

Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

S U M M E R 2 0 1 7

PLAY EQUIPMENT CONSULTATION

Your local councillors try to provide the services the parishioners deserve. With careful planning we can provide what Chichester District Council cannot. We know the people of the Parish, their wants and their needs, and listening to your concerns and ideas is paramount in our decision-making process.

The playground equipment at Monk's Hill is now about 30 years old so we need to upgrade and replace it. This equipment is not cheap, but your WPC has been planning this for a number of years, ensuring the money has been put aside every precept to enable us to upgrade.

The Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee has decided that the new equipment planned for the Monk's Hill site should be chosen by the children living in the Parish. The plan is, whilst keeping within our budget, that the committee will initially choose a range of equipment, selected from various manufacturers' catalogues that offer a wide range of playground equipment. The various possibilities will then be circulated, in an illustrated multi-choice format with tick boxes, so that children can select and vote for their preferred choices.

The Monk's Hill site is large enough to put in some exciting new multi-play equipment. At the same time, and as part of the process, some of the older and less-used pieces will be removed.



New seating will shortly be installed in the Monk's Hill playground along with a new picnic table. We

are also installing a new seat at Commonsides Green, to replace the one currently there that has been vandalised.

The Mill Road play site is also being improved. Currently the tyre swing is out of use due to worn chains, but we hope to have this fixed shortly. All the other swing chains have been replaced as have the spreader bars on the multi-play equipment. However, further work is required in the skateboard park and this will be ongoing. We are also looking for volunteers to help us paint the tatter looking equipment, so if you can give up a bit of your time to help, we would like to hear from you.

WPC'S NEW WEBSITE GOES LIVE



After a few months of development, the new Westbourne Parish Council website has gone live; you can find it at www.westbournepc.org. Many thanks are due to local residents Danny and Anna Tonkin who have built the site for the WPC. The parish clerk has continued to work with the Tonkins on the website, providing content for the new pages. The submitted WNP has been posted on the Neighbourhood Plan section of the website and we would welcome your feedback on the final version.

The aim of the new website is to inform and update the community of what is going on in Westbourne Parish and the work of the Parish Council. We are still developing the site so would welcome your feedback as to what extra features you would like to see incorporated. Please use the feedback form on the site to tell us.

WESTBOURNE'S NEW GATEWAYS

Gateways have been installed at each of the entrances to the village; a few minor adjustments are still needed but they are in place. Jim Barlow, a long time resident, first mooted this idea for the village and, after much discussion with WSCC highways, we finally got the current locations approved and licensed. We were in the process of installing the gateways when, after a short illness, Jim sadly died. It's a fitting tribute to Jim that we now have them in place. Thanks Jim, you are in our thoughts.

We are still pushing for a reduction on the speed limit in Monk's Hill and we hope our new County Councillor will be supportive of us achieving this. We intend using the County's own policy, supported by national policy to make our case and get this implemented. Common Road is also being considered for a reduction to 40mph from Aldsworth through the bends towards Stansted.



Most of you will have seen that Whitechimney Row and Old Farm Lane have been re-surfaced; pressure from you and us has paid off, but we still need to maintain that pressure to have more potholes repaired in a cost-effective manner, not just a bit of tarmac poured in that washes away the first time it rains.

Other developments on the radar include new parking slots marked on the road in the Square, and we are proposing a change of colour to create a crossing point in the Square.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan submission version documentation was officially submitted to Chichester District Council on Wednesday 5th April 2017.

This means that the Neighbourhood Plan now has more teeth. It has already been cited in a recent appeal and will, no doubt, be used to bolster objections to current and any future applications in Cemetery Lane. CDC will conduct their own consultation before the NP goes to independent examination and eventually to referendum, which, hopefully, will take place before the end of the year.

COMMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, CLLR RICHARD HITCHCOCK

This is the fourth 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.

'Wisdom comes with age' runs the well-known saying. Well, if that's true, the parish of Westbourne should be well served: the average age of its parish councillors is pushing up towards the proverbial three score and ten. And, if you think that men make wiser decisions than women, the parish is also well served: six of its seven councillors are men.

If you take issue with any of these contentions (I rather suspect you might), and feel that the council should better reflect the demographic of the parish, why not give some consideration to filling one of the two places that are still available? We look after leisure, recreation and our parks; we maintain most of the street lighting in the village and the heritage finger posts; we're in contact with Highways in an effort to get them to do what you ask for. We also represent your views in relation to planning trying to prevent inappropriate developments.

Co-option is a relatively straightforward and painless process. Please contact the parish clerk at westbournepc@outlook.com or 07775 654483.

FLY TIPPING

Since the closure of the popular Mobile Household Waste Recycling Service that used to operate from Marlpit Lane every Monday, there has been a sharp increase in fly-tipping in our Parish. This sad consequence was predicted by WPC, when urging West Sussex County Council to keep this beneficial service open. However, we cannot turn back the clock and, unfortunately, we now must live with inconsiderate people fly-tipping their unwanted fridges, sofas, building materials etc. in our lovely country lanes and open spaces. There is hope that the Marlpit Lane Service will return, and the WPC is talking to local councillors for support but, if this happens, it is a long way off.

So we ask that, in the meantime, PLEASE try and 'do your bit' and report (with a photo if possible) any fly-tipping on the Chichester District Council website <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/flytipping>.

This is very easy to do and will only take a couple of minutes. Obviously, if you catch somebody in the act of fly-tipping, please try and take note of their vehicle registration number. By doing this it means all fly-tipping incidents are officially logged with the council and the 'mess' will quickly be cleared up and potentially prosecutions made. It will also add credible reasoning to the continued plea for the reinstatement of the Marlpit Lane service.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MP

Following June's General Election we welcome a new MP for Chichester. Gillian Keegan was elected with 36,032 votes (over 60% of those cast) replacing Andrew Tyrie, who stood down having served the constituency since 1997.

Gillian enjoyed a successful 27-year international career in the manufacturing, banking and technology sectors before embarking upon a political career in 2014. She has served on Chichester District Council since October 2014 and held a number of community roles; as



Board Governor at St Richard's, a member of the Rural and Coastal West Sussex Partnerships and Director of the Business Improvement District in Chichester City Centre. Gillian described being elected as our MP as 'a dream come true'.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Viral Parikh was elected as our new West Sussex County Councillor (for the Bourne Division) on 4th May 2017. Viral works as a Superintendent Pharmacist and is a member of the General Pharmaceutical Council. He is actively involved in the Rotary Club and also goes to charity events through Interplast UK.

He loves travelling and has travelled through more than 50 countries. Viral loves playing squash and is an avid fan of Manchester United. Westbourne Parish Council's councillors are looking forward to welcoming Viral to their next council meeting on 13 July 2017.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Westbourne's newest parish councillor is Syd Smith. A Yorkshireman by birth and a self confessed 'car freak', Syd spent much of his career in the automotive industry. Having completed a motor vehicle mechanic apprenticeship, Syd trained as draughtsman at the Longbridge car factory. From there he moved to the Leyland Truck & Bus organisation and travelled the UK and much of the world.

Syd and his family came to West Sussex in 1994 and in 2000 they moved to Westbourne. Following his retirement, Syd chose to put something back into the community he has grown to love by putting himself forward for co-optation onto the Parish Council.



SPRING CLEAN DAY

Westbourne was given a spring clean on Sunday 9 April by 11 residents, who volunteered to pick up litter across the village. Equipped with hi-vis vests, bags and trigger-activated litter pickers - supplied by Chichester District Council - the volunteers collected 17 large bags of rubbish that had previously been littering the streets and hedgerows. The annual spring clean day is run by Westbourne Parish Council and has been held for the last four years.



Cllr Richard Hitchcock, Chairman of Westbourne Parish Council, said: 'I would like to thank everyone who gave up a couple of hours of their Sunday afternoon to come and help us clean up the village. Filling 17 large bags of rubbish is a great achievement and helps the village look like a better place to live.' The 11 volunteers were Christine

Adsett, Jane Alder, Elisabeth Blower, Ian Cross, Chris Garner, Ciara Hitchcock, Richard Hitchcock, David Lee, Lis Longford, Erin Scott and Diana Steely.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Parish Council would like to thank residents and local community organisations for attending its Annual Parish Assembly on 20 April. The event was a great success and an excellent opportunity to find out about all of the successful initiatives in the Parish. The Council's thanks also go to Nigel Peake who gave a very interesting presentation about his son's – Tim Peake – recent achievements at the International Space Station.

LOCAL COMMUNITY CHEST

Local community groups and organisations are invited to apply for Community Chest Grants. The Parish Council has set aside £500 for the financial year 2017-18 to award as small grants to support the work of local organisations, initiatives and events. To apply or to find out more, contact the Parish Council at westbournepc@outlook.com or call 07775 654483. Application forms must be received by 30th September 2017 and awards will be made in November 2017.

CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Call: 07775 654483
Email: westbournepc@outlook.com
Write to: Mrs Louise Steele, Locum Parish Clerk, 8 Camargue Place, Godalming, GU7 1JQ
Website: www.westbournepc.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/westbournevillage

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Richard Hitchcock	<i>Chair</i>	01243 389096	rahitchcock@btinternet.com
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DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mark Dunn	<i>District Councillor</i>	01243 535202	mdunn@chichester.gov.uk
Cllr Viral Parikh	<i>County Councillor</i>	07474 741345	viral.parikh@westsussex.gov.uk

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