parish Council has explored solutions, including laying grass protectors which would enable cars to park on the verges without damaging the grass. However, the high costs involved means that carrying out such major improvements is beyond the resources available for the Parish Council, who has limited funds.

We have informed West Sussex County Council and will continue to liaise with them to find a solution. Cllr Sandra James, County Councillor for the Bourne Division, is fully supportive and is hoping to find a constructive solution.

WELCOMING DRIVERS TO OUR VILLAGE

The Parish Council will soon be installing 'gateways' at the five entrances to Westbourne to alert drivers that they are entering a village location and to encourage careful driving. West Sussex County Council has granted the Parish Council a licence to install them following a successful public consultation. The 'gateways', which have been funded by Chichester District Council, will complement the existing 20mph scheme to help make our roads safer.

MONK'S HILL SPEED LIMIT

The Parish Council's recent application to extend

the 30mph speed limit on Monk's Hill to beyond the recreation ground has been turned down by West Sussex County Council.

Cllr Roy Briscoe, who has been leading on efforts to reduce the speed limit, said: "We are determined to make this section of road a 30mph limit for the safety of those using the recreation area and playground, and those living nearby.

"Feedback from local residents has informed us that vehicles travel too fast in this location. We will be putting together a petition to support our case and I will be encouraging residents to take part. With support from Cllr James, County Councillor for the Bourne Division, we hope to overturn the decision."

WELCOME TO CLLR MARK WOOD

The Parish Council would like to welcome Mark Wood, who became a parish councillor in November. The Council now has seven councillors, who volunteer to serve the local community and influence decisions for the benefit of Westbourne. Mark brings a range of skills and experiences, and aims to represent the community in the east of the Parish.



ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY THURSDAY 10TH APRIL

Join the Parish Council and organisations from across the Parish at the Annual Parish Assembly on Thursday 10 April from 7pm-10pm at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. It's an opportunity to hear guest speakers, find out about what's been going on over the last 12 months and meet others. Refreshments will be available.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

West Sussex County Council offers financial support, known as Community Initiative Funding, to community groups that need help with a project. For more information on this initiative go to www.westsussex.gov.uk/clc

INTERESTED IN TAKING PART?

The Parish Council is looking to fill its two remaining vacancies at its meeting on Thursday 13 April. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, and would like to join a friendly and committed team of volunteers, please contact us. No previous experience is required and training is available.

The Parish Council would like to hear from residents interested in joining one of its committees or working groups which meet roughly three times a year to look at services and facilities across the Parish. The opportunity is open to all residents who would like to take part in the community but are not able to commit to full membership of the Council.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT NEAR LONG COPSE LANE

The Parish Council has received a number of enquiries about the development near Long Copse Lane, Westbourne. If you are aware of an issue that

needs addressing at the site, residents should contact Southcott Homes at www.southcotthomes.co.uk, or the site manager at john.rice@southcotthomes.co.uk or 07889412003. Please also continue to inform the Parish Council so that it has oversight of issues and can get involved as required.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Council would like to thank a resident who saw a large vehicle knocking down the bollard on Church Road and passed the details to the Parish Council. As a result the Council has been able to trace and charge the company responsible and a new bollard is now in place to continue to protect the old flint stone wall.



CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Call: 07775 654483
Email: westbournepc@outlook.com
Write to: **Clare Kennett**, Parish Clerk, 53 Skylark Avenue, Emsworth, PO10 7GB
Website: www.westbournevillage.org/parish-council
Facebook: www.facebook.com/westbournevillage

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Richard Hitchcock	<i>Chair</i>	01243 389096	rahitchcock@btinternet.com
Cllr Nigel Ricketts	<i>Vice-Chair</i>	01243 371865	nigel58ricketts@googlemail.com
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Cllr Val Owen		01243 373382	mrsvalowen@gmail.com
Cllr Mark Wood		07715 005628	mark@woodsme.me

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mark Dunn	<i>District Councillor</i>	01243 535202	mdunn@chichester.gov.uk
Cllr Sandra James	<i>County Councillor</i>	01243 572533	sandra.james@westsussex.gov.uk

The Parish Council meets every second Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. Residents are very welcome to attend the meeting which is held in public