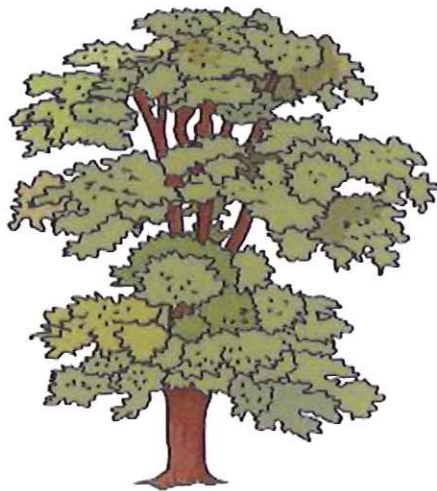




WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT 2016



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CONSULTATION AND REPORT UNDERTAKEN FOR WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL BY SOUTH WEST
FOUNDATION

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Methodology

The main methodology utilised in this report has been face to face interviews and focus groups. Over 100 individuals were interviewed using semi structured interviews. The interviews took place in a variety of venues and included business venues on Westfield trading estate, retail units in Westfield, The café at Fosseyway School, the café at Westfield, a number of community venues. A small number of passing residents on the streets were also interviewed. The interviews took place during a variety of times during the day.

In addition to this Westfield Parish Council organised three public events at Mardons' Social Club; Westhill Social Club and St Hugh's Methodist Hall. At these events, those attending gave their views in a variety of ways. There was a menu that they could complete giving the menu for the future of Westfield; a talking wall where people could post their views in topics; a map where people could place houses and give their preferences for developments.

The events were presented in a café setting and people could give their views by providing a written 'menu' for Westfield. Maps of Westfield were available and a graffiti wall for people to post their views. Also notes were taken of table discussions.

Discussions also took place with three community groups who offer services to Westfield. Some of these groups had also consulted their service users and these views were included.

The views have been analysed in the four categories. These are interviews with individual residents: interviews with members of the business community; views from the focus group of carers/mothers of young children; interviews with community groups.

There is a collated executive summary of all the views of all groups at the end of the report.

Views of Residents

Overall

Generally, people felt that Westfield was a nice place to live with a number of good amenities and a community spirit.

Good range of local shops where you can buy most everyday things.

Good doctors' surgery

Friendly, quiet place

We have a range of good schools in Westfield

There is a sense of identity and community in Westfield

Easy access to the countryside and green spaces

Please preserve Westfield

Housing

There was an overwhelming response from individual residents interviewed at all venues for no more housing. Residents in Westfield indicated that Westfield is now at capacity. There has been a 'knock on' effect of pressure being put on local services and amenities by the numbers of new residents that are now accommodated in Westfield, due to the increase in housing provision.

Respondents mentioned that dentists and doctors surgeries are now under increased pressure due to the increase in housing.

There was also concern shown that Westfield would lose its independence and become joined up to and part of other areas if any more housing was built on the boundaries.

No more housing. Allow Westfield to be independent and not joined to the other towns and villages

No more houses. Westfield is now full

No more houses – greater variety of useful shops needed

Too many houses – no more!!

Make the development planned for the area just past Jewsons the last in Westfield for many years.

There was some acceptance voiced that young couples and older people are in housing need. Below are a sample of the comments on the need for specific additional housing

There is a need for retirement homes, and starter homes.

More affordable properties to rent for older people, bungalows, and properties adapted for the disabled.

Proper infrastructure to support the housing is needed.

1&2 bedroom dwellings for first and last time buyers.

More single housing to rent, for NHS tenants and retired.

Concern was shown for the fact that there is lack of affordable housing for local people and a perception that perhaps not all the social housing was going to local people.

There is a lack of affordable social housing for long term residents of Westfield.

New properties are given to people moving into the area, whereas established residents are often forced into privately rented accommodation or moving in with their families, rather than being given priority with this new housing.

More social housing needed for young families to live in.

It was accepted that housing needed to keep pace with population growth, but residents overall felt that the additional housing was already putting strain on services.

We worry about increase in residents due to high number of new houses being built in Westfield and surrounding area and the effect that this will have on services generally and parking in particular, which is already a problem

Environment

People greatly appreciated the green spaces in and around Westfield

Keep the remaining green spaces to keep its country-village type look and feel

There were a number of views expressed that the green spaces in Westfield were of real community benefit. People wished the existing green spaces to be preserved and cared for and that no more green spaces should be built on or lost.

For the size of Westfield we have enough green spaces but we should care for them a little better. Our green spaces should be preserved

Green spaces to the North and South of Westfield – these are the major benefits of the Parish at this time and well used. We should not lose our green spaces

All current greenspaces must be kept

Too much building on green belt areas outside of the boundaries of Westfield, eating up the countryside and green spaces.

More green spaces!

There was one view expressed that;

Waterside could be developed as leisure space

Health Care

The main concerns around health based facilities within Westfield are concerns associated with the increasing use of existing facilities, and the strain that this is putting on the community. There is call for these facilities to be extended, to be able to cope better with the growing demand.

We need local dentist and another doctors' surgery

The doctors' surgery could be expanded for the present new housing. Perhaps more health opportunities for older people.

*The Doctors could open later evenings and Saturday mornings?
(Westfield surgery)*

Overall there was the feeling that there are increased numbers of people using the existing facilities and these need to be increased 'in line with population growth' in Westfield.

Where people expressed a view on the existing services they felt that they were good but needed expanding.

Good surgery in Waterford Park but may need 2nd surgery!!

People appreciated having Paulton Hospital nearby

Paulton Hospital is excellent

We are lucky to have Paulton Hospital

There was one suggestion for a Convalescent ward as part of a new retirement complex to relieve bed blocking at the hospital. This could be sited in Westfield.

Education

Similar concerns were expressed about the strain that was being put on educational facilities.

Westfield Primary is struggling with the load

Increase capacity in line with population growth

Good primary/secondary schools currently available need to be maintained especially with Mendip Housing increasing on our doorstep

Schools must be kept in good condition. Westfield School in particular

I would not like to see any more schools, as busy school times and busy traffic times cause chaos at the moment. I would not like to see any wider roads to accommodate the extra traffic.

Again there is a sense that people appreciate the educational facilities in Westfield, but are concerned, in the face of increased housing and an increase in population, that existing services and assets are maintained.

One facility that was not commented on was the local college (formerly Radstock College, now under the auspices of Bath College)

Traffic and parking

The main parking concerns were focussed on schools and the lack of adequate parking when children are picked up from school. Fosseway School in particular was seen as an asset to the local community with its reputation for supporting children with additional needs. Parking however around the school was identified as becoming increasingly difficult and causing issues for both the people who work at the school, those who have to drop children and young people off at the school. It is also an issue for neighbours of the school who have to cope with the significant demand for parking.

Community/Social Groups

One retired couple who voiced a view, having recently moved to the area, were very pleased with the facilities for older people in Westfield with regards to shops and transport links. This view was supported by two other retired people. However, overall views were expressed about the lack of community activities both for older people and for teenagers.

For young people...

I am concerned about the lack of activities for young people

A number of social groups exist for adults but Westfield has very little for youngsters and teenagers

More things for teenagers to do

More activities for children – parks do not provide equipment for youngest children to play on.

..and for older people.....

More social activities are required for early retired

More activities for older people

It would be nice to have more activities for older people. There used to be a Wednesday Club to go to at West Hill Social Club but that discontinued.

...and for all residents

Would be nice if Westfield had a meeting place for all the different events. Midsomer Norton has got the Town Hall, which I understand they are trying to buy. Radstock's got the Victoria Hall. Both of which are doing well.

Additional Comments Made with regard to future facilities to be developed.

- *Develop the Police Station into residential or small business*
- *Develop the Shambles*
- *Another commercial trading estate or supermarket*
- *Develop Police Station as a retail/community centre. Would mean buying back gardens and road widening, dentists and optician*
- *Check whether "batch" is protected – trees, there is a danger that this could be developed.*
- *As Westfield grows, far better selection of shops needed including a bigger supermarket*
- *Westfield desperately needs a focal point (Village hall/Parish hall) to encourage a greater sense of belonging*
- *The public footpaths linking the green countryside desperately need improvement for both ease of access (hillsides in wet weather)*
- *Not enough bins, lots of rubbish / dog mess*
- *Preserve rights of way. Make every effort to prevent mass building plans on Mendip land*
- *Benches along pavement for people to use when walking up from Radstock to Westfield*

Parking

Generally people felt that Westfield has improved over the years but concerns about traffic remain.

Particularly dangerous turning out of side roads such as Waterside Road onto main road, needs to be yellow lines to stop cars parking there and obscuring the view and making it dangerous to pull out unsighted

Where the new Co-op is at top of Westfield the traffic should be one way in and one way out

A pub that welcomes families and where you could have something to eat at a reasonable price (only pub has shutdown in last year and space used for more houses)

Increase in parking spaces at Fosseway School (understand that a planning application to give more parking spaces has been turned down by council)

Press button crossing nearby to Norton Hill School as you have to wait for ages to get across road there sometimes

More thought into the provision of zebra crossings on the main road through Less traffic – a lot of people do not adhere to the 20mph limit in residential areas either

Somewhere to buy clothes would be useful and a charity shop (PEOPLE closed down last year)

Assets

There were a number of facilities that people viewed as assets that they would like protected. This is in addition to the preservation of green spaces in general and protection of existing services. Much of this is reflected in previous views when people talked about services in Westfield generally, and how they would like to see these protected.

Assets that people would like to see protected included:

- *The Railway Inn*
- *The College playing fields*
- *Westfield Gardens Miners Welfare*
- *Green space at Wesley Ave/Ruskin Road*
- *Methodist church*
- *Schools*
- *Preserve School playing field*
- *Pit Path and new Cycle ways are very important. They give a sense of our history and they are important access ways to MSN and Radstock*
- *Green around St Peters*
- *Norton Hill playing field*
- *Marydon Allotments*
- *Waterside valley - I love this green space. You can look right over the area from lovely open fields*
- *All green spaces*
- *Reserve the industrial estate for industry*
- *Keep a buffer-zone protected at our border*
- *Area around cycle route*
- *St Hughs as a community Centre and Library and youth hub*
- *Protect the waterside as a leisure area and environmental asset*

Focus group of young mothers /carers of pre-school children

Overall

A focus group was held with 12 carers/mothers of pre-school children along with their children.

There was general agreement within the group that Westfield is a nice place to live for families and they felt lucky to be living in such an environment

I moved here from Bath and I found people so welcoming and friendly

We have good facilities here for the children there are three schools and great nurseries we are very lucky

Westfield is a safe place to live

The group also wanted Westfield to retain its own identity.

HOUSING

The group agreed that there was an issue with the amount of housing that was being built or had recently been built in the area. This had led to pressure on the local doctors' surgery and people were experiencing difficulties in getting appointments. People felt that if more houses were to be built then some check should be made that the facilities in Westfield can cope with the additional residents.

There were similar issues with the schools.

People also commented that some of the new developments were not well thought through and were detracting from the 'community' look of Westfield as they were all of different styles which did not blend well and looked 'a bit of a mess.'

Community Groups and Activities

The groups of young mums appreciated the activities that had been put on by the Parish Council including the fireworks display, turning on of the Christmas tree lights and event in the summer were all events that the women in the group and their young children had enjoyed.

There has also been a summer event-it's more like a fete but it so nice to just be able to walk to something in your own area where the children are welcome. We should have more of this

People were also concerned however, about the fact that some good activities for the children had been stopped because the Play Association was no longer funded to provide this.

We do not know why they stopped funding play activities

We do miss the play events that Wansdyke Play Association used to put on

The children really liked the play events but they don't seem to happen any more

People felt generally there were not enough facilities for young people and also the older children, 5+. They would like to see after school clubs and more play activity in the summer holidays.

They noted that most of the youth clubs in and around the area had closed with only Radstock remaining open to their knowledge. There was real concern now over the lack of activities for young people.

Facilities provided by the Parish Council such as the table tennis facility in the park was well used by young people. The group felt that there should be more such facilities and activities for young people.

Green Spaces and the environment

Green spaces and parks were very much appreciated by the group.

There are a number of parks and green spaces which are very good if you have children

However dog poo was a major issue and talking point for the women with young children. A number of the comments are included below as this issue is impinging on the quality of life for a number of mothers of young children as it also poses a health risk.

You get home and you find dog poo all over the buggy wheels this is quite an issue

We go the park which is good for the children but some people do not pick up the dog poo there

You also see dog poo just lying on the streets. With children this is not good

There needs to be more pressure put on people who just leave their dog poo for others to walk in

Health Care

The main issues with health care are linked to the views on additional housing putting a strain on the doctors' surgery. People felt that the doctors' surgery provided a good service but it was getting increasingly difficult to make appointments. More people in the area were needing to make use of the health care facilities and the capacity needed to be increased.

Transport and Travel

There was general agreement that Westfield has quite good transport links, making it fairly easy to get to other places. It was easy to walk to other areas and there are a number of walkways. There were buses to take people further afield as well as to nearby facilities. The group commented particularly on Somer Bus which comes round the estate and they had noticed that this was very popular with older people along with the Dial A Ride.

Community Safety

The group agreed that Westfield felt very safe as a place to walk round. They did walk with each other and shared routes but they would also walk round on their own and with the children. They did feel that this was not so much the case when they went to Radstock where they felt less safe particularly later in the day.

There was a discussion about the fact that there have been issues with crime in the area. Most of the group had not experienced crime or safety issues, but one member had been the victim of burglary and damage to her car, another had seen someone steal something from her garden. The group generally agreed that this crime was not down to younger people and the main crime incidents were on the border with Radstock.

The group felt safe in Westfield and when walking around with their families.

I grew up round here. If I see a group of young people I just say 'Hi' and they are usually very friendly. I don't think it's the young people necessarily who cause the problem

The group however did have concerns around the lack of activities for older children.

Young people do hang around the shops and certain parts of the park. They really have nowhere to go. They just need a simple space where they can go and sit and be with each other and hang out. The council provided a ping pong table in one part

of the park and that has been a great success. It helps to bring down anti-social behaviour or the chance of it.

Concerns were voiced about drug issue in the area but this was mainly in one area, on the border of Westfield with Radstock.

The Future

There were concerns for the future about the pressure on existing facilities which the group felt needed addressing. This has already been outlined in a previous section.

The group would like to see a community centre being developed. This may mean better use of the Westfield Social Club but the group of young mums felt it would need a complete revamp.

Just changing the name to a community centre does not make it one

Comments were made about how the Westfield Social Club was known as 'a place to go for a drink'. This was its reputation and without a major 'revamp' it would be difficult for this centre to shake its history, and become a community hub for Westfield.

There had been one or two events at the centre which the group appreciated, but generally it was agreed that social club still felt like a social drinking facility. This was good for some community members, but not so good as a family and child friendly facility. There was great potential for this facility but it would need investment.

There was another suggestion for an access space to be made to the play area so that when Community Bus turned up it could link into an outside play area for the smaller children when the weather allowed.

Vision for the future

Some ideas about future community activities included:

An acoustic café like they have in Nunney where people can come on a Sunday and listen to musical performances over a lunch

The Parish Council could provide small marquee to be held in the social club that people could rent out/use for events on the green space

A mini Glastonbury type festival- a "Westival" would be good. The group felt that there were lots of talented people in Westfield that could display their arts and crafts also musicians that could perform

Because of all the new housing in the area it was important that people were informed about activities that were available in the area, at a big event or festival they could meet people living in the area and where to go to access services. A newsletter such as the Westfield Warbler that could be circulated once a month with news about what is going on and details of all facilities and activities in the area would be very useful on a more regular, say monthly basis

More intergenerational activities, this would help older people and young parents

Community allotment area – there were some individual allotments but these had a long waiting list for the plots. To have a community area so that people who did not have time to commit to a whole allotment on their own, could still help to grow vegetables and learn about gardening would be of great benefit to lots of people

More small local shops such as a greengrocer, baker would be good, rather than relying on multi nationals to buy goods from locally

Area needs to have more access to employment. Feel that there were too many employers that offered short term, temporary contracts rather than "proper" jobs to local people

Views of Businesses and Retailers Operating in Westfield

Background

Westfield Business Park is a mix of businesses with values ranging from over £25 million, such in the case of Williams Dickie Europe Ltd and Williams Dickie Holdings Ltd to smaller businesses /enterprises with values of less than £30,000. Over 100 business are listed as operating from Westfield Business Park. The business park is toward the border of Westfield and the BANES border with Somerset.

A sample of the businesses took part in face to face interviews with a range of size of business and services delivered being interviewed. There is also a range of retail shops in the centre of Westfield with other premises scattered along the main road.

The Environment

Those interviewed expressed positive views about the environment in which their business were based. Westfield was described as a 'functional place' with local amenities for the companies' employees such as shops cafés and access to a local swimming pool 'even at lunch time'.

A functional place with everything that you need – easy to reach – good local amenities for employees (shops, café, somewhere to swim at lunchtime even)

Westfield feels like a nice community place, a bit like a village with its own identity

Everything that you want in a workplace, shops, cafes, countryside not far away

A number of business identified the following elements as making Westfield a good area to operate from.

Reasonable rent on units

Availability of staff. Lots of local people that want to work in Westfield

Local hairdresser finds that the salon is busier since a café was opened in the area. More people come to those shops and use them because of the café. Works well both ways

Good transport links by road and buses into Westfield

Rent is cheaper than in places in Bath or Bristol or even Midsomer Norton

The trading estate is easily accessible and most people know where it is and lots of trade is generated from being here

Good local trade in our shop, well supported by residents in the area

Good local staff – have worked with us for years and are loyal and help to make this a "community" business which appeals to customers

Suggestions for improvements included:

Better communication between the local businesses as we would like to give them our business but do not know who they are and what they do

Traffic and Transport

Transport to the Business Park was felt to be good and also it was well placed if local people wanted to walk to the businesses. Some issues of concern however were expressed:

Traffic is sometimes a problem, especially at busy times of the day

There were also some issues around parking:

Too many parked cars on the roadway in the trading estate, which makes it very difficult for lorries to navigate

Double yellow lines needed in places to stop people parking in dangerous places like corners making visibility impossible

Traffic congestion on main road, particularly at school times which makes access to and from trading estate difficult

Could additional parking places be made off the roads as the units do not always have enough parking for their employees and visitors to businesses or customers?

Parking can be difficult for businesses located on main road. During the day when there is not so much traffic it is OK but at rush hour times no-one dare stop to shop as they think their cars may get damaged when they are parked up

Signage on trading estate out of date and needs improving, make it easier to find your way around

Crime and Safety

Some businesses had messages for the police:

More notice should be taken when complaints are received by the police – For example "boy racers" sometimes driving around the roads in the evenings, which is dangerous to all users

Police not interested when an occasional police presence would probably be all that would be needed to stop this

Police not interested in occasional problems with teenagers loitering outside and this can put people off visiting the shop in the evenings. Perhaps teenagers do not have a place to meet and enough local activities to occupy them

Consultations with Voluntary Sector Organisations Offering Services in Westfield

Focus Group

Background

The comments in this section are from community organisations and service users. The organisations had collected views of at least 15 other service users who were not present. The volunteers and workers in the groups interviewed have considerable knowledge of the Westfield area and also of their service users opinions of Westfield. Their service users are viewed as 'vulnerable people', people with health issues, mobility issues, learning disabilities and other social needs who are resident in Westfield or based in Westfield.

There was a sense that in the past they have not specially been asked for their views. They welcomed being asked, but were not sure whether their views would be taken into account.

Amenities and Services in Westfield

The view was expressed that they would appreciate a choice of supermarket but felt that the Co-op had too big an influence in the area as a whole. Perhaps this is preventing other supermarkets from being able to open.

With the new developments pavements and roads have constant roadworks.

As soon as they are repaired it seems that they are dug up again because of all the new houses and demand for services. This can make it difficult especially for people with any mobility issues.

The lack of some public toilets, especially in park areas.

It can be difficult to take your children to a park to play if there is no toilet available. This is also an issue for disabled people and older people in the areas

This group also had concerns about the lack of facilities for older children and teenagers, in particular the lack of a youth club.

*Lack of a youth club may lead to youths on streets
with nothing better to do*

*The café that has opened in Westfield is good and very
community minded*

The group however had fears that the café was struggling to make any sort of profit. There were fears that the café might be lost to the community if it was not assisted to continue in some way. For example, perhaps in consultation with the café, the council could pay for Wifi to be installed there, to encourage youngsters to use the facility as well. They could also pay for a music licence.

The group felt that there was a lack of police on patrol in area, concern expressed, especially for vulnerable people. Some had experienced abuse and bullying in the street.

*Sometimes people comment on our looks or call us names
behind our backs*

There was a need expressed that in Westfield advice and information provision on variety of social issues is needed –

*Lots of new people now living in area are not familiar with it
needed help with many things*

*Social isolation is a problem in this area affecting older people
but also new people who do not work and do not perhaps
have children at home either*

It would be helpful to set up intergenerational activities so that youngsters can learn to help older people and to socialise with them too, skills can be exchanged and both groups can learn from each other.

The group also reflected concerns that other groups had expressed about the number of houses that have been developed.

Too many houses being built everywhere

The group again reflected the views of others in that they would like to see a community place to socialise.

*Although Westhill Social Club are very supportive, the building is
not ideal as use as a community centre and still quite difficult to
access*

The doors are difficult to open (too heavy) and although there is now a portable ramp to help with wheelchair access it would be much better if it was 100% disabled accessible and allow people with special needs the independence of being able to get in on their own

Other suggestions:

There is a need for a new community venue for all people to use, with proper sports hall and community café would be great. The hall could hold lots of activities like art and craft, music evenings

More community events, like the funfair in Westfield that everyone can go to and enjoy

A football field for spectators to go and watch games easily and under shelter would be nice

Indoor sports facilities like at Chilcompton hall would be good

Dial A Ride service is very important in area and must be maintained

More supported housing for people with special needs. Not enough in the area to enable more people to be able to live more independent lives with support when necessary is needed

More dropped kerbs to make it easier for people in wheelchairs to get about Westfield

More crossings over the busy roads – not zebra crossings but proper ones with red lights to make motorists stop and let people cross safely and in their own time

In the future it would be nice to have access to a shared transport system so that people who could not drive themselves could get about more easily and people who could not afford cars were able to travel for work and leisure

The community needs to get together to solve each other's problems but there is nowhere to meet

Westhill Social Club is OK but not very user friendly. Some people don't like to go there

Too many houses not enough community areas – need a really nice park with good equipment, nice walks and flowers. More family orientated outside areas to encourage people to enjoy being outside in the country and walking together

Community BBQs get people out together and socialising and enjoying themselves

Big puddle of water on the crossing at Tanner Close (garage side). Makes it difficult for people with mobility issues

Vans parking on corners of roads should have double yellow lines as it is dangerous to cross the road because you can't see

Dogs mess – not enough bins anywhere and notices to make sure people use them. Park and play areas should not be used by dogs as toilets

Executive Summary

Overall

- Residents of Westfield who took part in this consultation expressed the view that they appreciated living and working in Westfield. They valued the good transport links, the good public amenities and the community spirit of Westfield.
- People would like the identity of Westfield and its assets to be promoted and preserved.
- In particular residents appreciate the amenities such as the retail facilities, access to good transport, the health provision and the range of good schools.
- The Business Park is also viewed as an asset to the local community
- The businesses generally are content with the provision on the business park. They view it as good place to be based.
- The business and retail units appreciate that rents are affordable, more affordable than other areas. The businesses in the business park also appreciate the availability of good local staff, the amenities that Westfield offers to its staff such as access to shops and the leisure Centre in Midsomer Norton.
- With regards to the environment, people appreciate the green spaces in and around Westfield and would like to see these preserved. The environment of Westfield is greatly appreciated. Individuals like the green spaces, easy access to the countryside, cycling routes and pathways all of which they would like to see preserved.
- An additional element that people mentioned is preserving the identity of Westfield, its community spirit and the 'village like feel'.
- They would like to see Westfield remaining as an entity in its own with a 'buffer' between it and other areas so that it does not get absorbed in the larger surrounding areas.
- People felt safe in Westfield but did indicate that where Westfield links into Radstock, there are some issues on this border about crime and 'bad behaviour' linked to drug and alcohol issues.

Concerns

The main concerns were focussed on the following:

Healthcare

- While appreciating the existing facilities, there is a perception that the increase in the local population, caused by new developments, is putting pressure on healthcare facilities such the GP surgery. There were requests that this issue was investigated further, and facilities expanded in line with an increase in the local population.

Education

- People appreciated the existing educational facilities which rated as good. However, again concerns were expressed on the strain that

an increase in population was putting on schools and other educational facilities.

Traffic and Parking

- Concerns mainly focussed on traffic issues and parking challenges around the schools. This was a particular issue at Fossey school. The school is highly regarded and would like there to be a solution found to this issue.

Safety

- Generally, individuals felt that Westfield was a safe place to live where people could walk around without fear. It was perceived that crime issues that had occurred were mainly on the border with Radstock but that Westfield was much safer than Radstock. There was some concern about 'boy racers' on the industrial estate and the fact that the police did not view this issue seriously enough.
- Concerns were raised about people not clearing up after their dogs. This was raised as both an environmental health issues and an issue of great inconvenience especially for families of young children. There was a feeling that more effort should be put into tackling this issue

Challenges for disabled people

- People interviewed who had a personal experience of disability and those who cared for them made specific mention that they felt they had not been included in previous consultations. They had special issues with the amount of roadworks and construction work which had taken place in Westfield in current years. This had made moving around especially difficult for people with mobility issues.
- Some people with learning disabilities indicated that they had experienced abuse on the streets

Community Activities

- People appreciated the community activities organised by the Parish Council such as the firework displays, Christmas activities and Summer Fair. However, concerns were expressed about the lack of community groups and activities for older people and young people alike.
- People identified the need for a community hub where community members could socialise and hold meetings and events.

Recommendations

There were a number of requests for the Parish Council to consider for new facilities. These included:

- Establishing a community hub or community association that would help to continue with putting on the current events and expanding

the opportunity for the community of Westfield to come together. This was the most frequently raised request for a new facility by all groups of people. This was particularly the case where carers of young children were concerned. There were views expressed that perhaps the Westhill Social Club was not the most appropriate place, because of its association as a place where the local community would go if they wanted to have a drink. However, people did identify that this was a facility that could be built upon and with a complete refurbishment, people might be able to ignore its historic purpose.

- People voiced the view that there should be no future development in Westfield. The most recent increase in housing had put pressure on existing services. This increase and its effect on community facilities should be monitored.
- While people had concerns about any new housing being built, people also voiced concerns about the lack of affordable housing for local people. Views were expressed around there being more access to affordable housing for local people. Also several proposals were put forward for specialised units for older people and/or a rehabilitation ward for Paulton Hospital to ease the 'bed blocking' situation at the hospital.
- The Parish Council should do all it can to preserve the identity and independence of Westfield.
- There are a number of opportunities to preserve and build on current assets. These are listed in this report but include preserving the historical assets of Westfield, developing the police station, increasing retail units to include a larger supermarket, test out the need for Westfield to have its own advice sessions now new communities have moved in; provide public conveniences in the park and increase the community activities that are so popular and bring the community together; increase community activities for young and old

