

# Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

S P R I N G 2 0 1 9

## MAKE A CHANGE: STAND FOR ELECTION AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Westbourne Parish Council has a total of nine councillor places to be filled at the local council election, which will take place on Thursday 2 May 2019. If you are interested in standing for election to become a Parish Councillor, you will need to nominate yourself by Wednesday 3 April 2019 at the very latest. Nomination packs are available from the Parish Clerk – contact details on the back page.

The Parish Council has ambitious plans to create a thriving local community where residents and businesses can prosper alike. A business plan sets out the Council's aims and objectives over the next three years, but more people are needed from a variety of backgrounds, skills and experiences to make these a reality.

New initiatives are on the table, such as a revamp of The Square to better support local businesses, cater for all road users and improve crossing for pedestrians, as well as a new village car park and, working with other local organisations, affordable homes for young people. What would you like to see happening in Westbourne? Being a Parish Councillor will mean you can shape these plans.

The Parish Council is democratically elected and is accountable to the local community. It is involved in the delivery of services, improving the quality of life for residents and representing the voice of the community.



Its work is wide and varied. It is statutory consultee on local planning applications; it is developing a Neighbourhood Plan to help plan local housing and protect the Parish; it manages two recreation grounds and play areas; it rents land to Westbourne Allotment Association; it runs a community taxi-bus service and is lobbying for improvements to the bus service; it works with the County Council and police on road and traffic issues, and runs a Community Speedwatch Group; it receives police reports on local crime; it offers grants for community initiatives; it employs staff and contractors to deliver objectives; and it works closely with other local community groups and organisations.

Parish Councillors are community leaders who represent the interests of the community and are involved in decision-making, monitoring and getting involved locally.

The Parish Council meets 11 times a year in the evening of every second Thursday of the month. There are also four committees which meet regularly for detailed discussion of projects around the Parish. Councillors are invited to join a committee if they are interested in a particular areas of work, but are not required to.

If you would like to do more for Westbourne and have some time to spare, please do consider becoming a parish councillor. It's a rewarding experience which involves working with a team of dedicated volunteers and people from other local organisations on a range of projects and initiatives. No previous experience is required and training is available from the Sussex Association of Local Councils.

Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to discuss the role of parish councillor or would like to talk to a councillor about their work. To find out more about Westbourne Parish Council, and the role of Parish Councillor, go to [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk).

## TACKLING EXCESSIVE SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE

Over 850 speeding vehicles have been reported to the police since June 2018 by Westbourne's Community Speedwatch Group. The volunteers are regularly out on the roadside monitoring the speed of passing vehicles using speed detection devices. Excessive speeding is reported to the police for further action and to enforce or prosecute repeat offenders.

Cllr David Mack said: "In recent weeks, we have noticed more drivers keeping to the speed limit which indicates our work as a Community Speedwatch Group is having an impact. We will continue to monitor the traffic to help



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make our village a safe place to live and to get the message across to drivers that excessive speeding is not tolerated here.

“The Parish Council will soon be installing speed indicator devices, with funding from Chichester District Council, to show drivers the speed they are travelling at and to further enhance our traffic calming measures.”

Interested in taking part? see [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk).

## COMMUNITY TAXI - BUS

The Parish Council has approved a trial of a taxi-bus, running between The Square in Westbourne (close to Libby's cafe) to Emsworth Town Centre at 9.15am on Tuesdays and Saturdays. It returns at 12:30pm from the drop-off point in Emsworth back to The Square. Cllr Roy Briscoe said: “The Parish Council is funding the taxi-bus in response to the loss of the number 28 bus which used to connect Westbourne to Havant. It will help residents access the 700 bus from Emsworth, which runs between Havant and Chichester, so they can get to Havant on market days and other nearby shops and services.



“We are pleased with West Sussex County Council's decision to continue to fund the number 54 bus which runs to Chichester. We'd like to thank residents for their support and letting us know their concerns. We've been able to use this as evidence to the County Council who are responsible for public transport. It is vital to have a sustainable, frequent and well-connected bus service and we will continue to try and have it restored.”

The timetable is available at [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk) and on the noticeboards in The Square. Concessionary travel and bus pass holders are free. All others will be charged £1 each way. At the end of the three-month trial, the Parish Council will consider its success with a view to providing a permanent service.

## A PRECEPT TO IMPROVE FACILITIES

In January 2019, the Parish Council agreed to set a Precept of £93,166 for financial year 2019/20 to support its aims of improving services and providing new facilities. A band D Council Tax property will contribute roughly £98 towards the running of the Parish Council in 2019/20.



Cllr Richard Hitchcock, Chair of the Parish Council, said: “We have carefully looked at the budget to identify the projects that we would like to deliver in the next financial year. This includes the running of our two recreation grounds, play areas and cemetery, a community transport scheme, further traffic calming measures, professional support for planning matters, and setting money aside to support the revamp of The Square and create a new public car park.”

Further details of the budget and the Council's Business Plan can be found at [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk)

## SAVE OUR WILDLIFE BY REPORTING SIGHTINGS

The UK's wildlife is threatened by development, intensive farming, pollution and climate change. That's why we need to protect areas that are important refuges for animals. You can help do this, by joining in with Greening Westbourne's new campaign.

Westbourne Wildlife Watch is all about reporting wildlife sightings so there are proper records of the creatures living in our local environment.

If you're in your garden, out walking your dog or just enjoying the fresh air, then we need you to report the wildlife you see. The more wildlife sightings we can report, the more ammunition we have to resist threats to our wild environment, such as new development.



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In particular, we're interested in the local 'wildlife corridor' that links the South Downs National Park and the coast, roughly following the River Ems, and which goes right through Westbourne. Chichester District Council is proposing to give this area special recognition, so it can be a haven where animals can move, migrate and thrive. Reporting a sighting is easy and quick, and could make a huge difference. Just go to [www.brc.ac.uk/irecord](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord), register, and get started.



Endangered creatures are the most crucial to report, but you can also report more common ones, as they're also under threat. Species at risk include water voles, hazel dormice, bats, hedgehogs, many birds and insects, and most amphibians and reptiles. Species once common, like starlings and house sparrows, are now declining. If you get stuck on identifying something, there's lots of help online, including at [www.ispotnature.org](http://www.ispotnature.org). Search Greening Westbourne online for more information.

## DELAYS TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The draft Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Chichester District Council in 2018 and the Parish Council hoped that it would go to referendum stage – where residents can vote to adopt the Plan – in early 2019. However, progress has been held up by changes to legislation relating to the Habitats Regulation Assessment and the resulting requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment. As such, the Parish Council is unable to proceed with consulting with the public.

The District Council has assured the Parish Council that it is doing everything it can to progress the Plan which, once it is in place, will give additional protection from unwanted development in the Parish. Find out more at [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk)

## NEXT STEPS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE VILLAGE

Westbourne Community Trust held drop-in sessions in February to consult on plans for new affordable homes in Westbourne.

Frank Campbell, Chair of the Trust, said: "The events were a success with over 70 people signing up to become members of the Trust. Membership helps you shape the agenda and get involved in initiatives that benefit Westbourne, plus a vote on decisions at meetings. For those who qualify, membership may also help secure an affordable home in Westbourne.

"The feedback we received was very positive overall and gave a useful insight into the local community's thoughts and concerns about the proposed development at Mill Road, as well as the various ideas for new facilities in the village. This will be used to develop the Trust's proposals which will be consulted on again in the coming months."



If you were unable to attend the drop-in events, there is still an opportunity to get involved and have your say. Find out more at [www.westbournecommunitytrust.org](http://www.westbournecommunitytrust.org)

## SPRING CLEAN DAY, SUNDAY 7 APRIL

The Parish Council will be holding its annual Spring Clean Day on Sunday 7 April. Residents are invited to come along and help collect litter around the village. It's a great opportunity to meet others and contribute towards making the village an even nicer place to live.



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No experience is necessary - all you need to do is to meet at The Square at 2pm on Sunday 7 April, finishing at 4pm for refreshments at The Meeting Place in North Street. Litter picking tools, protective gloves, fluorescent vests and plastic sacks will be provided.

## PRESENTATION ON SCAMS AND ROGUE TRADERS

Residents are invited to attend a presentation from the police on how to be aware of scams and rogue traders in May at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. The date will be announced shortly on the PC website.

The presentation will give residents information about the most common scams, how to spot and report one, and how to protect yourself and people you know. It is being held as part of Annual Parish Assembly which gives residents, local organisations and community groups the opportunity to get together to celebrate their achievements over the last year. There will be an interval after the presentation where cheese, wine and other refreshments will be served.

## PLANNING HOUSING IN CHICHESTER DISTRICT

The Parish Council has submitted detailed representations for the review of Chichester District Council's Local Plan, which identifies housing needs and associated community facilities in the District over the next 15 years.

## FUNDING UP FOR GRABS

Small grants are available from the Parish Council to help support local community groups and initiatives. Find out more and apply at [www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk)

## SAVE LONG COPSE LANE

The Parish Council has continued to object to Havant Borough Council's proposals to include Long Copse Lane as a site for future housing in its Local Plan. Join the campaign at [www.savelongcopselane.org.uk](http://www.savelongcopselane.org.uk)



## SURGERY TO REMAIN OPEN

The Parish Council has represented the community's concerns about the future of the doctors' surgery in Westbourne at local stakeholder groups. The Council is pleased to report that a decision has been made by Emsworth Surgery to retain the branch in Westbourne, which will also help secure the future of the pharmacy.



## CONTACT DETAILS

[www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk)  
[clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk)  
07775 654483  
Westbourne Parish Council,  
53 Skylark Avenue, Emsworth, PO10 7GB

The Parish Council meets every second Thursday of the month at 7.15pm at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. Members of the public are welcome to attend. View the full list of councillors on our website.



**Westbourne**  
Parish Council