

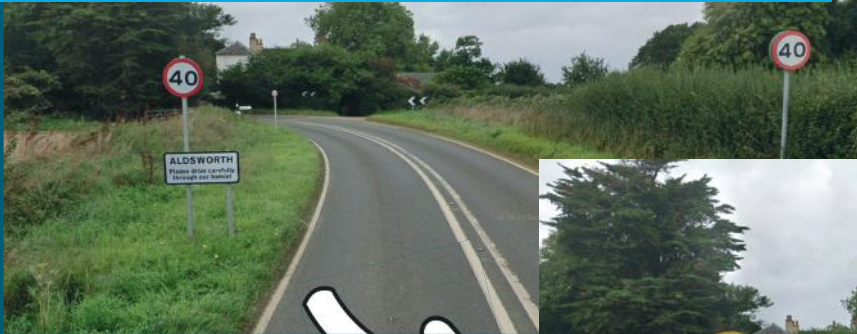
Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

| Summer 2024



Westbourne
Parish Council

www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk



Highways improvements in Aldsworth

The Parish Council and residents in Aldsworth have campaigned for many years for improvements to be made to Sheepwash Lane in Aldsworth. Sections of the road have become an accident blackspot, and inadequate signage, poor road surface, along with speeding vehicles have made it unsafe for those living nearby.

A further meeting was held with highways engineers from West Sussex County Council in April, where it was agreed that the following improvements would be made in the autumn.

- A reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph.
- New Aldsworth nameplates at the beginning of the speed limit.
- Installation of horse rider warning signs with new bend ahead warning signs and associated SLOW markings.
- Double white line road markings, new verge marker posts and resurfacing.
- New direction signs and SLOW markings at the junction with Aldsworth Common Road.
- Improved road narrow warning signs at Aldsworth Bridge.

Cllr Laura Veltom said: "We very much look forward to seeing the measures put in place later in the year to improve safety for residents in Aldsworth. It has become dangerous for many road users and the proposed improvements, particularly the lower speed limit, will bring road conditions in line with other local villages."

Speed limit change on Monk's Hill

The County Council has moved the 30mph speed limit northwards on Monk's Hill by approximately 270m, which means the Common now falls within the 30mph section of the road.

Cllr Richard Hitchcock said: "We're pleased that this change has finally been made after years of campaigning to the County Council. It never made sense to have a 60mph outside the recreation ground and children's play area and we were rightly concerned for the safety of people enjoying local facilities.

"We have also applied to the County Council for the speed limit at the northern section of Monk's Hill to be reduced from 60mph to 40mph, which is currently being considered. We'd like to thank everyone who responded to our consultations as they showed strong local support for the changes. In addition, we've installed a new speed indicator device on Monk's Hill to alert drivers to their speed.

"We've received many complaints about vehicles driving too fast on Monk's Hill and we kindly ask that residents do their bit by keeping to the speed limit."

The history of the Parish Council

So, where does the word Parish come from? You may be surprised to learn that it has Greek origins: para; beside, and oikos; a dwelling (the Greek word paroika today implies a colony or quarter).

Many people are confused about the origins of the parish council, and many still believe it is run by the church and is affiliated to the church. This is not actually true.

It is true that a parish is normally associated with the church as an area. Vestry meetings were often very active, not least in relation to local responsibilities for the poor and disadvantaged within the community. The Parliament Act of 1894 changed all that by creating democratically elected parish councils. This was intended to loosen the grip of the squire and the parson on village life, thus giving a voice to the communities and parishioners.

One hundred and thirty years later after the Act of Parliament, people still believe incorrectly that the parish council is a church organisation.

So, what is a parish council? It's a local civil authority found in England and is the lowest tier of local government. The number of parishes in England, as of 2023, stood at 10,464 and covered 40% of England's population. Historically, parishes were mainly in rural areas and smaller urban areas.

We, in Westbourne, are what's called an administrative parish, employing a clerk to run the council's business, with the decision-making being carried out by elected councillors. We currently have a full council of nine members (it's rare in the country to have a full council) working on behalf of parishioners.

Councillors are not paid, but volunteer their time and knowledge for the good of the place in which they live and sometimes work in, having a vested interest in the parish for the good of all. Reasonable expenses may be claimed, however, I can confidently say that in the nearly twenty-three years I have been a councillor, this rarely happens.

Westbourne Parish Council has always tried over the years to consider our Parish's status in all aspects of its many diverse activities, from local businesses, farming, schooling, education, play parks, picnic areas, tree planting, road speed, street lights, our closed churchyard, cemetery and, of course, budgeting for the future. This is called setting the Precept. We do this yearly.

On your Council Tax bill you will see a section indicating what the Parish Council will receive from Chichester District Council. This money is made as two payments during the year to pay for what the Council is responsible for. This (Precept) thought process occupies our thoughts and time for at least three months of the year and it is a difficult time for the councillors as we need to get it right. Failings on this issue will impact how we work and provide what is needed for the Parish in the coming year(s).

You have in Westbourne Parish Council a council that is regarded as a role model amongst other councils and has been highly regarded and respected for many years. This is down to everyone's hard work and to having an excellent clerk, with a good balance of knowledgeable councillors from many working backgrounds.

Cllr Nigel Ricketts, Vice-Chairman to Westbourne Parish Council



New Book-a-Bus services

You can now Book-a-Bus in Westbourne which is a flexible, on demand service for all areas. You can conveniently book journeys to key destinations, such as your nearest town, train station and more.

The easiest way to book is using the Ride Pingo app which shows you where the service is, where it will pick you up and when it will arrive.

You can also book on **01243 858854** between 6.30am and 7.30pm.

Find out more at
www.westsussex.gov.uk/book-a-bus



Bench vandalised

The much-enjoyed bench next to the River Ems on River Street has unfortunately been vandalised. We've reported it to the police who carry out regular patrols in the village to monitor in future. The Parish Council will be discussing either its repair or replacing it with a plastic or metal bench which would be more hardwearing.



Can you help us review the Neighbourhood Plan?

In July 2021, the Westbourne electorate voted in favour of the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan, which has since offered the Parish protection from unwanted housing development. It is a statutory document which cannot be ignored and is considered against the local plans of Chichester District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority as the starting point for where development in the Parish should take place and the type and quality of that development.

The Plan was written by local residents through the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (WNPSG) which allowed a wide range of local people to contribute their views on how they wanted the Parish to develop in the future. It sets a long-term vision for Westbourne and provides detail on the provision of housing, promotion of shops and local businesses, opportunities for employment and protection of green spaces. It can be read in full at www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk

The time has now come to review the Plan so it keeps up-to-date with changes in local and national legislation. The District Council has recently revised the Chichester Local Plan and it now carries weight in relation to planning housing development. The government has allocated the development of 575 new houses in the Chichester District area over the next 15 years, with Westbourne having 30 allocated to it. It is important that these updated figures are appropriately considered and included in the Plan so that any new housing is planned. We are aiming to update the Plan as soon as possible otherwise it risks being challenged by speculative developers who may set their sights on Westbourne. The task has been made much easier with an existing Plan in place.

We would like to ask all residents from the local community to consider joining the WNPSG to ensure that as many people as possible are represented. An initial meeting will take place on Thursday 25 July at 7pm at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. Please do come along if you would like to find out more, or email clerk@westbourne-pc.gov.uk.

Bourne Community Bus

The Bourne Community Bus provides free travel for all and runs every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.30am to 4pm.

The timetable has 60-90 minute circular routes and stops at Thorney, Southbourne, Westbourne, Hambrook, Nutbourne, New Brighton and Emsworth.

New routes have been added on a Wednesday from Compton and Stoughton, to Rowlands Castle, Stansted Garden Centre, Westbourne, Emsworth and Havant Tesco.

To see the full timetable, go to www.bournebus.co.uk



Bourne Heritage Trail

A new heritage trail, supported by the Parish Council and written by the History Group, is now available in Westbourne. Signs have been placed around the village at key sites so you can find out about the history and heritage of Westbourne and its many historic buildings.

A short description is available on each sign with a QR code to scan from your mobile, which gives you more information about the site.

Plans are underway to expand the trail and give residents and visitors to Westbourne even more history about the village.

You can also read the trail in full at www.bournetrail.co.uk/westbourne



Every child needs a family. Do you have room in yours?

You don't need to be a superhero to be a foster carer! You simply need to have some experience of caring for children, a spare bedroom, and be kind and patient (a sense of humour also helps!).

While the children that West Sussex County Council cares for are all in safe accommodation, a number are living a significant distance from their school and friends. 65% of these young people are aged 11 to 17 and they are waiting to find a local foster family to guide them through this important time in their lives.

Foster carers for West Sussex County Council receive comprehensive training, ongoing professional support and a competitive finance package per child. To find out more, call **0330 222 7775** or visit www.fosteringwestsussex.org.uk.

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

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