

Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

| Spring 2023



Westbourne
Parish Council

www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk



Stand for election to be a parish councillor on Thursday 4 May 2023

All of Westbourne's nine parish councillor places will be available.

If you are passionate about Westbourne, want to make a long lasting change, have new ideas for the Council, or have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it, then please stand to be a parish councillor.

Being a councillor is all about giving back to the community by bringing your energy, enthusiasm and ideas to make a difference to local people and how local matters are dealt with. You would support residents with issues, represent the views of local people to get Westbourne the right services and help shape plans for the Parish.

We need people from all backgrounds to represent the community. Training is available and you do not need any previous experience or qualifications. You would gain new skills and knowledge, and work with a range of people, community groups and organisations.

More information about being a parish councillor and the eligibility criteria is available at www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk

To stand in the election, you will need to complete a nomination form by 31 March 2023, which is available by emailing clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk or calling 07775 654 483.

The form should also be completed by two other people who live in the Parish to propose and second your nomination. It is then returned to the Returning Officer at Chichester District Council.

If more nominations are received than there are places available (for example more than nine nominations), an election would be carried out in the Parish. If the same or fewer nominations are received, councillors would automatically be elected without a ballot taking place. If there are still vacancies after the election, the Parish Council would try to fill them as soon as possible after the election.

Parish councillors stand for a term of four years, but sometimes vacancies do occur during this period. There are benefits to the Parish if more than two-thirds of council members are elected at an election and remain for the whole term of office. This means the Council qualifies for the General Power of Competence which gives it greater ability to do anything an individual could do, within the remit of other laws.

Make sure Westbourne gets the very best by standing for election.

Parish Council responsibilities

The Parish Council provides facilities, works to improve the quality of life for residents and represents the voice of the community. Its work is wide and varied, and involves:

- Setting an annual Precept - funding raised through Council Tax which is spent on the running of the Council and its activities. The Council is audited annually by the government.
- Being a statutory consultee on local planning applications. It has a Neighbourhood Plan to help plan local housing and protect the Parish.
- Managing two recreation grounds, play areas, defibrillators, allotments and organising community events.
- Managing Westbourne Cemetery jointly with Southbourne Parish Council. It is responsible for the closed churchyard at St John's Church in Westbourne.
- Supporting the Bourne Community Bus and offering grants to other community initiatives.
- Working with the County Council and police on road and traffic issues and running a community speedwatch group.
- Owning street lights, benches, noticeboards and other street furniture.
- Working closely with parish councils, community groups and organisations.
- Communicating with residents, and employing staff and contractors.

The Council has a business plan and a first priority for new members will be to update the aims and objectives for the next four-year term of office.

Please stand for election to make sure you are at the heart of Council decisions and can influence its work to benefit Westbourne.

The role of a parish councillor

Parish councillors are community leaders who represent the interest of local residents by making recommendations and getting involved in decisions to make Westbourne a great place to live and work. You would be supported in your role and training is available. You should be comfortable working electronically, have a positive outlook, a can-do attitude and willing to work as part of a team.

The Parish Council meets 11 times a year in the evening of every second Thursday of the month, except in August. There are six committees which meet regularly for more detailed discussion on matters. Councillors are invited to join committees depending on their interests and availability.

Keeping the Precept below the rate of inflation

The Parish Council has set its 2023/24 Precept at £126,509. This is funding raised through Council Tax to deliver facilities for the Parish. It is an increase of 8.7% for a Band D property and will enable the Council to continue to deliver services and projects for the Parish.



Mill Road affordable homes scheme approved

Westbourne Community Trust is pleased to announce that planning permission has been issued by Chichester District Council to provide much needed affordable housing in the village. The 12 new social rented affordable homes will be built on land behind Mill Road in Westbourne and will go to local people who cannot afford to rent or buy at market prices.

The development will also deliver a number of community benefits which were identified during consultations, including:

- Off road parking on Mill Road to improve resident parking.
- Improvements to the recreation ground with new play equipment, a multi-use games area, a skate park and a jogging track.
- New kitchen, toilet and storage facilities for the allotments.

Frank Campbell, Chair of the WCT, said: "We have reached a major milestone and are now one step closer to delivering much needed affordable housing which will also see the recreation ground transformed with a range of new facilities. We have been working hard to develop plans in consultation with local residents and the District Council. A local contractor has been selected and we have completed detailed designs for the new homes and work needed to specify the construction. We have fully costed the scheme, taking into consideration significant increases due to inflation and a financial appraisal has been prepared to identify how the funding can be secured.

"The ownership of the land has been transferred to the Trust from the District Council and works could start as early as April 2023. We are considering what this means for users of the park during the construction period of approximately 15 months. We have made arrangements with an adjacent landowner to provide a temporary construction route to the site direct from Foxbury Lane to avoid the use of Mill Road."

The Trust will hold its AGM at 7pm on Thursday 16 February 2023 at The Meeting Place on North Street in Westbourne. Residents are welcome to attend to find out more about the scheme and the work of the Trust. More information is also available at www.westbournecommunitytrust.org



**Westbourne
Community
Trust**

Consultation on highways issues

We would like to consult with residents on proposed changes to Whitechimney Row and East Street in Westbourne.

For Whitechimney Row, we would like to ask the County Council to:

- Install two new bollards at the Whitechimney Row/East Street junction.
- Paint new 20mph roundels and add a speed restriction table or chicane at the south entrance.
- Paint a shared footpath/roadway with white dotted lines next to the white solid line to provide a safer walkway for pedestrians.
- Enforcement of 'no parking' in the white line marked pedestrian area.

For East Street, we would like to ask the County Council to:

- Repaint the double yellow lines and extend them to North Street.
- Widen the pavement to around 1.5m and repair the pavement.
- Install approx. eight metal Glasdon bollards on the edge of the pavement to prevent parking.

Please send us your comments by Friday 3 March 2023 to clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk, 07775 654 483 or Westbourne Parish Council, PO Box 143, Emsworth, PO10 9DX.

Spring Clean Day, Sunday 2 April

Residents are invited to help collect litter around the village to make Westbourne an even nicer place to live. Meet us at The Square at 2pm finishing at 4pm for refreshments. All equipment will be provided.

New trees planted

Thank you to the tree champions for planting a variety of 16 new trees at the Common on Monk's Hill. New hedges from the Queen's Green Canopy are to be planted next.

Coronation Big Lunch

Please put Sunday 7 May in your diary for Westbourne's Big Lunch street party to celebrate the Coronation – more details will be published as plans are confirmed.



Guest speaker wanted

We're looking for a guest speaker for Westbourne's Annual Parish Assembly on Thursday 20 April at 7pm at The Meeting Place in North Street. Please get in touch if you or someone you know has an interesting story to share, or you would like to promote a community initiative.

Residents, local organisations and community groups are invited to attend to celebrate local achievements and share information. Cheese, wine and other refreshments will be served.

Contact the Parish Council

clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk 07775 654483
Westbourne Parish Council, PO Box 143,
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