

## PRECEPT 2014/15 WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Westfield Parish Council is pleased to say that it has not increased its Band D equivalent on the precept and therefore residents of Westfield living in an 'average' band D property will pay the same rate on the Parish Council precept in 2014/15 as they have for the past two years. This amounts to £96.79 per annum for a Band D equivalent, equating to a total precept for Westfield in 2014/15 of £158,850.

The purpose of this leaflet is to set out the main areas of our work and to highlight where the public money is spent within the Parish Council.

### How and why are we freezing the Band D Equivalent again this year?

Westfield Parish Council faces the same inflationary increases in the cost of products and services as all organisations. However, we recognise that in this economic climate increases should only be made when absolutely necessary. We are fortunate in that the increase in number of new properties in Westfield together with careful monitoring of our expenditure has put us in a position where we can freeze the Band D equivalent again this year, without an adverse impact on the services we provide.

### Exactly what services does the Parish Council offer?

The Parish Council manages **sports and leisure facilities** at Norton Hill Recreation Ground and Westhill Recreation Ground. These facilities offer football pitches, a tennis court, play areas, BMX track, bowling (with one rink open to non bowling club members). It manages the emptying of most of the dog bins in the parish and maintains some of the benches.

It supports the **parish environment** by funding the Christmas Lights, the hanging baskets and the planting schemes in the decorative pit trucks around the parish and the curved end of the raised flower bed outside the Westfield Methodist Church.

The Parish Council provides a local voice on **planning applications, highways and environmental matters**.

Supporting **local organisations** is vital to help voluntary groups flourish in this area. This year the Parish Council grant funded the Carnival Association, Westfield Children's Centre for first aid training for parents, the Churchyard at St Nicholas Church, SWALLOW for an accessible computer to allow people with learning disabilities to access the internet and learn computer skills, Wansdyke Play Association to support Community Play Days at Christmas and Easter, WISH, Radstock Baptist Church, St Peters Church Playgroup for new child sized chairs, colour co-ordinated and specially designed for posture, Westfield Methodist Church, 1<sup>st</sup> Radstock Scout Group, PEOPLE and The Community Bus for new holiday play schemes using the Play Bus for 5-13 year olds.

### How did the Parish Council perform in the last year?

Grant funding from the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund meant that plans could be progressed for Norton Hill Play Area to be rejuvenated with the removal of some pieces of play equipment which were literally rotting away and their replacement with some modern, inspiring play equipment picked by the pupils of Westfield Primary School and Fosse Way School.



The first of the Annual Westfield Guides was produced. Delivered free of charge to all households in Westfield, this Guide included a community directory which we hope will grow further over time and be of real use to residents and visitors.

The Westfield Fun Day returned to Westhill Recreation Ground in June and a group of volunteers was set up to work towards expanding the range of entertainment next year.

2013/14 saw the Christmas Lights display extended to include more trees around the local shops and the electrics co-ordinated. The Christmas Lights Switch On in late November saw more people attending to celebrate this annual event.

The Parish Council continued to support the Winter Maintenance Programme in Westfield with the purchase of a third gritting machine to be operated by the growing team of highly valued voluntary Snow Wardens.

Work with Bath and North East Somerset Council for a smiley face speed indicator device outside Westfield Primary School came to fruition, although later vandalism put it out of commission.

The Parish Council financially supports the Community Plan for Westfield, which this year saw the start of an in depth consultation with local people. Led by the Westfield Questers, this voluntary group of representatives from the community are working to consolidate a vision for the future of Westfield.

With the involvement of the Westfield Questers, the Parish Council worked on its Placemaking Plan which set out key characteristics of the parish and made recommendations for the preservation of green space and the areas for development.

### **What is new for the next financial year?**

Noticeboards for the Parish are being carefully planned and we expect to put these up in the next Financial Year.

Applications for grant funding to allow the development of the disused tennis court at Norton Hill Recreation ground continue.

In response to consultations with local people, the Parish Council is looking at the feasibility of building a community centre in the Parish, to accommodate more activities for people of all ages.

Budgetary provision has been made for the expansion of the Westfield Warbler next year. With the Parish seeing 165 new households off Nightingale Way, communication across the Parish is vital.

Your Parish Council is working to provide the best possible environment and services for the people of Westfield. We positively encourage your views and suggestions for the future of our Parish.

**Westfield Parish Council**, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield BA3 3BX  
Tel. 01761 410669 E Mail [council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)  
[www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)

