

Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

| Spring 2025



Westbourne
Parish Council

www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk



VE Day 80 Bonfire: Flames of Peace

A bonfire will be lit by the Parish Council at the Common on Monk's Hill at 8.30pm on Thursday 8 May 2025 to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The event is part of many bonfires, beacons and lamps being lit across the country to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe. Residents are invited to gather at the Common to honour the past and celebrate a future built on unity, hope and peace.

Cllr Nigel Ricketts, Chairman of the Parish Council said: "Please join us at the Common for an evening of celebration and reflection. Bring your family and friends and enjoy the peaceful surroundings while we gather together around a large bonfire. VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for freedom but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since".

Roy Briscoe, Chairman of 1st Westbourne Scouts, said: "The Scouts are looking forward to building the bonfire. It will shine in Westbourne to symbolise the enduring strength of our community and it gives everyone the chance to stand together in gratitude and honour the sacrifices that secured our freedom. Please come along to an evening of joy, reflection and celebration".

The latest information about the event can be found at www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk

Closure of Westbourne branch surgery

Emsworth Medical Practice has announced the closure of its branch in Westbourne from 27 June 2025. The Parish Council objects to closure which would have a devastating impact on the village and residents. There is no public transport to Emsworth, online consultations are limiting, and the elderly, disabled and those on a low income would be most affected.

Please sign the petition to urge Emsworth Medical Practice to save the surgery at www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk



Mill Road affordable housing scheme

Westbourne Community Trust started work on the construction of 12 affordable social rent houses in September 2024. Good progress has been made and the project remains on track for completion during October this year.

The construction work is now at first-floor level, an internal road layout has been formed and the drainage infrastructure is in place. The work to install new residents' parking spaces in Mill Road has been completed and already well used by residents. Work on the proposed Allotment Association and Parish Council storage building will start later in the programme. The park improvements started on 17 March and will take a couple of months to finish, but it will remain closed until the housing has been completed.



Park improvements

All the old play equipment and fencing has been removed. A new multi-use games area will be provided in the same location as the existing. The games area surface was damaged by vandalism last November and the Council is negotiating with its insurance company to secure repairs.

An exciting new feature will be a skateboarding pump track to replace the old skateboarding ramps. The circuit will include ramps, bends and dips and should be great fun for skateboarders and scooters alike.

The Trust will also provide a continuous jogging track around the edge of the park with a gated access to the school grounds. This was something that the school was keen to see included which it will use for the measured mile runs that pupils will undertake to keep fit.

The Trust will also be providing a range of play equipment for both toddlers and older children to include swings and a climbing structure. New tree planting and hedging will be carried out on completion of the work.

Approach to selecting tenants for the new houses

Strong interest in securing a tenancy has already emerged from local people. The Trust is preparing a clear and robust approach to selection of tenants, and the policy will be published at www.westbournecommunitytrust.org in the next few weeks when applications will be invited for consideration.

Eligibility for securing a tenancy will be assessed against various criteria based on:

- Being unable to afford to purchase or rent a property in Westbourne.
- A local connection to Westbourne either by residence now or in the recent past.
- A close relative living in Westbourne.
- Being locally employed in Westbourne.

Westbourne plans new road safety initiatives with WSCC

West of Chichester, Westbourne is unique in having a centre-wide 20mph zone introduced by the Parish Council nearly 15 years ago. This has played a key part in improving road safety, with the village seeing a 30% reduction in road casualties in the last decade from these reduced speeds, combined with our active Speedwatch Group and Parish Speed Indicator Devices on key entry roads.

With the recent success of road safety initiatives like the new 30mph zone past the children's playground on Monks' Hill, and newly introduced signs guiding HGVs away from the village centre, the Parish is keen to take this further, to improve road safety for more Westbourne residents.

In July 2025 the Parish Council will therefore be applying for WSCC Community Highways Schemes that plan to make walking and cycling safer in the village centre, in Woodmancote and in South Westbourne. The Parish will review the suggested improvements below and will be asking relevant residents what they think of their road safety benefits during Spring 2025.



Parking and road safety improvements in The Square, Westbourne – Measures include a new pavement triangle near the Co-op to prevent obstruction, repainting yellow lines to deter illegal parking and installing signage to guide drivers. The Square's North section will have a kerb build-out and bollards to stop vehicles blocking emergency access. A raised kerb section with bollards near the Stag's Head pub and a new crossing point and zig-zag lines aims to enhance accessibility and improve pedestrian safety, while a bus stop cage will prevent parking obstructions near the Westbourne Cafe. Additional measures include refreshing no-parking zones and improving pedestrian safety near the surgery with footway extensions.

South Westbourne and Woodmancote road safety measures – proposals include speed reductions for safer rural roads, with Woodmancote Lane reduced to 20mph due to its narrow and unlit nature. South Lane's speed will drop to 30mph and Old Farm Lane to 40mph, to protect pedestrians and cyclists on this narrow road. Whitechimney Row will have a consistent 20mph limit along its length. Junction reconfiguration is also suggested at Stein Road and Old Farm Lane for smoother traffic flow.

The Parish will submit detailed proposals to WSCC Highways at the end of July 2025 for review, for introduction 2026 or early 2027, once approved. Please send your comments to clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk

Spring Clean Day

Thank you to everyone who helped with Westbourne's Spring Clean Day on 6 April. We had a great turnout and residents did a wonderful job of picking up many bags of litter which was along the pavements, verges and hedgerows. Thank you also to the Final Straw Foundation and Chichester District Council for their support.

Cllr Jane Gould, said: The Council would also like to thank residents who regularly litter pick along some of the village hot spots – your contribution makes such a difference to keeping Westbourne look clean and tidy.

"It's frightening to know that more than two million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day, and the cost to the taxpayer for street cleaning is over £1 billion a year. Litter also causes harm to wildlife and habitats and can take years to degrade. Let's keep Westbourne tidy by using a bin for rubbish or taking it home with you".

Annual Parish Assembly

Residents are invited to the Annual Parish Assembly at 7pm on Wednesday 23 April at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne.

Chichester District Council's Strategic Wildlife Officer will be opening the meeting with a presentation on the wildlife corridor running through Westbourne. There will be information about free wildlife improvements for your garden and top tips on creating wildlife homes and habitat. Local community groups and organisations have also been invited to give an update on their achievements since the last meeting. The meeting is an opportunity for residents to have their say on anything important to the Parish and to find out more about what's happening locally.

The meeting is organised by the Parish Council on behalf of the local community. Cheese, wine and other refreshments will be served at the interval.

Parish Council Vacancies

The Parish Council is operating with just five of its nine councillor members. While the dedication of these members is commendable, the Council risks being unable to function to its full ability without additional members. A quorum of three is essential and the Council has on occasion not met this requirement leading to the cancellation of important meetings and a delay in decisions.

We are looking for four new councillors to join. A larger and more diverse council can better represent Westbourne's residents and more members bring a wider pool of knowledge and expertise, leading to more informed decisions and achieving more for the Parish. A quorate council ensures decisions are made transparently and democratically and increased resident participation strengthens the connection between the council and community.

Please consider joining to help get the very best for Westbourne. Members of the public are welcome to attend a meeting to find out more about the Council's work, or information is available at www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk or by contacting the Parish Clerk at clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk

Reporting incidents to the police

We would like to remind residents of the importance of reporting all incidents to the police, no matter how small. The police allocate their resources based on reports and do not know to act unless it is recorded. Call 999 in an emergency or for incidents in progress, and 101 or online at sussex.police.uk for all others.

Find out more information
visit www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk
email clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk
call **07775654483**

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