

West Wittering Parish Council Newsletter December 2023

West Wittering Residents Vote YES for the Neighbourhood Plan

West Wittering Parish Council would like to thank all of the residents who voted in the recent Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan which asked the question 'Do you want Chichester District Council to use the neighbourhood development plan for West Wittering Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?' The vote, held on November 22nd, saw a 32.6% turnout with 95.8% voting in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan being used in this way. The Plan, which also incorporates an updated Village Design Statement, is an interesting read including the history of the area as well as important policies that will provide some protection and help to retain the look and feel of this beautiful area that we all value so much.



Thank you also to the team of residents and Councillors that have worked on both the Neighbourhood Plan and the VDS over the years. Without your hard work and input we would not be in this fortunate position.

Local Elections

This year was the year for the local elections and we are pleased to say that we have a full team of nine Councillors plus our salaried clerk.

We said goodbye to Jean Barrett our Vice Chairman. As a member, whose commitment was beyond reproach, Jean will be sorely missed. We also welcomed Jean's replacement on the council, Ivan Western, and we are enjoying working with him.

Annual Audit

The Parish Council's accounts follow the local government framework. We have a finance officer, an internal auditor and a national audit company, which audits the accounts annually and issues a compliance letter. The submission for this year achieved an excellent report, indicating that we were fully compliant in all areas.

West Wittering Estates



The change made by West Wittering Estates to prebooking car park spaces has led to an improvement in the traffic flow to the western end of the village.

When advertised as fully booked we continue to experience ad hoc and inconsiderate parking in areas such as Elms Lane, Cakeham Road, Malthouse Corner, Locksash Close, Elmstead Park Road and Elmstead Gardens. Most of these areas have no parking restrictions and motorists are free to park providing they do not cause an obstruction.

The change has now impacted on the east end of the village with the Marine Drive pay and display car park often full to capacity, with the overflow now parking on Marine Drive, Cullimore Rd, Southcote Avenue and Joliffe Road. Some of these areas do have seasonal no waiting restrictions and we continue to work with Chichester District Council (CDC), requesting an uplift in traffic enforcement action.

Medical Centre

The Patient Participation Group was very disappointed to hear from the medical team that there had been 140 missed Doctors' appointments in September. This is very worrying as it means that some patients are unable to get an appointment when it is needed. Can everybody remember to contact the centre to cancel appointments that cannot be made and to do so in good time so that the space can be used and not wasted.

Mick Stanley - Creative Fundraiser of the Year



Mick Stanley lives in West Wittering and is known to many as “Major Mick” for rowing his home-made boat ‘Tintanic’. He has been voted the winner out of 14000 nominations as the “Just Giving Creative Fundraiser for 2023”. The event took place at the Roundhouse in London on 25 September. Mick wishes to thank the local residents for both their donations and their support in helping to raise over £76000 for local charities and also for helping to achieve 5000 votes for his selection to win the award.



West Wittering Sailing Club



WWSC has been running after school sailing sessions for local children for about 7 years using volunteer club instructors and club boats. This year we were grateful for the support of the Parish Council in providing new buoyancy aids for children to use when taking part in these sessions.



Allotments

Allotments, managed admirably by the Allotment Association, go from strength to strength and they operate with a continuing small waiting list. They do take members from neighbouring parishes, but West Wittering residents will always have priority. We have spent considerable sums of money on deer fencing, but the deer continue to eat their way through the hedge! We have reduced the hedge cutting in order to strengthen the hedge.



Tennis Courts

A project since the last newsletter has been to increase the number of tennis courts available at the Rookwood Recreation site from two to accommodate the Rookwood the wider public. The courts will compensate the loss of four courts and the closing of the single court at expected in 2024. We are grateful to their support by way of a grant for £100k and Chichester District Council for grant of £6k. The total cost of the project was £109k. The new courts were opened for playing on 7th October 2023.



courts to four in order to Tennis Club’s waiting list and also go some way to at Harbour Way Country Club the Elms Lane club which is the F G Woodger Trust for



We also installed a Ball Wall in the recreation ground which has become a popular addition to the facilities.

St Paul's Secondary School, Bo, Sierra Leone

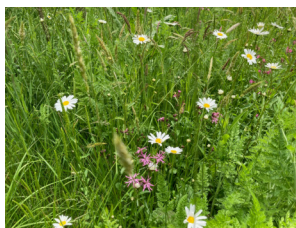
For many years West Wittering has supported, through donations, St Paul's Secondary School in Bo. The latest project has been to set up a technology centre in the school. The equipment has been paid for and has been shipped to Bo. It will now be installed, and staff trained by Nick Matthews, the headteacher of West Wittering Primary School. The visit to Bo will take place from 23 November to 2 December 2023. We wish them a very productive and successful time there. An extended article on St Paul's Secondary School and on the importance of West Wittering's support will be in our next newsletter.

Biodiversity

We continue to be committed to biodiversity. The wildflower area in Pound Road is now well established.



We have reduced the number of grass cuts on the Village Green and only a year. Triangle is treated in the same manner. There are with a metre wide around the perimeter through the centre. The rest is left wild the autumn. We have continued to



cut Snow Hill once The Marine Drive in the same two planted beds strip mowed eter and a path with just one cut in



plant trees in areas in our ownership and the tree nursery on the allotment site continues to provide a supply of native trees ready for planting.

West Wittering Memorial Hall

West Wittering Memorial Hall celebrated its centenary last year, 2022, and this year has moved firmly into the 21st century with wi-fi and its array of 40 photovoltaic panels which will make it nigh on energy self



sufficient (heating is electric). The installation will mean a saving of 4 tons of CO2 being pumped into the atmosphere annually. The panels were installed with the help of generous funding from The Woodger Trust and Chichester District Council. Simultaneously the roof was strengthened, deemed necessary following a structural



survey. Bookings are very buoyant, both from regular users and one off celebrations etc. They have completely picked up after Covid. Over the last year the two rooms within the Hall were used 848 times.

It really is the beating heart of the Village!

Diary Dates

Carols on the Green - Carols on the Green will take place on 22nd December. The event is always very well attended and enjoyed.

	Parish Council Meetings	Planning Committee Meetings
December	7th	13th
January	11th	24th
February	1st	21st
March	7th	27th
April	4th	24th
May	9th (Annual Meeting)	15th
June	13th	26th
July	4th	24th
August	No meeting	28th
September	5th	25th
October	3rd	30th
November	7th	27th
December	5th	18th

The 2024 Annual Parish Assembly will be on 28th March and the occasion is an opportunity to raise matters concerning the Parish. The Council always hope for a good attendance. The venue is to be decided

Sandpiper Walk Ecology Area

When the Sandpiper Estate, just off Church Road, was built part of the design included an Ecology Area at the West end of the site.

The area was planted and landscaped with a number of native plants and trees and a pond, part of the surface water drainage system called SUDS, was included in the layout.



Initially the area looked rather bland but as time has passed the planting has established and is now looking very attractive and is a valued part of the estate.

The later decision to rewild and restrict the amount of mowing and cutting back has allowed some of the original fauna to return as has the wildlife. The blackberry bushes that covered a large part of the original field have returned and future picking sorties are looked forward to.



To take advantage of the CDC tree planting programme the residents organised a tree planting day on the estate and over 40 trees were planted. Some were lost in the following very hot and dry periods the country experienced but many have survived and are becoming established.



A few residents have also planted other flowers and bulbs and these have nicely added more variation and colour to the area and have enhanced the attraction.

Slow worms and newts have again been spotted along with many of the birds that used to frequent the field. Goldfinch, woodpeckers, robins, bats and sparrow hawks are amongst the returning visitors and we have had ducks on the pond, although they have not yet nested.



On a few occasions deer have ventured into the area from the adjoining field and a Kite has been seen in the bordering trees and perching on the fence post



The pond has also developed an abundance of plants including bullrushes, reeds and lilies and has contributed to the multitude of insects, bees and butterflies. The insect life being so important to sustaining the bio-diversity and ecology of the area.

A green pathway is maintained around the pond and through to the open area of green space and a small play area. All the residents pay an annual fee to maintain the open areas of the estate which includes the sandpiper sculptured seating at the entrance.



The Ecology area provides a pleasant, interesting and tranquil part of the estate from which the residents, of all ages, benefit and appreciate.



The West Wittering Parish Council would like to wish all of the Parish residents a joyful and happy Christmas and the very best for 2024

