

Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

A U T U M N 2 0 1 6

CALLS FOR A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN THE SQUARE

Over 130 residents have signed a petition to urge West Sussex County Council to put a crossing in place for pedestrians in The Square, Westbourne. The petition was also presented to the Parish Council at its meeting in July and councillors unanimously agreed that measures are required to help pedestrians across this busy section of road.

Signatories feel that there is poor visibility in The Square, cars are often parked on double yellow lines, and cars and cyclists drive without slowing or stopping for pedestrians - all of which make it difficult to cross.

Some eighteen months ago, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process, the Parish Council commissioned a traffic survey by an independent consultant, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process, which offers some options to improve road layout and traffic flow.

Cllr Richard Hitchcock, Chair of the Parish Council, said:

'I would like to thank residents for bringing this issue to our attention and for taking the time to sign this worthwhile petition. It is extremely useful for us to use as evidence to help build a strong case for improvements with West Sussex County Council, the authority responsible for Highways.

The Parish Council is committed to improving road conditions in this location, particularly for pedestrians, and we will be looking into the recommendations of our recent road traffic survey during our continued discussions with the County Council'.



SETTING A PRECEPT TO HELP CREATE A THRIVING PARISH

Recommendations for next year's Precept will be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting on Thursday 8 December. The revised draft budget makes savings in many areas but sees an overall increase to meet the Council's ambition of improving services for all residents and delivering much needed Parish facilities.

At its meeting in October, the Council's Finance Committee worked through the budget in detail. Efficiencies have been made to the cost of the playgrounds and general administration to ensure that the Precept remains as low as possible.

Cllr Nigel Ricketts, Chair of the Finance Committee, said: 'Previous Parish Council Precepts have focused on maintaining the cemetery, running the two playgrounds and covering general administration costs. For the next financial year, we want to deliver a Precept that will provide more services to all residents and help us build new facilities to benefit the whole Parish.

Residents have told us that a car park in Westbourne would help to alleviate congestion and support local businesses. If we are to provide the village with a car park, we will need to ensure that we have the finance behind us to secure a public loan and cover any associated legal costs.

We are keen to hear your thoughts on the proposed Precept and invite you to have your say. You can contact the Council, details on the back page, or come along to the next meeting on Thursday 8 December at 7pm at the Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne.'

The proposed Precept sees an increase of roughly £20,000 for the financial year 2017/18, which represents an extra £21.50 for a Band D Council Tax property.

To find out more about how the Precept is set - the funding received from Chichester District Council which is collected from Council Tax - go to www.westbournevillage.org/pc.html where you can find the minutes of the last Finance Committee, as well as the 2017/18 budget which gives a detailed breakdown of forecasted costs.

PATCHING UP WHITECHIMNEY ROW

Residents will be pleased to see that the road surface in Whitechimney Row has been improved by West Sussex County Council, thanks to complaints from the Parish Council and residents. The Council will continue to put pressure on the County Council to resurface the whole road. The corner with Old Farm Lane will receive a surface dressing in 2017, although a date has not yet been confirmed.

You can report any highways problems at:
<http://love.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/add>

ENCOURAGING CAREFUL DRIVING IN WESTBOURNE

The Parish Council has received funding from Chichester District Council to build welcome signs, known as gateways, at the five entrances to Westbourne, which will alert drivers that they are entering a village location with a lower speed limit. The Parish Council is currently working through a minefield of regulations, which includes getting agreement from West Sussex County Council as to the exact locations and construction. In the next few weeks, the locations will be advertised to give residents an opportunity to comment.

The County Council has now confirmed that the new 20mph speed limit zone will be monitored before the end of the year to see if the scheme has been successful and if any further measures are required.

The Parish Council is also exploring the possibility of extending the 30mph zone on Monk's Hill to beyond the recreation ground. Discussions are continuing with West Sussex County Council, and with their policy on our side, it is hoped that the Parish Council's strong case will prevail.

PARKING ON MILL ROAD

The Parish Council is exploring alternatives for off-road parking solutions in Mill Road. Parking on the grass verges creates muddy conditions and deep ruts, especially in wet weather. As a result of limited resources at West Sussex County Council, it looks as though responsibility for making improvements is falling on the Parish Council. Any suggestions as to how this can be achieved cheaply would be welcomed.

IMPROVING OUR PLAY AREAS

A second footpath at the entrance to Monk's Hill recreation ground has been installed by the Parish Council to help improve muddy conditions underfoot during the winter months. New play bark has also been put down at the play area, and the Council has replaced some parts of the play equipment at Mill Road, as identified through its regular inspections.

TRAFFIC BOLLARDS

The Parish Council has installed two new traffic bollards - one near the Fingerpost in The Square to prevent parking on the verge, and another on Church Road to protect the flint churchyard wall - with funding from West Sussex County Council.

Unfortunately, the bollard in Church Road was knocked over in the first few weeks and repaired shortly afterwards; please let us know if you saw how it was damaged. However, it was knocked over again just days later by a large vehicle reversing into the road. Thanks to the kind efforts of a local resident, evidence has been supplied identifying the vehicle and the Council is now in the process of claiming back the cost of a new bollard from the company responsible.

EMSWORTH HIT BY REQUIREMENT FOR NEW HOMES

A recent headline in the Portsmouth News read 'Fears of gridlock after plan for 5,000 homes across Havant is revealed'. It has since transpired that a significant number of these homes are to be built in, or very adjacent to, Emsworth. In the Havant Borough Council Draft Local Plan Housing Statement 2016 (accessible at www.havant.gov.uk/localplan) up to 1,650 homes are foreseen on farmland between Havant and Emsworth, thus obliterating the current gap between the two communities. A further 220 are planned on two greenfield sites north of Long Copse Lane, both within 500 yards of Westbourne. Your Parish Council has already objected to the proposed development north of Long Copse Lane, but it is clear that we need to remain vigilant if our Parish and its surroundings are to receive the protection they need and deserve.

By the time you read this newsletter, building work will have started on the corner of North Street and Long Copse Lane. This is a huge disappointment but the Parish Council would like to acknowledge the efforts of all those who fought to resist this development. As you will know, the emerging Neighbourhood Plan had excluded this site, and both the Parish Council and Chichester District Council opposed it. Unfortunately, even this loud chorus of voices was not enough to persuade the Government's Inspectorate that this important gap and view should be retained, which makes the above-mentioned vigilance, and support for the Neighbourhood Plan when it goes to local referendum next year, even more vital.

CHANGES TO LOCAL POLICING

The Parish Council has been informed of changes to local policing which sees the removal of our dedicated PCSO, Colin Booker, who until recently served the Parish. The newly remodelled service will now provide a pool of police resources who will target identified incidents.

Cllr Richard Hitchcock, Chair of the Parish Council, said:

'The Council would like to thank PSCO Booker for his hard work in serving the Parish over recent years. His support has been much appreciated and will be missed by many in the community.

The Council has raised its concerns with the Police Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, about the removal of our dedicated PSCO, and we have been assured that we will continue to receive a high level of service from the Police.'

You can contact the Police by calling 999 in an emergency. For non-emergency issues, call 101, email: 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk, or you can report incidents anonymously through Crimestoppers: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

REVISED PRE-SUBMISSION PLAN IS AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION FROM 14 NOVEMBER 2016 TO 6 JANUARY 2017

Work on the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan is continuing apace. As you are aware its primary purpose is to allocate sites for the 25 new houses that Westbourne is legally obliged to provide. However it also provides us all with the chance to have our say on the many other topics that affect us, such as traffic, parking, facilities, green spaces, community balance, the local economy, and much more.

We completed the original Pre-Submission Consultation process in April, after the Steering Group had consulted widely on the plan for an eight week period, collecting

comments and feedback from the residents of Westbourne, the statutory bodies and the landowners. The volume of the feedback and the constructive nature of the comments made was very encouraging.

The Steering Group has reviewed and analysed the feedback and where possible, incorporated the wishes and aspirations of the Parish into the final draft. One additional key issue has been identified, and with Parish Council approval, a Community Balance Policy has been drawn up and incorporated into the revised draft. Also, several minor changes have been made to the Plan's contents running order, as well as amendments to the phraseology, and to some of the diagrams and maps, all to improve clarity.

So a revised Pre-Submission Plan has now been completed and this will be available for Parish consultation between **14 November 2016** and **6 January 2017**. It is to be found on the village website: www.westbournevillage.org

We would like to hear all your views on the revised Plan so we have supplied a cut-out coupon below for you to fill in and return to us; or you can email Westbourne Parish Council with your comments at: westbournepc@outlook.com

There is also a 'drop in' day arranged for Sunday **27 November 2016** between **2pm** and **4pm** at The Meeting Place (Baptist Church Hall) in North Street, Westbourne, where printed copies of the Plan documents will be available and Steering Group members will be there to hear your comments and answer your questions.

Please come along and support the Plan to help safeguard and shape the future of our Village.



WESTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Westbourne Parish Council has now completed a revised Pre-Submission Plan and this is available for Parish consultation between **14 November 2016** and **6 January 2017**.

The Council has tried to respond to residents' wishes and aspirations for Westbourne to remain a vibrant, distinctive, rural community.

THIS AFFECTS YOU & THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH

We now need you to comment on the revised Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan and to let us know whether you felt that we have properly responded to the issues raised.

Please give us your comments. It is very important that as many Parish residents as possible give us their feedback on this revised draft Plan.

**Please cut out this coupon, write your comments overleaf and send it to:
Clare Kennett, Clerk to the Parish Council, 53 Skylark Avenue, Emsworth, PO10 7GB.**



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH

The Parish Council has started work on a Business Plan which will set out its priorities for the Parish for the next five years. It is hoped that a version of the Plan will be available for consultation in the early new year. Ideas so far include a village car park to ease congestion and support residents, visitors and local businesses; activities and services for younger and older people; grants for community groups and organisations; and more village events, markets and floral displays.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

If you have any photographs of Westbourne that could be used in future editions of the newsletter and on our website, the Parish Council would be interested to hear from you. The Council aims to produce three editions of the newsletter per year to keep residents informed of its work and activities. New photographs are very much needed to help produce a high-quality newsletter. Any that you may have of the Parish would be much appreciated.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Richard Hitchcock

Chair of the Parish Council
7 Oakmeadow Close,
Emsworth, PO10 7RL.
01243 389096
richard.hitchcock@port.ac.uk



Cllr Piers Mason

Willow Barn, Mill Lane,
Westbourne, PO10 8RA.
01243 377977.
piers@zoboa.com



Cllr Nigel Ricketts

Vice-Chair of the Parish Council
Kilronan, 62 Commonsides,
Westbourne, PO10 8TD.
01243 371865
nigel58ricketts@googlemail.com



Cllr Sarah Miles

07888 399031
sarahlmiles@outlook.com



Cllr Roy Briscoe

Bumble Bee Cottage,
Duffield Lane,
Woodmancote, PO10 8PZ.
01243 696376
westbournepcroy@talktalk.net



Cllr Val Owen

9 Old Rectory Close,
Westbourne, PO10 8UB.
01243 373382
mrsvalowen@gmail.com



CONTACT US

Call: 07775 654483

Email: westbournepc@outlook.com

Write to:

Clare Kennett
Clerk to the Parish Council,
53 Skylark Avenue,
Emsworth, PO10 7GB.



Website:

www.westbournevillage.org/pc.html

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/westbournevillage

The Parish Council meets every second Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. Residents are very welcome to attend this meeting which is held in public.



Your comments:

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Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Email:
Phone:

We will use your email address to keep you updated with both the progress of the Plan and important Parish updates and issues. If you do not wish to receive these please tick here