

# Westfield Parish Council

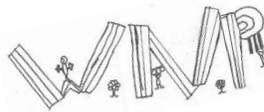
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Chairman: Cllr G Fuller Parish Clerk: Ms L J Close FSLCC

## Annual Review 2019/20

### What services does the Parish Council offer?

- The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on **planning applications** and provides a local voice on **highways** and **environmental matters**.
- It has a **Neighbourhood Plan** which directs future developments in the Parish ensuring the standards of development as well as affording the Parish a 25% portion of the community infrastructure levy which it uses to fund projects for the benefit of Westfield.
- It funds **youth services** in the Parish as part of a wider Cluster Group.
- It manages **sports and leisure facilities** at Norton Hill and Westhill Recreation Grounds on behalf of two Miners' Welfare Trusts as well as maintaining a few smaller areas of land.



- Our **recreation ground facilities** offer football pitches, a tennis court, play areas, BMX track, table tennis, boules and basketball.



- It encourages **community spirit** by funding events such as the Christmas Lights Switch-on event and the summer Fun Day, the Front Garden competition and the Inspirational Citizen award, as well as one off events such as the VE Day 75 celebration planned for 2020.
- It supports the **parish environment** by funding the hanging baskets and the planting schemes in the decorative pit trucks around the parish, as well as the raised beds at Jubilee Green shops and campaigning to keep footpaths clear.
- The Parish Council supports **local organisations** through grant funding.



[www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)



Established 2011

- The Parish Council provides and, in partnership with community organisations, maintains four (soon to be six) **public access defibrillators** in the parish.



### How did the Parish Council perform in 2019/20?

2019 was heralded as a **project year** and the Parish Council has seen a number of aspirations from the Neighbourhood Plan come to fruition thanks to the creation of new working groups and funding from B&NES' section 106.



A **second allotments site** was successfully completed at Larch Court providing a further seven plots for aspiring gardeners. The plots were snapped up and site is being maintained beautifully by Westfield Allotments and Gardening Society.



The creation of a **Green and Open Spaces Working Group** has seen a number of projects pushed forward thanks to the efforts of the committee made up of councillors and members of the community.

16 new **benches and picnic tables** were installed at Norton Hill Recreation ground in time for the last of the summer weather and were no sooner installed than put to use!

At Westhill Recreation Ground grand transformations are planned. Aspirations for a **stand-alone pavilion facility** are starting to take shape with the completion of a feasibility study and design plans ready to go to planning; whilst plans for a **fitness track and outdoor gym equipment** received an overwhelming positive response from the public and community groups.

**Youth Services** continued despite the challenges faced by reorganisation and a reduced team of youth workers. The Parish Council, as part of the Youth Cluster, was pleased to support the creation of Youth Connect SW who will deliver youth services in the Parish at the popular weekly sessions.

The annual **Fun Day** in June was a wet affair this year but residents still turned out in big numbers to support the event which saw new, bigger and better attractions. Plans are already underway for Fun Day 2020 with good weather booked in advance!

The Parish Council continued to support local organisations with £15,000 in **grant donations** as well as grants given by the Parish Council Chairman from his Chair's Allowance.



The **Christmas Lights Switch-On** event once again proved popular with the attraction of choirs, silver band, mulled wine, mince pies and Father Christmas and with an additional more festive lights



completing the display Westfield can be proud of its festive Christmas spirit.

This year the Parish Council made a commitment to supporting the upkeep of the **churchyard** at St Nicholas Church, part of which is in the Parish of Westfield and which is used and valued by many residents of Westfield.



The second annual **Inspirational Citizen Award** was awarded to Westfield Allotments and Gardening Society chairman, Martin Bates, for his tireless work on making the allotments site a place of beauty, tranquillity and enterprise.

The annual **Front Garden competition** continued with stunning entries in both the best front garden and best container categories judged by a lecturer from Somer Valley Campus of Bath College in Westfield with a special award going to CFH Docmail for their Living Wall.



The local elections in May allowed us to welcome two **new Councillors** who have added the benefit of their varied experience to our excellent mix of current and returning Councillors.



## What is new for 2020/21?

The Westfield Green and Open Spaces Working Group continues to work on projects to bring to fruition the **aspirations of our Neighbourhood Plan** and welcomes new members and ideas. Current projects include the creation of a **nature trail** to link Shakespeare Road play area to the new town park in Midsomer Norton, the installation of **lighting along the Pit Path** from Shakespeare Road and the continuation of the projects to build a pavilion and install a fitness track and gym equipment at Westhill Recreation Ground.

A generous grant from Waterside Carnival Club has enabled the purchase of a further two **defibrillators** which will be sited at Whitstones on Fosseyway and at Norton Hill Pavilion.

The Parish Council is planning to mark the **75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day** with a street party at the top of Elm Tree Avenue with Battle's O'er played by a piper, a toast to the heroes of World War II, refreshment of the type reminiscent of the 1940's as well as songs, dancing and games for the children.

The Parish Council continues to budget cautiously and to ensure it has contingency reserves to maintain a healthy financial balance of providing for the community whilst anticipating future demands on its resources. We positively encourage your views and suggestions for the future of our Parish. Residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council and you can view our 2020/21 budget at any time on our [website](#).



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How is the Parish Council funded?**

The Parish Council raises a precept based on its budgeted spending for the year. The precept is added to your Council Tax bill and is shown alongside other additions such as Police & Fire and Social Care. In addition to the precept the Council will seek funding in the form of grants for some of its projects.

### **How much does the average household pay towards the Parish Council?**

The precept total is apportioned per household according to Council Tax band. The 2020-21 precept of £207,100 will cost the average band D household £2.11 per week or £9.13 per month. This is an increase of 59p per month on last year.

### **How is the Parish Council run?**

The Parish Council is made up of 11 Councillors elected by the people of Westfield every four years. The Parish Council employs three part time members of staff to administer the work of the Council. Details of the Clerk, officers and Councillors can be found on our website and in the back of each edition of our quarterly newsletter, The Westfield Warbler.

### **How is the Parish Council governed?**

The Parish Council is governed by statute such as the Localism Act 2011. We are members of the National Association of Local Council (NALC) who advise on updates to the law and changes in legislation such as GDPR and website accessibility.

