

Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

| Spring 2026



Westbourne
Parish Council

www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk



Let's bring back bees (and other bugs)

We need insects. They pollinate food crops and keep the soil healthy. They're essential to the web of life on Earth. But their numbers have dropped alarmingly.

That's why the council is co-funding a campaign run by Greening Westbourne and the Buzz Club – part of the University of Sussex. It's all about bringing bees and other brilliant bugs, like butterflies and beetles, back to our gardens.

The Buzz Club runs projects you can take part in at home, for all ages and abilities. You can create insect habitats and help wildlife conservation research. You don't need any special experience, and projects are free to take part in, although you'll need some simple equipment. Projects include:

- The Big Bee Hotel Experiment – set up a hotel for wild bees.
- Pet Waste Watch – monitor pet poo to help find out how flea treatments hurt the environment.
- Hoverfly Lagoons – create a home for these top pollinators.
- Insect ID Quiz – test your knowledge.
- Bug Bunkers – build a cosy home where insects can shelter.

Be a citizen scientist and help us bring back bugs. Go to www.thebuzzclub.uk to get started.

Neighbourhood Plan Review

Westbourne Parish Council is reviewing its Neighbourhood Plan to keep it up-to-date with changes in local and national legislation, and to plan for new homes in the Parish allocated by the government. The reviewed Plan will cover the period from 2025-2039. An important part of this process is obtaining the views and aspirations of the local community to build upon the information given to the Council to develop the first and existing Plan.

Residents, businesses and visitors are invited to complete a questionnaire to give views following on from previous consultations. Your responses will help shape the second version of the Plan - an important document used when deciding planning applications in the Parish to ensure housing is developed in the right place and meets local environmental, biodiversity and community policies.

Please complete the questionnaire in the newsletter and return it to Westbourne Café. Or you can complete it at www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk The closing date for responses is 8 May 2026.

An exhibition of the Plan and proposed updates will be held on Thursday 23 April from 6-7pm at Westbourne Community Hall, River Street, Westbourne. Please come along to find out more about the Plan and to give your views and suggestions.

Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire (2025–2039)

Please return to Westbourne Café or complete at www.westbourne-pc.gov.uk

Section 1: About You (Optional)

Name: _____

Age: Under 18 18–34 35–54 55–74 75+

Location in Parish: Westbourne Aldsworth Woodmancote Other

Your Postcode _____

Are you a Resident Business Visitor Other_____

Section 2: Sustainability and Local Economy

How important is it to support independent shops and local businesses in the Parish?

Very important Important Neutral Less important Not important

How often do you use the shops in Westbourne?

Daily Weekly Occasionally

Do you think measures to create more jobs for young people locally would be good ?

Yes No If yes, how, where and type? _____

Do you have solar panels on your property ?

Yes No If no, would you consider it? _____

How supportive are you of renewable energy initiatives such as a solar meadow in the Parish?

Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose

Any other comments on sustainability or local economy initiatives? _____

Section 3: Housing and Community

Do you think Westbourne needs more homes for young families?

Yes No Unsure

Do you think Westbourne needs more housing for older residents (sheltered housing, annexes)?

Yes No Unsure

Should new housing focus on small, dispersed sites and brownfield land rather than countryside?

Yes No Unsure

Is there a need for any more Gypsy and Traveller or Travelling Showman pitches in the Parish?

Yes No Unsure

Do you/would you support affordable houses in the Parish being built and sold at 50% of market value in perpetuity?


Yes No Unsure

Any other comments on housing needs? _____

Section 4: Infrastructure and Transport

How important is it to improve Parish parking?

Very important Important Neutral Less important Not important



How important is it to improve pedestrian/cycling safety in the Parish?

- Very important Important Neutral Less important Not important

Any suggestions how? _____

How important is it to improve community transport?

- Very important Important Neutral Less important Not important

Do you support measures to reduce traffic, especially HGVs through the Parish?

- Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose

Do you have an electric vehicle?

- Yes No If no, would you consider it? _____

How many vehicles are there in your household? _____

What is the distance to your place of work?

- Home Hybrid Up to 5 miles Up to 10 miles Up to 25 miles
 More than 25 miles

Any comments on infrastructure or transport?

Section 5: Local Environment, Biodiversity and Heritage

How important is it to protect the wildlife corridors?

- Very important Important Neutral Less important Not important

How important is it to protect the river, streams, riverbanks and local biodiversity?

- Very important Important Neutral Less important Not important

Comments _____

How important is it to preserve heritage features (flint walls, hedgerows, trees, conservation area)?

- Very important Important Neutral Less important Not important

Would you support integrating biodiversity measures into, and/or adjacent to, a solar meadow near the village?

- Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose

Any other comments on the environment or heritage?

Section 6: Community Facilities and Quality of Life

Which facilities should be prioritised for improvement? (tick all that apply)

- Open spaces such as parks and footpaths
 Community halls/Scout hut
 Village centre (The Square) safety and layout
 Health services access
 Other: _____

Section 7: General Feedback

Are there any other ideas or concerns you would like the Neighbourhood Plan to address?

Annual Parish Assembly

Residents are invited to the Annual Parish Assembly at 7pm on Thursday 23 April at Westbourne Community Hall, River Street, Westbourne.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy will be giving a presentation on local nature recovery and conservation. There will be information about the review of the Neighbourhood Plan, and local community groups and organisations will give an update on their achievements. The meeting is an opportunity for residents to have their say on anything important to the Parish and 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

There are three vacancies on the Parish Council and we are looking for more people to join to help support its valuable and important community work. The Council manages two recreation grounds which offer local people a place for exercise and recreation; we own signs, fingerposts, village gateways, benches, defibrillators, bins and trees – all which need looking after; we manage Westbourne Cemetery and the closed churchyard; we hold community events; we comment on local planning applications; we offer grants; we work closely with other local organisations to represent the Parish; and we employ staff. Please consider joining to help get the very best for Westbourne.

Speed limit change on Whitechimney Row

The Council has successfully applied for the speed limit on Whitechimney Row to be reduced to 20mph along the whole road to Old Farm Lane, with a 40mph section beyond towards Southbourne. We've also applied for improvements to be made to The Square and hope to be able to announce these soon.

Hitchcock Close playground

Residents are reminded that the new playground at Hitchcock Close, off Mill Road, falls under Chichester District Council's public space protection order and dogs are not allowed. As a playground, it's important that children have a space to play freely and safely. There have been several reports of dogs being let into the playground which could see a penalty of £150.

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

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