

# Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

| Summer 2021



**Westbourne**  
Parish Council

[www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk)



## Have your say on a plan for the future of Westbourne

At long last, the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan is going to public referendum. The date for your diary is Thursday 29 July. Polling cards should have dropped through your door.

Voters will be asked:  
“Do you want Chichester District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority to use the neighbourhood development plan for Westbourne Parish to help them decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”.

### Find out more

Information about the Neighbourhood Plan is available in this newsletter and at [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk)

The Neighbourhood Plan will be the feature of an open-air Annual Parish Assembly on Saturday 24 July from 2-4pm at the Rectory Lawn, Westbourne. Please come along to find out more and ask questions.



## Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan

Westbourne electors are being asked to have their say on the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan at a referendum on Thursday 29 July. The Plan sets out a vision for the area through to 2029, and is supported by a number of planning policies. The Plan:

- sets out where any new homes are to be built. The government allocates a number of new houses to local planning authorities which is then passed to towns and parishes
- provides a comprehensive parish profile against which future development and infrastructure needs can be assessed
- ensures that any future development will not damage the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the Parish
- considers the settlement boundary, and identifies and protects local gaps to prevent coalescence as well as important views and local greenspaces
- includes a community balance policy which ensures that the number of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople pitches and plots do not in any way overwhelm the settled community
- refers to an updated Village Design Statement which aims to protect Westbourne's unique character
- means that 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy (a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area) goes directly to the Parish to be spent in a way the people of Westbourne see fit. Without a Plan, we would only get 15%.

**Representatives from the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are urging residents to vote 'YES'.**

---

## The Neighbourhood Plan - eight years in the making

---

Many of you will have followed progress with the Neighbourhood Plan, through involvement in the comprehensive consultation process and regular reports in the Westbourne Magazine.

Cllr Richard Hitchcock, Chair of the Parish Council, said: "For several years, the Steering Group beavered away on the Plan, one of the central planks being the identification of locations for the 25 houses that were allocated to us by the local planning authority. If my memory serves me correctly, 17 sites were put forward by landowners and, after a thorough selection process governed by robust criteria, three sites were identified. We were just at the point of submitting the Plan when the news came through that an appeal at what was to become The Shire (on the corner of North Street and Long Copse Lane) had been lost. This site, which had not been identified as a location for development in the Neighbourhood Plan, was therefore retrospectively included and sat alongside two further sites: east of Monk's Hill (six houses) and the corner of Foxbury Lane and Cemetery Lane (six houses) taking us up to a total of 28.

"In the autumn of 2017, after four and half years of hard work, the Neighbourhood Plan was formally examined and it was expected that, after a number of recommendations were taken into account, it would soon go to public referendum. At the time we had absolutely no idea that the goalposts would be moved and that the Plan would be subjected to further processes and consultations (administered by Chichester District Council) before it could be put to the people of Westbourne. Thankfully, the end is

in sight and the public referendum will take place on 29 July of this year".

### Nearly there!

Cllr Roy Briscoe added: "As it appears to have gone down so well in the 2016 EU Referendum, we were tempted to use the slogan 'Take back control' for the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan referendum. However, we have declined to do so, as this would not be a true or accurate representation of the situation. Westbourne never did have control over the amount of houses built in the Parish: this has always been in the gift of the government whose responsibility it is to ensure that the nation is adequately housed".

Since the introduction of neighbourhood plans in 2011, government guidance states: *Communities [have been given] direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs and where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.*

In other words, under the Localism Act of 2011, local communities have been given powers that they did not have before and, in 2013, Westbourne Parish Council, not wishing to let the opportunity pass them by, set up a Steering Group to put together a neighbourhood plan for Westbourne.







## Planning for new housing

Every local planning authority is allocated a number of houses by the government which are then allocated to the towns and parishes in the district or borough.

Cllr Lade Barker said: "Challenging this allocation is possible in theory but is, in practice, unlikely to succeed. What the town or parish can, however, do, is decide where these houses are to be built and what they should look like. Were Westbourne not to have a neighbourhood plan it would be open season for developers, who could apply to build houses wherever land is available rather

than in locations identified by those who live in the parish".

What, you may ask, is not to like about having a neighbourhood plan? It's not everyday that local communities are given decision-making powers so it would surely be negligent were we to let this opportunity pass by. The Plan will eventually become, alongside Chichester District Council's Local Plan, the starting point for deciding where development should take place and the type and quality of that development. In other words, it will be a statutory document that cannot be ignored!

## Annual Parish Assembly: Saturday 24 July 2-4pm



The Parish Council will be holding its Annual Parish Assembly on Saturday 24 July from 2-4pm at the Rectory Lawn (opposite the Church) in Westbourne. Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be able to answer your questions on the Plan and show you a copy. Local community organisations and businesses have also been invited to exhibit, including Westbourne Weekend, the Allotment Association and the WI to name but a few. Residents are invited to attend.

Cllr Ann Pearcey said: "We had to cancel the Parish Assembly last year because of the pandemic and the event this year will have a slightly different format with it being held outside. It will be much more informal, with no presentations or guest speakers, and it is hoped that residents will enjoy wandering around the stalls, finding out about local groups and clubs and catching up with friends. It's also a great opportunity to showcase the Neighbourhood Plan. Hope you can join us!".

## Vacancy for a parish councillor

Interested in what is going on in Westbourne and would like to become more involved? We're looking to co-opt a councillor to help out with the day-to-day business and the many ongoing and exciting projects. We also have places on a number of committees, one of which is bound to reflect your own personal interest. Please remember, things don't get done by themselves: your contribution could well make a significant difference. For further information, please email [clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk) call **07775 654483** or go to [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk).



---

## Community Speedwatch is looking for more volunteers

---

In recent years, the Parish Council has done all it can to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through the village.

Cllr David Mack said: 'First came the 20mph speed limit followed by village gateways and the installation of two speed indicator devices. Finally, a couple of years ago, we set up a Community Speedwatch Group to record the speed of passing vehicles and send the data to the police. This represents, in some respects, the final piece in the jigsaw: without some kind of deterrent or enforcement, many of the other measures are unlikely to prove effective'.

The Group was suspended during lockdown but are now permitted to recommence their activity. There are still several volunteers (though more would help

to share the load) but they are short of a coordinator, without whom they are unable to operate. If you can spare a couple of hours a week and have reasonable computing skills, Westbourne needs you!

If you are interested in the role of coordinator, please contact the Parish Clerk at

[clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk) or on **07775 654483**



---

## More trees for Westbourne

---

Our sincere thanks go to the residents who have 'adopted' the 17 trees planted last November in Edgell, Homefield and Churcher Roads. Your watering of these trees ensures their survival in the first few years of their young lives and they will undoubtedly pay this back by providing us and wildlife generally with significant benefits for many years to come. If you can identify any further locations where trees could be planted in the parish, please do let us know and, working with our team of tree champions, we will look into this. Similarly, if you see any trees that need attention or could do with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) being placed on them, please do get in touch.



---

## New benches for residents to enjoy

---

We are pleased to see so many people using the new bench in The Square which has proved to be a good place to sit, relax and watch the world go by. Cllr Nigel Ricketts said: "Two new benches and a picnic table will be installed at Westbourne Common over the summer, as well as an information board with history of the Common

and details of local flowers and wildlife. We are applying for funding to repair the slide in the playground as it was so well used last year that the mound is starting to wear away. We're also looking at improving the drainage at the Common as the ground was very wet earlier in the year which forced us to close the playground for a short while."

### Contact the Parish Council

Email: [clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk) Call: 07775 654483

Write to: Westbourne Parish Council, PO Box 143,  
Emsworth, PO10 9DX

Go to: [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk)