

Developing a new **Neighbourhood Plan** for West Hill is an opportunity for our community to influence future planning decisions. East Devon District Council will have to observe policies in our Neighbourhood Plan when making planning decisions.

We encourage you to get involved and to help shape the future of our lovely village.

*Cllr Francis Pullman*, WHPC Chairman



## **West Hill – Our Future – Have your Say!**

### **Survey now open**

Please help us look ahead to 2035/40

What should West Hill be like to live in?

*More houses? More community facilities? A playing field?*

*A village shop? Business facilities?*

*Protected trees, woodland, green spaces?*



**Your comments are important to us**

Survey open 7<sup>th</sup> June - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025



- Survey available on our website [www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk),
- using the QR Code, and
- paper copies are available at Morrisons
- Please complete the survey individually not just one response per household

Further information, is available on pages 2+3

## Introduction

West Hill Parish Council has made the decision that the village should produce a **Neighbourhood Plan for West Hill**. This will replace the current out of date Ottery St Mary & West Hill Neighbourhood Plan.

The emphasis on this process is to produce a document that reflects the needs and aspirations of those who live in West Hill and consequently we will be seeking input from residents through various consultations.



A Working Group consisting of representatives of the Parish Council and the community has been established to coordinate the research, production and preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

We are at the beginning of this process, and we expect it to take some time if we are to do it justice. Over the coming months we'll seek your input and keep you informed of progress.

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood planning is a right for communities introduced through the Localism Act, 2011, to enable communities to have a greater say in local development. It can help communities play a more active role in deciding the future of its area: to shape the type of growth that comes forward, protect important green spaces or views, encourage better designed places and ensure new housing meets local needs.

Neighbourhood plans are legally binding planning documents. They must comply with both local and national higher-level planning policies. The West Hill Neighbourhood Plan will sit alongside East Devon District Council's Local Plan and will be used to inform planning decisions within the parish. Planning decisions will need to be 'made in accordance' with the policies in the West Hill Neighbourhood Plan.

We cannot block or stop the approved East Devon District Council Local Plan, **BUT** the Neighbourhood Plan **CAN** help to shape, protect our village in a positive manner with regards to future construction.

## Help us shape the West Hill Neighbourhood Plan

Over the years, West Hill has grown from a small farming community to a widespread village of 900 or so houses and more than 2000 residents. **How will we describe West Hill in 10-15 years' time?**

It is important that the West Hill Neighbourhood Plan reflects the views of our community. The feedback from the survey will form an important part of the evidence base that will be submitted to the Planning Authority.

Please get involved and share your views by completing the survey. It's your opportunity to tell us about what's important to you.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who can fill out the survey?

All residents of West Hill parish are encouraged to complete the survey. **We would like everyone in the household to complete the survey individually, not just one response per household.**

### I'm under 18; can I take part?

There is a separate survey for young people aged under 18. Your views are important and we want to hear from you! We trust that parents/carers will judge the appropriateness of the survey for young people and will support them to make informed choices in response to the questions.

### How do I do the survey?

We encourage you to do the survey online, using the QR Code below. Links to the survey are also available on the Council's website: [www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk)

This makes it much easier for us to analyse the results. It should take around 15 minutes to complete. Please ensure that you complete the survey by Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025.



### But I don't have the internet....

If you need help to fill in this survey or you are unable to complete the survey online, paper copies are available at Morrisons store, or from the Parish Clerk, Anne Oliver

Tel 07450 388 198 or 0404 232100

### Why do you need my postcode if it's anonymous?

The survey is completely anonymous. We only ask for your postcode to ascertain that you are a West Hill resident, and to ensure we have a representative sample of residents.

### What happens to my feedback?

The feedback provided will contribute to the development of the West Hill Neighbourhood Plan. The questions have been carefully chosen to address key topics deemed important for the future development of the village.

A comprehensive report summarising the responses will be compiled and made available in an upcoming newsletter and our website, [www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk),

## What happens next?

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will consider the survey results and identify the main themes and issues that you have told us are important. We will then start to draft aims, vision and objectives for the Plan.

In the autumn, there will be a drop-in consultation event at the Village Hall for feedback on the identified themes and issues to ensure they align with community concerns.

The Working Group will engage with the community throughout this process to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan truly reflects the needs and aspirations of West Hill residents. Updates and opportunities for further input will be regularly communicated via the parish council's website and newsletter. Your continued participation is crucial for the success of the Neighbourhood Plan.

## Other News



### The Digital Phone Switchover – latest news

The UK's telephone network is changing. Between now and 2027 most telephone providers will be moving their customers from old analogue landlines over to new upgraded landline services using digital technology. Digital Voice is the name for the new service.

More than 300,000 southwest customers have already switched to Digital Voice. The program to transfer the remaining southwest customers will begin in Autumn 2025.

Remember - the landline isn't going away. It's just being upgraded. For most customers, the upgrade will be as simple as connecting your home phone handset to a router rather than the phone socket on the wall. Individual customers will be contacted at least a month before the switchover.

The landline is a lifeline for some customers. Phone providers recognise this and have set up dedicated teams to support people who may need additional help during the switchover. Their goal is that no one will be left disconnected.

Do you or someone you know depend on their landline because you/they:



- have no/poor mobile phone signal
- are a vulnerable customer with additional needs
- use Healthcare pendants, a Telecare device or alarms
- are a customer who may need additional support
- are a landline-only customer (ie you don't have an internet connection)

If yes, then please contact your communications provider to let them know that you may need extra help. Their contact details are usually found on their bill. BT's support team can be contacted on **0800 1234 150** (free to call).

Look out for more details in the national advertising campaign which begins in June 2025.

## You're Invited!

Please come along and join members of the Parish Council at the West Hill PTFA Summer Fayre.

It's an opportunity to support West Hill Primary School, meet Councillors ..... and enjoy cakes, BBQ, refreshments for young and not so young, and much more at the Fayre.



Plus, **new for 2025**, courtesy of the Parish Council.....

**Children's Crazy Golf!**

**PTFA Summer Fayre**

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**12.00 - 4.00pm**

**on the School Field**

**All welcome**

**It's a community event!**

**Support our village school**

### Contact Us:

West Hill Parish Council welcomes your comments. Please contact our Parish Clerk, preferably by email. Do you want to join our **mailing list**? We use this to send you updates such as meeting agendas. Details of our Privacy Policy are available on our website. *Thank you for your support!*