

WSSC Councillor's Report for September: Westbourne

29 September 2026

Cllr Tracie Bangert, Member for the Bournes Division

Local Government Reorganisation. The Government has announced that it is pausing the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme whilst it reviews if decisions already taken and those to be made are the right ones. No timeline has been given to local authorities as to when the review is to be carried out or when it will be concluded. West Sussex County Council has reacted to the latest development with disappointment that a process that has been ongoing for over 18 months has yet to be decided upon. In a statement it said:

"We are frustrated by the latest news and will be meeting with ministers to understand what is behind this decision and what the timetable is for going forward.

"Our concern now is to ensure our staff and members are kept up to date with the latest details in what continues to be an unsettling time for them. We will also ensure our residents, communities and businesses are kept fully aware.

"In the meantime, we urge the Government to finalise the details on the LGR programme so we can finally know when this will be happening and what the decision is for the future of local Government in West Sussex."

Footpaths. The path alongside the River will be strimmed as part of the routine maintenance visit when the contractors follow through in October. WSSC will also look to see if it is possible to add this one to the summer clearance programme for next year. With regard to the condition of the retaining wall to the River over which the footpath travels, WSSC would only be responsible for the first few centimetres of surface as they do not own or maintain the structure, but only protect and maintain that right to use. However, the path does run over it and WSSC does have a duty towards safety of the user. A Land Registry search confirmed that the retaining wall and area under the footpath is unregistered land. As a first step an enquiry has been sent to the Environment Agency and a response is awaited.

Highways. As residents will be aware, there are a number of road closures and diversions locally. I hope you provide more up to date commentary at the Parish Council meeting. The Chair of the Parish Council and I will be holding a meeting with Nick de Sousa, Highways officer, in early October to discuss parking in Westbourne.

Crisis and Resilience Fund. If any residents are experiencing financial hardship, please get them to look at this: [Crisis and Resilience Fund - West Sussex County Council](#) This can include one off payments for white goods or emergency funding.

Library Service. I am due to visit all 36 libraries in West Sussex over the next 12 months. I visited Southwick, which is the furthest East of the libraries in the County (and very close to Brighton), where I joined in Melody for the Mind, where a group of elderly residents get together weekly to reminisce and sing songs of their youth. I had great fun joining in with them. Following this I visited Shoreham, Lancing and Goring Libraries, and later in the month Bognor, where I learnt about help

the Library Service provide to people who are illiterate, and those offline. Through a charity, we provide tablets for families with no access to the Internet. I also promoted the Dungeons and Dragons sessions happening in some major libraries, which are held for young people aged between 11 and 25 with additional needs. These have proven to be incredibly popular; West Sussex uniquely runs a Disability Register for young people up to 25, and through this helps to plan and deliver services.



Planning Session. I attended the first planning session at Eams Farm for the Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC). One of the major topics of conversation was the inclusion of the Horsefield in Havant's Local Plan, which lies in the National Landscape, in the Havant Local Plan, which has caused much consternation. I would like to thank Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council for their support on challenging this decision.

Safe and Wellbeing Visit. I went with the Fire Service on a safe and wellbeing visit, where they - through Social Services - learn of vulnerable individuals who they contact to conduct checks. We spent over an hour with the resident we met in West Wittering and I would highly recommend anyone who knows of a vulnerable person to get in touch so that the Service can carry out a visit.

Public Cabinet. I presented information around crisis and resilience funding, trading standards and the Library Service. During Q1, Trading Standards continued to deliver targeted enforcement activity, including the seizure of more than 17,000 illicit cigarettes and 6kg of hand rolling tobacco, interventions with food businesses and action to address unfair trading practices. I also had a meeting with Alex O'Keefe, a senior member of the Public Protection Partnership, who deals with

public protection issues. We had a long conversation around gypsies and travellers. There have been far fewer incursions this year, it seems due to the extreme heat of Summer.



Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Service. We discussed wildfires, procurement of new equipment, dynamic planning for fire station cover, budgets and staffing levels (on call firefighters). We have six new recruits but nationally it is very difficult to get the numbers we would like. There are 24 fire stations in the County. Gary Ball, the West Sussex Fire Chief is now in touch with Jess Brown-Fuller MP and she spoke in Parliament of the need for certain equipment to be provided for the Fire Service.

Improved Mobile Signals. West Sussex councils are delivering a major new project to tackle poor mobile signals in Chichester city centre. Working with technology providers, West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council are installing the infrastructure needed to improve mobile signals across key areas of North Street, South Street, East Street, West Street and Tower Street. The project responds directly to feedback from businesses, residents and visitors who have experienced weak and unreliable network coverage in Chichester city centre, making it difficult to send messages, make calls and use mobile apps. The project is the first step in enabling mobile operators to set up the services needed to improve coverage in the city centre. The infrastructure is designed to support technology that can be shared by all network operators, eliminating the need to install more columns in the future. The works are scheduled to begin on Monday 21 September and will be delivered in phases over the coming months.

Please feel free to contact me and I will endeavour to answer your queries:

tracie.bangert@westsussex.gov.uk

Westbourne Parish Council, 8 October 2026

Item 77: Clerk's report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with an overview of activities since the last Full Council meeting.

1. Clerk's update on current projects

- Path installed at Monk's Hill and amphitheatre near completion. Post on Facebook received lots of likes and no negative comments. One email from a resident with a complaint about loss of open space.
- Enquiries from three members of the public considering joining the Council.
- Newsletter booked into design, print and distribution. Written and photographs taken. Contacted village organisations to offer space for articles.
- Budget setting – new projects to be agreed for 2027/28.
- Councillor photographs

2. Actions from the last meeting not otherwise on the agenda

- Written agendas, supporting papers and minutes for Full Council and Planning Committee.
- Submitted planning responses following the last Planning Committee meeting.
- Circulated correspondence to councillors.
- Entered all invoices to the Rialtas software and reconciled the income and expenditure against the bank statements each month to be signed at meetings.
- Set up all payments on Lloyds Bank for payment.
- Recorded paper copies for all expenditure and invoices in a file to be kept for seven years.
- Updated the website.

3. Assistant Clerk's update on current projects

- Dog Wash research including contacting utility companies for quotes
- Ordered spare defib pads
- Contacted Longmeadows about varnishing the noticeboards
- Drain survey with Nigel – photos and locations

Westbourne Parish Council, 8 October 2026
Item 10/26/78. Items for consideration and resolution

a. Newsletter: To agree the articles for the next edition.

Page	Subject
Lead article	New fitness equipment at Monk's Hill
Page 2	Note from the Chairman
Page 3	Planning: Foxbury Lane and Neighbourhood Plan
Page 4	Vacancies: Introduce councillors
Page 5	River Ems
Page 6	Local news
Page 7	Photo competition and cross word
Page 8	Dog poo and signage Antisocial behaviour Fingerposts Defibs

Newsletter Costs		
	4 pages	8 pages
Design	£212	£340
Printing (1500)	£395	£550
Delivery	£300	£325
Total	£907	£1,215

E-newsletter: To develop an e-newsletter in Mailchip to grow distribution list

b. Summer event: To discuss holding a village fete on Saturday 12 June or 19 June 2027.

- Budget required, estimated to be at least £5k
- Hire of marquee
- Invite local organisations and groups
- Invite food and entertainment stalls
- Programme of main events – dog show, tug of war, welly wanging

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 30/09/2026

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
100 Income							
1076 Precept	151,663	151,663	0			100.0%	
1080 Bank Interest	1,206	0	(1,206)			0.0%	
1090 Misc Income	12	0	(12)			0.0%	
1110 Access licence - Sydenham Terr	0	200	200			0.0%	
1120 Rent - Allotment Association	650	650	0			100.0%	
Income :- Receipts	153,531	152,513	(1,018)			100.7%	0
Net Receipts	153,531	152,513	(1,018)				
110 General Admin & Disbursements							
4000 Clerk's salary gross	13,109	28,000	14,891		14,891	46.8%	
4005 Assistant clerk salary gross	3,158	8,000	4,842		4,842	39.5%	
4010 Clerk employer NI	853	3,700	2,847		2,847	23.1%	
4015 Assistant Clerk employer NI	85	500	415		415	16.9%	
4030 Clerk employers pension	2,386	5,200	2,814		2,814	45.9%	
4035 Assistant employers pension	314	1,500	1,186		1,186	21.0%	
4060 Travelling (clerks)	34	85	51		51	39.5%	
4065 Work from home allowances	260	320	60		60	81.3%	
4070 Chairman's Expenses	175	200	25		25	87.4%	
4075 Councillor's Expenses	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
4080 Courses & Publications	75	500	425		425	15.0%	
4085 External Audit	446	650	204		204	68.7%	
4090 Internal Audit	175	500	325		325	35.0%	
4095 Legal Advice & Professional	350	2,000	1,650		1,650	17.5%	
4105 Information Commissioner Offic	0	47	47		47	0.0%	
4110 Insurance	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	0.0%	
4115 Rialtas Financial Software	775	1,000	225		225	77.5%	
4120 Cloud Doc Storage/MS 365	1,344	1,700	356		356	79.0%	
4125 Hall Hire /Zoom Meeting Expens	506	728	222		222	69.5%	
4130 Stationery / Printing	150	350	200		200	42.9%	
4135 Postage / Po Box Address	418	400	(18)		(18)	104.5%	
4140 Mobile Phone	107	270	163		163	39.5%	
4145 Payroll Services	130	520	390		390	25.0%	
4150 Bank service charges	26	55	30		30	46.4%	
General Admin & Disbursements :- Indirect Payments	24,874	58,925	34,051	0	34,051	42.2%	0
Net Payments	(24,874)	(58,925)	(34,051)				

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120 Running Costs							
4200 Westbourne Cemetery	0	12,848	12,848		12,848	0.0%	
4205 Ground Maintenance - Monks Hil	8,379	10,000	1,621		1,621	83.8%	5,000
4210 Closed Churchyard Maintenance	300	1,000	700		700	30.0%	
4215 Ground Maintenance - Hitchcock	3,873	10,000	6,127		6,127	38.7%	
4220 Play/defib inspections SCormac	2,239	2,700	461		461	82.9%	
4225 Playground Inspections Kompan	299	1,500	1,201		1,201	19.9%	
4230 Street Light Maintenance	1,633	2,000	367		367	81.7%	
4705 Plant /Soil Flower Troughs	69	100	31		31	69.1%	
Running Costs :- Indirect Payments	16,793	40,148	23,355	0	23,355	41.8%	5,000
Net Payments	(16,793)	(40,148)	(23,355)				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	5,000	0	(5,000)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(11,793)	(40,148)	(28,355)				
130 Subscriptions, S137 / S147							
4300 Membership WSALC / NALC	868	869	1		1	99.9%	
4310 Clerk's Membership SLCC	0	376	376		376	0.0%	
4315 British Legion Poppy Appeal	0	65	65		65	0.0%	
4320 Westbourne Allotment Associat	50	50	0		0	100.0%	
4325 Closed Churchyard	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
4330 Homestart	250	250	0		0	100.0%	
4335 Citizens Advice	300	300	0		0	100.0%	
4340 Parish Online Subscription	75	80	5		5	93.8%	
4345 Community Chest Grants	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4350 Grants	4,000	0	(4,000)		(4,000)	0.0%	
4355 Final Straw Foundation	100	100	0		0	100.0%	
Subscriptions, S137 / S147 :- Indirect Payments	5,643	2,890	(2,753)	0	(2,753)	195.3%	0
Net Payments	(5,643)	(2,890)	2,753				
140 Capital Schemes							
4400 Play Equipment - Monks Hill	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	0.0%	
4405 Play Equipment - Hitchcock Clo	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	0.0%	
4410 Churchyard Wall	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4415 Village Gateways	0	50	50		50	0.0%	
4425 Office Equipment	1,583	200	(1,383)		(1,383)	791.3%	788
4430 Tree Survey/Surgery	950	2,000	1,050		1,050	47.5%	
4435 Speed Indicator Devices/CSW	354	1,500	1,146		1,146	23.6%	
4440 Defibrillators	642	700	58		58	91.8%	

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	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4455 Community Bus Service	1,000	1,000	0		0	100.0%	
4485 Asset transfer	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4490 Allotment shed path	2,000	2,000	0		0	100.0%	
4495 Neighbourhood Plan	2,605	12,000	9,395		9,395	21.7%	
Capital Schemes :- Indirect Payments	9,134	28,450	19,316	0	19,316	32.1%	788
Net Payments	(9,134)	(28,450)	(19,316)				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	788	0	(788)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(8,345)	(28,450)	(20,105)				
<u>150 Services</u>							
4500 Street Light Energy	324	500	176		176	64.9%	
4505 Waste Bins & Emptying	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
Services :- Indirect Payments	324	2,500	2,176	0	2,176	13.0%	0
Net Payments	(324)	(2,500)	(2,176)				
<u>160 Communications</u>							
4605 Newsletter /Printing Communica	709	4,000	3,291		3,291	17.7%	
4610 Website Hosting & Email Acc	25	500	475		475	5.0%	
Communications :- Indirect Payments	734	4,500	3,766	0	3,766	16.3%	0
Net Payments	(734)	(4,500)	(3,766)				
<u>170 Contingency Fund</u>							
4715 IT Support	0	100	100		100	0.0%	
4720 Increase general reserve	31,053	15,000	(16,053)		(16,053)	207.0%	
Contingency Fund :- Indirect Payments	31,053	15,100	(15,953)	0	(15,953)	205.6%	0
Net Payments	(31,053)	(15,100)	15,953				
<u>999 VAT Data</u>							
115 VAT on Receipts	61	0	(61)			0.0%	
VAT Data :- Receipts	61	0	(61)				0
515 VAT on Payments	839	0	(839)		(839)	0.0%	
VAT Data :- Indirect Payments	839	0	(839)	0	(839)		0
Net Receipts over Payments	(778)	0	778				

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 30/09/2026

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
Grand Totals:- Receipts	153,592	152,513	(1,079)			100.7%	
Payments	89,395	152,513	63,118	0	63,118	58.6%	
Net Receipts over Payments	64,197	0	(64,197)				
plus Transfer from EMR	5,788	0	(5,788)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	69,985	0	(69,985)				

Earmarked Reserves

Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
322 EMR-Play Equipment Monk's Hill	13,230.00		13,230.00
323 EMR - Play Equipment Mill Road	16,067.37		16,067.37
324 EMR - SIDS/CSW	195.12		195.12
327 EMR - Staff Absence	2,000.00		2,000.00
328 EMR - Vandalism/Insurance Exce	500.00		500.00
329 EMR - Monk's Hill Car Park	5,000.00		5,000.00
330 EMR - Churchyard Wall	7,261.85		7,261.85
331 EMR - Finger Post Signs	1,316.00		1,316.00
332 EMR - Election Costs	4,000.00		4,000.00
334 EMR - Neighbourhood Plan	1,363.85		1,363.85
336 EMR - Legal advice	5,861.00		5,861.00
340 EMR - CDC CIL Oct 2024	4,500.00		4,500.00
341 EMR - CDC CIL April 2025	27,773.11	-5,000.00	22,773.11
342 EMR - CDC CIL Oct 2025	1,397.75		1,397.75
353 EMR - Office Equipment	195.58	-788.49	-592.91
399 EMR - % JBC Reserves	15,636.00		15,636.00
	106,297.63	-5,788.49	100,509.14

Westbourne Parish Council, 8 October 2026**Agenda item : Payments for approval**

(DC: Debit Card, DD: Direct Debit, BACS: Internet Banking, C: cheque
inc. cheque number, PC: payment by petty cash, * earmarked reserve).

Payments for approval		Total	Net	VAT
DD	O2 mobile phone Oct 26	21.31	17.76	3.55
BACS	Confidential payments Oct 26			
BACS	WSCC LGPS Sept 26	743.51	743.51	0.00
BACS	Microsoft 365 Oct 26	11.52	9.60	1.92
	Microshade cloud storage and email			
BACS	accounts Oct 26	299.88	249.90	49.98
BACS	MS 365 Oct 26	9.72	8.10	1.62
BACS	Lloyds bank service charge Oct 26	4.25	4.25	0.00
	GM Support playground inspections Oct			
BACS	26	200.00	200.00	0.00
BACS	HMRC quarter 2 2026-27	2,299.81	2,299.81	0.00
BACS	JBC precent contribution 2026/27	12,842.00	12,842.00	0.00
	Longmeadows path Monk's Hill second			
BACS	instalment	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
	Longmeadows amphitheatre at Monk's			
BACS	Hill	3,200.00	3,200.00	0.00
	Longmeadows grounds maintenance			
BACS	quarter 2 2026-27	2,397.20	2,397.20	0.00
BACS	BBQ signs and slide sign	293.34	244.45	48.89
	Mulberry payroll services quarrrter 2			
BACS	2026/27	44.00	44.00	0.00
BACS				
		27,366.54	27,260.58	105.96
Payments for retrospective approval				
	Reimbursement K Hassan meeting			
BACS	refreshments	14.97	14.80	0.17
	Royal mail fee to pay as postage not			
BACS	paid by sender	1.50	1.50	0.00
		16.47	16.30	0.17

0.00	0.00	0.00
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Westbourne Parish Council, 8 October 2026

Agenda item : Correspondence list

- Email from the Public Rights of Way team about footpath 245 vegetation clearance and fence inspection.
- Highways online parish briefing sessions on a variety of subjects – the Clerk will share the meeting invitation as they are advertised.
- Email from a resident that the section of land at Hitchcock Close between the playground and the properties is becoming overgrown.
- Notification that Bourne Community College became an academy on 1 October 2026.