

Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

S P R I N G 2 0 1 8

MONKS HILL PLAYGROUND NOW RE-EQUIPPED AND OPEN

Some thirty years ago parishioners embarked on the project of creating a recreation ground at Monk's Hill. Last year, after many hours of much fun and enjoyment, Westbourne parish council concluded that the time had at last come to replace the worn out equipment.



The council, as an elected body, has the power to raise a precept to carry out local projects. These powers are limited but they can and do provide facilities such as children's play areas. The cost of running our recreation and leisure areas is one of the most significant parts of our precept. However, as a council we have been putting money aside over a long period to ensure that we had sufficient funds to replace the equipment when it was necessary.

Creating spaces where children can play freely requires careful thought and imaginative design, and the council were looking to refurbish the play area for both toddlers and juniors in a way that would be challenging and provide a number of activities where children could let off some steam and have fun. Children today have less freedom to play independently than their parents and grandparents. Less than 10% play in natural places compared to 40% adults when they were young. Therefore well designed play spaces are an important part of children's lives. The challenge then was to provide the best possible play opportunities, and to create a play space that would be attractive for children, capture their imagination and give them scope to play in new and exciting ways.

The council consulted the children at Westbourne Primary School and after hearing their wishes, we established the sort of multi-play system we hoped to create. We went out to tender for the refurbishment work, and the successful company was Wicksteed Leisure, who helped with the imaginative design, undertook all the installation work and also supplied the new play equipment.

The new equipment has a 'Planet Jungle Mamba', whose components include a wide slide, a semi-scoop barrier, a ravine bridge, a climbing wall, a monkey pole slider and a jungle tower. There is also a separate Springboard see-saw. We are also very proud of our Swirl roundabout. This is installed flush with the ground for wheelchair access, and includes a designated wheelchair station and a seat for the accompanying user. We are grateful to Chichester District Council who provided a grant for the roundabout.

Nigel Ricketts, the Westbourne parish councillor who oversaw the project from start to finish, is delighted with the playground refurbishment and told us, 'This revitalised play area is a fantastic asset for the village of Westbourne and it's great to see it being so well used and enjoyed by local children'.



WESTBOURNE HAS ITS FIRST DEFIBRILLATOR

The observant among you will have noticed a large green and yellow cabinet on the external wall of the Coop. This contains the village's first defibrillator. We are told that the equipment is extremely easy to use: call 999, keep calm and follow instructions, give the operator the defibrillator location code (AAU20) and they will provide you with an unlock code, stay on the line for further instructions. However, to ensure that potential users have the kind of confidence that is necessary in an emergency, we will be running training sessions. It is very likely that these will be publicised via the parish council website as well as the village website and the Westbourne Magazine.

We would very much like to thank Postcode Publications for generously providing us with the defibrillator and the Coop for covering the costs of its installation. In certain respects, we hope that it is never used, but it is there if needed!



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE 10 AM SATURDAY APRIL 28TH

In November last year, Christopher Scott, the lead advisor of the Resilience and Emergencies team at WSCC, gave villagers the first of a two part presentation on Community Resilience; essentially an introduction to how we can help each other in emergency circumstances, particularly in situations where the elderly or the vulnerable may be involved.

Christopher Scott leads on the 'Community Resilience' element part of the 'What If?' programme which is currently being rolled out countywide. His presentation was also the first step towards being able to provide the parish with training and guidance - as well as equipment - with the aim of us becoming a stronger, safer and more resilient community. In his initial presentation he covered these topics in detail: why develop Community Resilience?, what WSCC and its partners can do to support, what events can impact a community, how to assess those impacts, making a Community Plan, how emergencies work and how communities can help in support of emergency responders, keeping safe in an emergency and keeping others from harm during an emergency.

He has now kindly agreed to present the second part of the presentation called, 'You can make a difference.' This will cover these topics: Dynamic and analytical risk assessment, Reducing the impact of an incident, Identifying community assets, Preventing further harm, Warning and informing others, Team Leadership, Communications, Record keeping and Guidance on specific hazards: Electricity - working near water - working near a highway.

This second presentation will take place at **10 am on Saturday, 28th of April, 2018**. The venue is the Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. We most warmly encourage as many villagers as possible to attend the presentation. Refreshments provided!

FINGER POSTS

Within the Parish we have several heritage black and white cast iron finger posts. We were given the option to adopt them from the Highways Department or lose them. They are a well-loved village feature, but over the years some have been damaged and the finger signs lost. We are in the process of replacing the damaged ones, however some are looking a little worse for wear and a bit grubby, so if any of you have a few minutes to spare and can give them a quick clean with soapy water, it will keep them and our village looking good for the coming year. If you find any problems with them please let Cllr Roy Briscoe know who is co-ordinating repairs.

A NEW MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AT LONG COPSE LANE THREATENED

Should 260 homes be built on a greenfield site alongside a rural lane adjacent to Hollybank Woods and in close proximity to Southleigh Forest and the South Downs National Park? Plans for the proposals are currently being promoted to develop 260 homes in Long Copse Lane, right on the border with Westbourne. These plans will be presented at a Development Consultation Forum at 6 pm on Tuesday 17th April 2018 at the Havant Borough Council Public Service Plaza, PO9 2AX.



Objections to development of the site, identified as H6 in the draft Havant Borough Local Plan 2036, have been made in a recent consultation exercise by Westbourne Parish Council, Emsworth Residents' Association and Emsworth Forum. Among reasons for objection cited are:

- Development will significantly change the rural character of the area.
- Traffic and Access are significant issues: there is no satisfactory means of vehicular access to serve the traffic that will be generated – potentially over 500 cars and service vehicles a day.
- Long Copse Lane is narrow with no footpaths. The right-angled bend into Hollybank Lane lacks adequate visibility and is also very narrow. The Local Plan states that Long Copse Lane will need to be widened. This widening will inevitably require third party land, destroy the rural character of the lane and cause the loss of a number of mature trees, ancient oaks and hedgerows.
- The well-used Sussex Border Path emerges from Hollybank Woods onto Hollybank Lane at this point and continues along Long Copse Lane, resulting in danger to pedestrians, horse riders and road users.
- Such a major development will significantly erode the gap between Emsworth and Westbourne, thereby undermining the distinctive characteristics of each of the communities.

- It is a relatively isolated site. The nearest bus stop is on Southleigh Road – at least 10 minutes walk. There are no other facilities or amenities in the area and the proposal will inevitably increase car use.
- The development will ruin the setting of the Grade II Listed Hollybank House, which is adjacent.
- It will harm protected species - Bechstein's bats, badgers, dormice, nesting birds and reptiles.
- The loss of mature trees will erode the character of nearby ancient woodland, formerly part of the Forest of Bere.
- The site has known drainage capacity issues.

If you are concerned about proposed development on this site, you are urged to come along to the Development Consultation Forum to ask questions and make your views known.

WESTBOURNE BUS SERVICES TO BE WITHDRAWN

The Parish Council has been looking at ways to minimise impact of the cuts in funding and identify ways of acquiring a share of the available funds. As of the 15th April 2018, Westbourne is to lose bus routes 28, 28a, the Southbourne-Westbourne-Havant, the 147 Rowlands Castle-Bishop Luffa School and the 655 Tangmere-Bishop Luffa School services. These are used by many residents for doctors and other appointments and shopping trips to Chichester, Emsworth and Havant as well as school and employment travel. Stagecoach will take on the 54 Chichester-Petersfield, the 55 Tangmere- Chichester, the 91/92/93 Midhurst-Petersfield, and the 665 Littlehampton-Westergate-Chichester services, although their routes and timetables will in some cases be amended.



WSCC have made cuts to the subsidies for certain bus routes including those serving Westbourne and the operators, Emsworth and District Motor Services, have found that they are no longer economically viable to operate as a result. As the Parish Council we have voiced our concerns about the effect of these withdrawals on our parishioners to the WSCC. Residents can register their views on this at buses@westsussex.gov.uk. Please complain loudly, or nothing will be done.

THE SQUARE, EAST STREET AND WHITE CHIMNEY ROW

We would like to hear your views on how these areas can be improved. One suggestion is to change the layout of the Square to incorporate a larger pedestrian area with a café culture setting, trees, pedestrian crossing points along with traffic calming measures. This would probably reduce the number of parking spaces but should improve the experience for most users.

We are also trying to have a Traffic Regulation Order implemented to stop HGVs coming through the village, except for access, but that may be difficult as we need WSCC Highways' support and they move in mysterious ways! For White Chimney Row and East Street we also need ideas. One solution would be to introduce East Street residents parking with a 45 min stay for non-residents. In White Chimney Row we are considering a footpath & shared space in front of the houses, which hopefully would have the effect of slowing vehicles down as well as allowing the safe passage of pedestrians. Feedback on these suggestions and any other ideas will be gratefully received.

ROAD GRITTING

With the bad weather, snow and ice, we thought we'd seen the last of it, but winter has had a sting in the tail this year. The Parish Council were asked about arranging gritting for some of the major roads in the village. Sadly that is the responsibility of Highways who decide which roads to grit and only includes Westbourne Road through the village Square and up Foxbury Lane to Common Road. As a Parish Council we haven't the resources to grit any of the other roads. If however you know anyone that would help with gritting we will identify them in our Emergency Winter Plan. If Highways activate the plan they will pay those identified for gritting additional roads and the grit will be bought and supplied through the Parish Council. If you or you know anyone that would be interested, please let Cllr Roy Briscoe know and we will add you to the turn out list.

SPEED WATCH CAMPAIGN

A recent campaign by one of our residents has brought about the setting up of a Speedwatch Team, who will be trained in the operation of speed devices. Those infringing the speed limit will be warned by West Sussex Police and prolific offenders would then be targeted by the Road Policing Unit. A petition is being organised, so please support it; there is also a section asking if you are interested in getting involved. To do so please register yourselves on the Sussex police website. Please also look out for the information leaflets and the petition.

The speed limit on Monks Hill past the Children's Playground is currently 60mph. We have repeatedly asked for the current 30mph limit to be extended to include the play area but regrettably WSCC Highways say it doesn't fit their Policy. They say they have carried out a review but they are still refusing to acknowledge there is any problem. Both the Parish Council and our County Councillor Cllr Viral Parikh feel the only option now open to us is to ask our MP, Gillian Keegan, to ask for a review at National Level to address this serious failing, and we will continue to push hard to try and make this happen. If you believe the speed limit here should be reduced to 30mph it would be very helpful to our cause if you could email us with your views at westbournepc@outlook.com.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY THURSDAY 19TH APRIL, 2018

Join the Parish Council and organisations from across the Parish at the Annual Parish Assembly on Thursday 19 April from 7-10pm at The Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. You can hear guest speakers, find out about what's been going on over the last 12 months and meet others. Refreshments of wine and cheese are available!

CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Call:	07775 654483
Email:	westbournepc@outlook.com
Write to:	Clare Kennett, Clerk to the Parish Council, 53 Skylark Avenue, Emsworth, PO10 7GB
Website:	www.westbournepc.org
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/westbournepc

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Richard Hitchcock	<i>Chair</i>	01243 389096	rahitchcock@btinternet.com
Cllr Nigel Ricketts	<i>Vice-Chair</i>	01243 371865	nigel58ricketts@googlemail.com
Cllr Roy Briscoe		01243 696376	westbournepcroy@talktalk.net
Cllr David Mack		01243 372784	davidmack12@hotmail.com
Cllr Piers Mason		01243 377977	piers@zoboa.com
Cllr Val Owen		01243 373382	mrsvalowen@gmail.com
Cllr Syd Smith		01243 378438	sydsmith@btinternet.com

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mark Dunn	<i>District Councillor</i>	01243 535202	mdunn@chichester.gov.uk
Cllr Viral Parikh	<i>County Councillor</i>	07474 741345	viral.parikh@westsussex.gov.uk

The Parish Council meets every second Thursday of the month at 7.15 pm at the Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. Residents are very welcome to attend the meeting which is held in public.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Welcome to David Mack, our new parish councillor. David was born in Hampshire, and he lives in Westbourne with wife Lesley. Now retired and with time on his hands he says that he feels 'it is important to give something back to the village and I look forward to serving the local community's best interests.' David spent all of his working career in the construction industry, initially working for Ready Mixed Concrete on major engineering projects such as Heathrow, Gatwick and Glasgow airports. He later formed his own freelance project management company and he worked with major companies throughout Europe. Over the last twenty years he project managed many major construction projects which included The Shard, Lords Cricket Ground, MI5, Centre Parks, Saudi Arabian Oil Company. David says his interests include travel, rugby, football and golf. He is a former captain of Southsea golf club.

