

Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

S P R I N G 2 0 2 0

CCTV TO PREVENT CRIME

Plans are underway to install CCTV in The Square in Westbourne following break-ins to a number of businesses in November last year.

Cllr David Mack said:
“Businesses have asked the Parish Council for help to install CCTV to prevent and deter crime. The Council is in agreement that there is a need to protect and support local businesses, and provide a safe environment for all.



“Plans so far involve five cameras covering The Grove, The Square, and the bottom of East Street and North Street. These would give a good street view and provide evidence to the police in case of future incidents. The recording device would be kept in a secure box which only the Parish Council could access to meet privacy regulations.

“We have written to residents who live near the proposed cameras to consult with them before a final decision on whether to proceed is made. If you would like to let us know your thoughts or have any questions, please contact us (details on the back page) by 31 March 2020.”

POLITE PARKING NOTICES

We are all very aware of the challenges when it comes to parking in the village of Westbourne: it just wasn't designed to cope with so many vehicles! Illegal and inappropriate parking is a concern to many; it can cause problems to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians and can put the safety of others at risk.



This is why the Parish Council has decided to place polite parking notices on vehicles parked illegally or inappropriately, reminding drivers of their responsibility

to both the law and fellow citizens. We would be very grateful for your cooperation: next time it could be a parking ticket issued by a civil enforcement officer.

Please park considerately!

SPRING CLEAN DAY 2020

Every April, enthusiastic and committed villagers gather together to give the village a spring clean, which is essentially a community litter pick. It is amazing how much litter accumulates from one year to the next, especially by the side of roads: thrown out of the window by thoughtless motorists?

This year, the event takes place on Sunday 5 April, and will be supported by the Final Straw Solent – campaigners against single use plastic who organise beach cleans across the Solent – and Greening Westbourne. Their involvement will hopefully swell our numbers.

We meet in the Square at 2.00pm and finish up at The Meeting Place, North Street at 4.00pm, where refreshments will be served and litter picking experiences shared. Equipment (hi-vis jackets, gloves, bags and litter pickers) are all supplied by the District Council. See you there!

A BUDGET TO DELIVER NEW INITIATIVES

In January, the Parish Council agreed to set its Precept - money raised through Council Tax - for the financial year 2020/21 at £101,000.

Cllr Richard Hitchcock, said: “The Precept will enable the Parish Council to deliver new facilities and services in the Parish as requested by the community, as well as maintain those already in use. New CCTV is proposed for The Square and The Grove to prevent crime, speed indicator devices are planned for Aldsworth to help tackle speeding on Emsworth Common Road, and the play equipment at Mill Road recreation ground will be renovated. Funding has also been set aside to help the Parish Council finance a new village car park to support residents and businesses, and ease congestion on village roads.”

The charge per Council Tax Band D property will be £106.07 in 2020/21. This is an increase of 8.4% in cash terms from last year, and a 6.6% increase in terms of a Council Tax Band D property. The Precept in 2019/20 was £93,166.

A full breakdown of the budget can be found at www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk

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NEW FOOTBALL GOAL POSTS

A pair of football goals posts have been installed at The Common on Monk's Hill using funding received from Chichester District Council. The posts replace those removed some years ago which had unfortunately deteriorated.

Cllr Nigel Ricketts said: "We're pleased to be able to reinstate the goal posts which are a great sport facility at Monk's Hill. We've also bought some more play and exercise equipment and benches which will be installed later in the spring.

"The play equipment at Mill Road will also be having a make-over with some of the items being repainted and restored this spring."

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Community organisations and groups are invited to get together to celebrate achievements and share knowledge at Westbourne's Annual Parish Assembly which will take place on Thursday 16 April at 7pm at The Meeting Place.

Cheese, wine and refreshments will be served and members of the public are invited to attend. The Friends of Stansted Park have been invited to speak about the many exciting events taking place at the Park this year, along with information about membership, volunteering and fundraising opportunities.

SPEEDING THROUGH ALDSWORTH

Residents of Aldsworth have brought to the Parish Council's attention the many problems experienced by those living along Emsworth Common Road from speeding vehicles. Although the speed limit along this stretch of road is 40 mph, many drive much faster.

Cllr David Mack said: "I have met residents in Aldsworth with officers from the County Council who are responsible for highways issues and the police, and we have discussed the problems resulting from excessive speeding. We are still in discussion about what can be done to improve the situation and ideally we'd like to put similar measures in place to those in East Ashling and Funtington.



"The speed indicator devices in Westbourne have been very successful. Not only have they noticeably reduced the speed of passing vehicles, but they have recorded important data. The highest recorded speed on Foxbury Lane entering the village was 74 mph which is incredibly dangerous. Fortunately, the average speed is 34 mph and only 11% of vehicles exceed the speed limit. We plan to install the devices on Emsworth Common Road."

The Community Speed Watch Group continues to monitor the speed of traffic in Westbourne which has proved to be an effective means of slowing the traffic and raising awareness of speeding. More volunteers are needed – please do get in touch (details on the back page) if you can help at all.

NEW GRIT BINS

Two new grit bins have been installed for residents to use in case of icy conditions – one in car park next to The Common on Monk's Hill and one on the verge outside Ellesmere Orchard on North Street.



PLEASE JOIN THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has two parish councillor vacancies which it is keen to fill. If you would like to do more for the place where you live and have some time to spare, please do consider joining us.

It would involve working with a team of volunteers on a range of projects and initiatives. The Parish Council is particularly interested in finding new members from Aldsworth to ensure representation from across the Parish. More information about the Council and the role of parish councillor is available at: www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk

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ASH DIEBACK AT THE COMMON

Eight trees on the boundary of The Common and Monk's Hill near the playground are unfortunately suffering from ash dieback and will be felled in the spring. The Parish Council will replant this area in the autumn with new native species.



The Parish Council is also working with Greening Westbourne to develop a programme of tree planting in the Parish, working with the County Council who is responsible for most of the verges along the roads in Westbourne.

VICTORY ENGLAND DAY 75

The Parish Council has agreed to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War by installing a commemorative bench. The exact location is still to be decided and funding to buy it has now been secured from the District Council.

SUPPORTING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Westbourne Cricket Club is the latest community group to have benefitted from a Community Chest Grant from the Parish Council. In January, it was agreed to award them £450 towards the cost of new safety netting.

Funding is still available for community groups and organisations in Westbourne. If you would like to apply for a small grant to help buy a piece of equipment or to help fund an event, please get in touch (contact details on the back page).

PROTECTING WATER VOLES IN THE MILL STREAM

The Parish Council has agreed to support an initiative to close the gaps in the hedge along Mill Lane next to the Mill Stream to prevent dogs from disturbing water voles.

All but one of the gaps in the hedge will be closed and the bank will be rebuilt with soil to the original level.

Branches and vegetation will be secured to block the gaps and native hedge species will be planted. Chain with hanging tubes will be installed to prevent dogs straying too far upstream from the allowed access gap.

Notices will inform dog walkers as to why the gaps are closed and will direct them to one gap left open at the A27 end of the waterway, as well as other access points (Brook Meadow nature reserve dog splash, Sussex Border Path, North Street and River Street).

Westbourne is lucky to have a proposed strategic wildlife corridor running through most of the village. It is seen as the most biodiverse of the corridors and the most enthusiastically supported. It is based on a Biodiversity Opportunity Area and includes chalk streams amongst the waterways. There are only 200 chalk streams left on the planet. The southern 'leg' along the Mill Stream/Mill Lane of the 'Y' shaped corridor is a vital link to Lumley, Hermitage and Chichester Harbour's wetlands and marshes. The District Council's wildlife officer has confirmed presence of water voles, which are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



The high level of biodiversity, including protected bats, water voles and dormice, protects Westbourne from unwanted housing development.

LOOKING FOR NEW SCOUT LEADERS

Chichester District Scouts is looking for more adults to become leaders. Plenty of young people are unfortunately unable to join the Scouts due to a lack of volunteers. In Westbourne, the Scouts are especially looking for people who might like to open an Explorer Scout unit for young people age 14-18. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact recruitment@chichesterscouts.org.uk

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TAKE THE LEAD

Green rolling pastures, wide open spaces, ancient woodlands, river valleys and dramatic coastline truly encompass the National Park's ethos of being one of 'Britain's Breathing Spaces'. With over 3,300km of rights of way, the South Downs National Park offers a landscape as diverse as it is breath taking. This is truly a place with something for everyone, all easily accessible.

Lots of us visit the South Downs National Park because it is a great place to walk our dogs. There's lots for them to explore including heathlands, forests, farmland and historical sites.



Responsible dog walkers are very welcome in the South Downs National Park. Taking responsibility for your dog is especially important in spring when young livestock are particularly vulnerable. The South Downs is also home to many ground nesting birds, and any disturbance can stop a successful brood. If you see signs asking you to keep your dog on the lead, please do so.

The South Downs National Park has launched a campaign to encourage responsible dog walking. Top tips include:

- Keep your dog on the lead near livestock.
 - Bag and bin your dog poo – any bin will do.
 - Stick to the path to avoid ground nesting birds.
 - Do not enter military land when red flags are flying
- see: www.southdowns.gov.uk/takethelead

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

As most of you will be aware, our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has been delayed somewhat. This is not of our making, but is the consequence of various consultations that the District Council were obliged to undertake in order to ensure our NP would stand up if legally challenged.

Illness to the Examiner has compounded the problem. Nevertheless, we have been assured that we will soon be able to move to referendum, which is when the Parish Council will call upon you to turn out and vote in favour of adoption of the Plan.

Strangely enough, the delay may actually work in our favour. It would seem that the District Council may not have a revised Local Plan in place by mid-July, which would mean that parishes without a NP, or that have a NP over two years old, could be the subject of hostile planning applications. Having our NP in place by then will therefore provide us with a very important element of protection.

CONTACT US

Westbourne Parish Council

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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