

## Westfield Parish Council Annual Review 2018 19

### *Neighbourhood Plan*

2018 saw three years of hard work on the Westfield Neighbourhood Plan come to fruition when it was passed at a referendum of the parish and agreed by Bath and North East Somerset Council.



The Neighbourhood Plan is now part of planning policy in this area, informing the standard and type of new housing and business development, the use of green space and amenities.

### *Youth Services*

The cost of youth services in Westfield were met by the Parish Council this year and it is good to see the Tuesday evening youth work at the Westfield Methodist Hall go from strength to strength. Below, Youth Connect describe their work.

“We have run a number of projects so far; all of these have come from what the young people of Westfield said they would like to do, and from us assessing their needs.

The music project still runs each week and has been our most successful project with lots of young people getting involved and getting accredited for their time and dedication they have put in to learning new skills.

Some young people from Westfield were given the opportunity to perform at a local spring festival, Youth Connected. We hosted a youth tent and young people helped to plan and run the event as well as perform.

We run cookery sessions each week and this is always very popular, young people decide what they would like to cook and a senior youth member has written all ingredients and planned out what we need to bring each week.

We held a BBQ at the park recently that was very well attended, we also invited some street performers from the natural theatre company to join us, they engaged young people in street theatre and fancy dress and took videos of young people acting in the park, this was a very good opportunity for young people to be creative and work with an amazing outside agency.

We have run a number of different issue based workshops including things like alcohol safety information, sexual health help advice and information and work around revision and exam stress.

Young people like to relax and be creative in our sessions so we have a chill out space where they can colour, paint, do arts and crafts and listen to music.”

### *Events and Awards*

More Christmas lights were added to the lampposts this year so that driving through Westfield in December was bright and festive.

The Lights Switch-On event attracted a record number of residents, who attended for the carols, the Christmas message from Rev. Russell, the complimentary mulled wine and visit to Father Christmas.



It was another successful year for the Summer Fun Day at Westhill Recreation Ground and the Fun Fair at Norton Hill Recreation Ground was welcomed back by local people.



The Inspirational Citizen Award was launched in 2018 with the first recipient, marathon man John Reynolds, being honoured for his commitment to encouraging running and promoting Westfield nationwide with the Westfield TT running group.

The Front Garden competition saw residents of Glebelands win the best front garden category for their excellent choice of plants providing colour all year round with effective variation of height and well thought out design.



Residents of Kestrel Place won the best container category.



A small area of unsightly land at Birch Road was made ready for planting by the Parish Council and planted up voluntarily by a local resident.

Litter picking events were co-ordinated through the year by a local councillor and go a long way to keeping Westfield tidy.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War 1 saw the first remembrance event at the memorial stone at the top of Elm Tree Avenue.



In December the Parish Council forged links with Westfield Massachusetts with a radio link up to help them celebrate the start of their 350<sup>th</sup> birthday. Chair of the Council Geoff Fuller said, "It was fascinating to be in the recording studio and to be able to see the two men we were talking to on a video link. There is a huge difference between the two Westfields in terms of size. Otherwise it is eery how many similarities there are in our histories. Both communities began as agricultural areas and both have a history in manufacturing. There are numerous place names around Westfield MA that also exist in the vicinity of Westfield here – for example, Southwick, Southampton, Blandford and Bristol. It was a real pleasure to chat to Bryan Sullivan and Harry Rock and a huge thank you to BBC Somerset for enabling it to happen."

### *Defibrillators*

2018 saw two new defibrillators installed in the parish, bringing the total up to four. The new ones are located at the Fire Station, kindly maintained by the Fire Authority and the second is outside the Doctor's Surgery and is maintained by Westfield Allotments and Garden Society. Many thanks to both WAGS and the Fire Authority for voluntarily undertaking this important work.

### *What is new for 2019/20?*

The Neighbourhood Plan highlighted the need for more allotments in Westfield and we are working with Westfield Allotment and Garden Society towards creating a new site at Larch Court.

A Westfield Green and Open Spaces Working Group has been set up to prioritise and drive projects to enhance our open green space. The renovation of the old Roman Road footpath was one item raised by local people in the Neighbourhood Plan. Others include the renovation of Snails Brook and the linking of land at Shakespeare Road Play Area with the new town park in Midsomer Norton via a nature trail with picnic facilities.

The replacement of the rapidly deteriorating wooden 'fort' at Westhill play area is being arranged with a modern and challenging alternative.

Ownerless land which is suffering from lack of grass cutting by BANES is an issue which the Parish Council is working hard to find a solution and to this end has held meetings with BANES officers and residents.

We are working with BANES towards the renovation of Shakespeare Road play area, funded entirely by developer contributions.

A stand-alone pavilion at Westhill Recreation Ground is being investigated and funding sources are being explored.