



WHPC Newsletter – May 2021

West Hill will certainly be colourful this year!



Thank you to the hundreds of residents who registered for the **WHPC Wildflower Challenge** and collected free packets of wildflower seeds. Please look out for posters for details of how to submit your entries at the end of August. Information will also be available on the Council's website. Don't forget to take photos!

Parish Council News

The Parish Council is looking ahead as Covid restrictions are relaxed. We're ringing the changes.....

- **Goodbye Zoom!** Monthly Council Meetings will return to the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st June (and subsequently the first Tuesday of the month). Both the Village Hall Trustees and WHPC have carried out detailed risk assessments to ensure the venue and meeting comply with Covid guidelines. As always, the meetings are open to the public. Councillors welcome residents to join the meeting but ask that you follow the Covid "rules". Details of future meetings are posted on the Council website and notice boards.
- **Thankyou Margaret!** Cllr Margaret Hall stood down as **Chairman** at the Annual WHPC meeting on 4th May. Margaret's excellent leadership, knowledge and commitment to West Hill has steered the Council through it's early years. Firstly, as Chairman of the Residents' Association and then leading the campaign to create the Parish Council in 2017. Margaret also led the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, which was adopted in 2018. Cllrs were very pleased to know that Margaret will be continuing as a Councillor and will have an ongoing involvement in the Local Plan Review and how that affects development in West Hill.
- The **new Chair** is Cllr Margaret Piper. Before moving to West Hill, she was an Exeter city councillor for Topsham ward for many years and is now an honorary alderman of the city. Margaret's activities over the last year have included installing the VAS speed device. She is keen to encourage more interaction between the Parish Council and the community and to explore ways in which residents can be involved in creating an active and thriving community. Look out for the **community survey** in the autumn and help us create a five-year plan for West Hill. Cllrs hope everyone will be willing to take part and help create the future of the village.
- **Congratulations**, Cllr Jess Bailey was recently elected Devon County Cllr for the Ottery Valley ward.
- Over the last year the **WHPC Help Scheme** was well received by those residents who needed it and our grateful thanks to those volunteers who came forward to support those in need. As requests for help have declined during the recent lockdown Cllrs have decided to close the Help Scheme and advise residents to contact the Ottery Help Scheme. This friendly organisation supports many people in West Hill and offer a wide range of services.



Please call **01404 813041** www.otteryhelpscheme.org.uk
Usual office hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4pm.

A registered charity providing a variety of support services to all those who live in Ottery St Mary and West Hill. Our aim is to unite and mobilise the goodwill of our community, offering support to local residents where it is needed most in times of illness, difficulty or life-changing circumstance. Please take a look at our website and get in touch if you would like our help, would like to volunteer for us, or would like to donate to our charity. We are always happy to take your call.



- During May WHPC and the Village Hall Trustees will carry out a **Public Consultation** to seek residents views on the “**Creation of a new pedestrian link to the Village Hall and Primary School from West Hill Rd**”. An information leaflet, including details of how to submit your comments, will be delivered to each household. Information will also be published on the Council website. Councillors welcome your support.
- WHPC has been operating a **Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)** at sites across the village since Dec 2020. As expected, the data collected highlights a significant problem area to be the B3180. We’re all familiar with the issue of speeding traffic however Cllrs have been shocked by the scale of it. To illustrate the problem, over a recent two week period the VAS was situated on the verge at Little Stockleigh facing the traffic travelling from Daisymount. This site is within the residential area of West Hill where the speed limit on the B3180 is 30 mph. The data collected shows
 - approx. 68% of vehicles exceeded 30mph, the speed limit on this section of road
 - The 85th percentile speed was 38.6mph
 - The maximum speed recorded was 60mph at 5.30pm on 4th Apr 2021



Cllrs are keen to raise the profile of this issue and have shared the initial findings with the relevant parties including the Police and Penninsular Road Safety Partnership (PRSP).

Great British Spring Clean - 28 May to 13 June 2021 #GBSpringClean

Let's keep West Hill free of litter throughout the year! Fortunately, our wooded lanes are usually free from discarded bottles, fast food wrappers etc. However, there are hotspots such as the B3180. Have you spotted one West Hill resident, Dave Underwood, with his “be-spoke” trolley? His one-man campaign has cleared MANY bags full of rubbish from roads across West Hill.

Take care on the road, Dave! Let's give him some help! A safer way to tackle litter is to contact East Devon District Council



How to Report Litter

Phone: **01395 517528**

- Opening hours: Mon-Friday 8.30am to 5pm
- Email: streetscene@eastdevon.gov.uk, or

www.eastdevon.gov.uk/environmental-maintenance/

The EDDC website is a great source of information. It's easy to use and includes details of all the services available

Other services available include

- Report dog fouling
- Replace a damaged street name plate
- Report a broken litter bin
- Report a full dog waste bin.
- Request Street Cleaning

How to help EDDC pinpoint the location of litter

EDDC suggest you download the **What3Words** app; this allows them to respond to very exact locations in very rural areas or in a town environment to find the issue to be dealt with (and saves them time!)

The app identifies the exact location of the litter by giving small areas 3 unique words. When giving details of the location in our online form, please use the 3 words generated by the app in the location details box.