

West Wittering Parish Council

Your Parish Council Newsletter...

February 2023

Neighbourhood Plan update

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is an important planning document for this village as it helps to shape future development by setting out criteria to be applied for new build and uses. It also recognises the things that are important to the residents of the village that are to be valued and protected.

To ensure the Neighbourhood Plan is acceptable to CDC and the Examiner it is essential that the residents have participated in its development and had a chance to formulate and influence its contents. Following the two sets of public consultations the NP has been further modified and is now ready to be considered by Chichester District Council. This is known as Regulation 15 consultation. CDC are obliged to publicise the NP and ask for representations from the public. This further consultation period lasts for another six weeks. This six week consultation period runs from February 3rd until March 17th.

Copies of the Neighbourhood Plan, the updated Village Design Statement (which forms Appendix 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan), and the other supporting documents will be available on the website and hard copies will be placed in Witterings Library for viewing when the Library is open which is Monday to Wednesday 1pm -5pm and Thursday to Saturday 9am to 1pm. There are also copies available in the Parish Office which will be open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the six week period from 10am-3pm. After the consultation an examiner will be appointed by CDC to consider the Neighbourhood Plan.

It is very important that residents are aware of the Neighbourhood Plan and that they are engaged in its development. This is part of Localism at work and is very helpful when our green spaces are under threat from inappropriate development. Once it is made, the Council and Planning Inspectors are obliged to take careful note of the contents of the NP and give it due weight in the decision making process. We are lucky enough to have a very detailed Village Design Statement, which has been updated as part of this process and will sit with the NP with its guidelines setting out what is appropriate development in each part of the village.

Hopefully in due course the Neighbourhood Plan will be ready to be put to the residents by way of a referendum before it is finally made. Please look out for further updates and make sure that you, your family and other residents of the village participate in the referendum to ensure that the village has as much protection as possible by having a local and relevant Neighbourhood Plan with policies that can influence any development in the village.

Would you like to be involved in Community Speedwatch?

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where, in partnership with the police, members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds. The volunteers report drivers exceeding the speed limit to the police with the aim of educating drivers to slow down.

If the data proves a driver is ignoring repeated warnings police can prosecute them. The aim is to:

- ◆ reduce death and injury on the roads
- ◆ improve the quality of life for local communities
- ◆ reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- ◆ increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Community Speedwatch does not result in prosecution itself. However, if a persistent speeding driver is identified through the scheme, police can use this evidence to take action against them if required. If there is a persistent general speeding issue where highway improvements are required (e.g. speedbumps), the relevant agency will be contacted.

Just before the pandemic West Wittering Parish Council created a local Community Speedwatch group with both Parish Councillors and residents as members. Unfortunately the lockdown prevented us from having the final stage of the training which is to teach us how to use the equipment. Before this training is organised, the Parish Council would like to know if you are interested in joining the group. If you are concerned about speeding in the village this is a good way to make a difference. We work in partnership with Sussex Police and training is given. A risk assessment is also carried out. You will never be out on your own and high visibility clothing is worn.

If you are interested, please contact the Clerk by emailing Clerk@westwitteringparishcouncil.gov.uk.



Snow Hill Triangle with its views of East Head to the south and the South Downs to the north.



Wildflower area at the back of the toilets on the village green.

Biodiversity in West Wittering Parish

West Wittering Parish is made up of a mosaic of different and important habitats which offer a home and food to a wide range of wildlife and some rare and endangered species. The western coastline is included within the protected area of Chichester Harbour AONB with beautiful scenery and views.

West Wittering Parish Council look after many important biodiversity assets including Snow Hill Triangle, the Village Green, and Marine Drive Triangle. With a slight change in the management regime wildflowers have been allowed to colonise these sites and surveying to monitor the changes is ongoing. Wildflowers are extremely important for pollinating species such as bumble bees, honey bees, moths, butterflies, wasps, hoverflies and some beetles and in turn they are vital for crop fertilisation. There has been a dramatic loss in the volume and variety of these species nationally over the last 10 years and allowing areas of over mown lawn / verges to become small wildflower patches will help.

The Woodger Trust have supported the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group to run a Community Conservation project in the Parish since November 2021 to focus on the biodiversity, engaging local people, carrying out school education, after school wildlife clubs, sessions for the Guiding and Scout groups and encouraging volunteer participation for health and well-being. We carry out habitat management work every week through September to April and species surveying from May to August. A Community Tree Orchard at West Wittering Allotments has been set up with the aim of providing locally sourced trees for local sites and landowners and is being expanded as it is doing so well. Please do look at our website <https://www.mwhg.org.uk/> and think about joining us.

Help us to help wildlife—volunteer at our Tree Nursery

At the allotments on Ellanore Lane, there is something special happening; a tree nursery is being developed for the local community. We would love you to feel a direct connection to the Witterings and its landscape by growing trees from seed that has been collected from the area.

Be a tree nursery volunteer and grow with us as you follow the journey from the tiniest seed to the tallest tree. Tackle climate change and increase the numbers of native trees and hedgerow trees. It only takes a few hours of volunteering per week. The task is varied and seasonal. Let us give you a seasonal taste of what you can be involved with.



July to December is seed collection. Different native trees fruit at different times, from wild cherry in July to Hawthorn in December. These seeds need varying processes like sieving or going through a cold period before sowing. From May to November, once a week, we tend to the seedlings by watering and weeding. After one year, we can plant the tree seedlings out as individual trees or to form part of a wildlife friendly hedgerow.

Get your family involved in creating green spaces for everyone to enjoy... grown by you...for you... and for your family's future. To volunteer at the tree nursery, contact us via email: lbarnetson@mwhg.org.uk