



## WEST HILL Help Scheme – Update 5<sup>th</sup> June

We don't need an excuse, but did you know that It's Volunteer Week UK 1-8<sup>th</sup> June? On your behalf here's a *big thankyou* to West Hill Volunteers, shopping buddies, neighbours and friends for supporting the community in West Hill.

### Is the WHPC Help Scheme carrying on?

Following recent Government announcements the restrictions on Covid-19 Lockdown are beginning to be lifted. However it continues to be an uncertain time as we all adjust to the new guidelines. Some people may venture out of their homes whilst others remain more cautious.

The Parish Council will monitor the situation over the coming weeks as things settle down into a new "normal". We have to consider that some volunteers will be returning to work and we can't expect others to carry on indefinitely. However it's clear that shielded and vulnerable residents in the village will continue to need help. So here's the plan for the weeks ahead

- The **Help Scheme** is still here to help you. Please continue to call 01404 232 100. Our volunteers are keen to help, but fewer volunteers will be available.
- **Prescriptions – we'll continue to collect prescriptions** but ask that you start to consider how you will get your prescription in the future. Could you sign up for a delivery or postal service? Could a friend or neighbour be your prescription buddy?
- **Shopping** : We know the majority of people have made arrangements for their shopping. In fact, the Help Scheme has received very few calls for help with shopping in the past few weeks. Taking this into account we'll no longer have a Volunteer rota for McColls deliveries, but if you need help with a Supermarket Shop/McColls delivery please call us on 01404 232 100.
- We'll no longer update the list of local suppliers offering **Grocery & Meal Deliveries** to the village but it will continue to be available on the news section of our website [www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- **Information** – we'll continue to signpost sources of useful information for you.

Call us on **01404 232 100** for help with any of the above or for general enquiries.

Many of you have kindly offered to meet the travel costs for our volunteers. Please be assured that the Parish Council agreed to meet these costs.

And, as many residents have suggested, the Parish Council plans a village event to celebrate the efforts of the village during Covid-19. As you will understand we just don't know when it will be!

### WHPC News

- As public meetings in the Village Hall are unlikely for some time Council meetings will continue to be held by video-conference. The meetings are advertised on the WHPC website and on the noticeboard at McColls. Members of the public can join the meeting – please contact the Parish Clerk by phone or email (see details below)
- The Playpark remains closed

#### Contact

Anne Oliver, Parish Clerk

Tel 01404 232 100

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- The Village Lengthsman, commissioned by the Parish Council has been busy over recent weeks
  - Road signs across the village have been cleaned for the first time in many years – thank you for your many positive comments
  - Verges at road junctions have been cut to improve road safety, such as the Bendarroch Road - B3180 junction. The Parish Council focuses on the areas not covered or cut infrequently by DCC Highways. *For info, the Lengthsman didn't cut the verge with cowslips near the War Memorial!*
  - Time for a socially-distanced picnic? Two picnic tables are soon to be installed in Broadoak Woodland (between Higher Broad Oak Road and Lower Broad Oak Road). Have fun but please respect the woodland and neighbours - remember to take your litter home .... and no fires or barbecues!
  - From 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June the Lengthsman team will be clearing the Himalayan Balsam weeds (tall plants with pink flowers) along a 200m stretch of West Hill Road, towards Ottery St Mary. We originally hoped to organise a community project to tackle these invasive weeds but this was not possible under Covid-19 restrictions. The weeds will come back again next year so we'll be asking for your help in 2021!
- And sadly.....one of our Parish Councillors, Quentin Tailford, is re-locating and has resigned from the Council. His knowledge and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. Best wishes to Quentin and his family. If you're interested in becoming a Councillor please look out for the vacancy advert or contact the Clerk for more information.

## Other News

Good news! EDDC is now taking on new customers for their (chargeable) **green waste** fortnightly collection service. Also, the bulky household collection service is resuming on Monday. For more information contact EDDC customer service centre on 01395 571515 or refer to the website [www.eddc.gov.uk](http://www.eddc.gov.uk).

**Broadband News: Jurassic Fibre (JF)** broadband is now operational within Aylesbeare and it is expected the plan will be extended to West Hill in as little as 3 months' time, pending surveys. In place of a public consultation they will be offering a public webinar which will allow resident to register and attend to ask questions

- Jurassic Fibre West Hill Presentation and Q&As - June 17th at 7.00pm by video conference.
- To join the webinar follow the link <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/17/vyqy6u2>

Product details are available on the JF website [www.jurassic-fibre.com](http://www.jurassic-fibre.com). Installation costs will range from £0 to a maximum of £250, pending surveys and subject to contract.

**Footpaths:** Many of you have been exploring West Hill's footpaths. Many of the footpaths cross private land. Please keep to the footpath and do not enter the fields (not even to have a picnic or play football!).

And finally, it's time to get creative! A message from a lovely resident, Sharon....

The first, annual "West Hill Scarecrow Festival" is coming! Whilst the priority is for the community to stay safe and adhere to social distancing rules at all times, we hope to brighten our village with some colour and creativity for a week or two... just for fun.

Taking place from 27 June to 5 July this year, the event is fully supported by our Parish Council, who have very kindly pledged a £50 top prize for the winning creation! Impartial members of the Parish Council will be judging the event during the course of the week.



There is no theme this year. Use whatever items and materials that you have to hand. Entrants should live within the West Hill Parish Council area please. The only "rule" with safety in mind, is that scarecrows are positioned well within the boundaries of your property if possible, to keep pathways and roads clear and to also discourage anyone from touching displays. This will hopefully avoid cross-contamination.

If you wish to enter and be eligible to win the prize, please forward your name, address and a contact number via email to: [westhillscarecrow@hotmail.com](mailto:westhillscarecrow@hotmail.com). Please email these details by midnight, Saturday 27 June.

Importantly, please include a photo of your Scarecrow in situ. *Good luck!*

## Contact

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