

2022/2023 Plan Outcomes and Council Achievements 2019-2023

Purpose

To provide a brief summary of:

- The WHPC Plan 2022/23 outcomes
- Other WHPC achievements 2019- 2023

[All WHPC business, decisions and expenditure are recorded in the Minutes of meetings and are publicly available on the WHPC website].

The WHPC Plan 2022/2023 outcomes

The WHPC approved the 2022/23 Plan on the 10th May 2022 (22/113) along with a structure for delivery and associated budget.

The Plan acknowledged that the WHPC strap line is, “Working with the Community to maintain and enhance West Hill’s special character” and that the Plan wanted to put greater emphasis on engaging with and working with residents to meet community needs now and into the future. This has best been demonstrated by the holding of a consultation event at the Village Hall regarding the East Devon District Council draft Local Plan, and meetings enabling input from residents regarding significant and perceived ‘contentious’ planning applications.

The Plan acknowledged the numerous activities that are best described as ‘business and usual’ and these have continued, for example:

- Maintaining and improving the Play Park provision.
- Providing the two Vehicle Activated speed signs alternating between the six static sites (2 on B3180, 1 on Bendarroch Road and 3 on West Hill Road).
- Provision of regular newsletters to every household.
- Being a statutory consultee on all Planning Applications to East Devon District Council.
- Signposting residents to the correct agency or organisation to discuss or help with their issues.
- Councillor representation on related other bodies, eg Exeter Airport Consultative Group.

The various Working Groups report in brief:

New Pedestrian Access to Village Hall – considerable work and expenditure has been expended to move this project forward to a point where the necessary planning permission has been obtained, tenders received from contractors etc. The Village Hall Trustees are now seeking grant funding to enable the works to be undertaken in their land. WHPC is progressing the required Road Safety Part 2 Audit and seeking to finalise an agreement with the Village Hall Trustees to give clarity on responsibilities into the future. It will now be a matter for the newly elected Council to decide how it wishes to take forward the project.

Community Engagement Group – the last year has seen some national significant events Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee, her death and the Coronation of King Charles III. The Council has worked with village organisations in support of key events, including providing funding.

The Council in conjunction with St Michaels Church planted a tree in the Churchyard in memory of those who died or suffered as a result of the Covid Pandemic and also arranged for a tree supplied by East Devon District Council to be planted at Courtfield Close to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. For the Coronation, the Council have installed a throne and matching two seater Throne bench in the Playpark – this was celebrated with a local author story telling to local school children.

The Council provided support to enable the Royal British Legion to undertake an act of remembrance at the War Memorial in November 2022.

The Council arranged for 'drop in' sessions for potential new Councillors to discuss applying to become Parish Councillors. This did not produce new applicants and so work will now be needed to co-opt additional Councillors.

Acknowledgement – A big Thank You to those Councillors who have positively contributed to the work of the Council during the last year and of course, to our Clerk for keeping us in good order and providing essential support and advice.

Other WHPC achievements 2019- 2023

WHPC is a relatively new Parish Council and we are grateful to those who worked hard to establish a separate Council for West Hill. Further, we acknowledge the work of previous Councillors and the Clerks who over the years have contributed to the development of the new Council to enable it to fulfil its functions.

The establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan (jointly with Ottery St Mary) pre dated the new council, and has been an important touch stone for considering development proposals in the village. The Plan will now be replaced by one solely for West Hill.

Here are some of the actions the Council has undertaken, not mentioned above for the last year:

- Creation of a Landing Site in the village for the Devon Air Ambulance.
- Support to the South West Ambulance Service in providing equipment when a Community First Responder Team created.
- Provision of two defibrillators in the village (at the Royal British Legion School Lane and at 11 Eastfield).
- The West Hill Help Scheme for the duration of the Covid Pandemic.
- Provision of a West Hill Village Map with index of house names (funded from advertising).
- Support to the West Hill Footpath Warden to ensure monitoring of the public footways and their maintenance.
- Provision of Hi-Viz vests to school and pre-school children.
- Installing two picnic tables in the glade of Broadoak Plantation.
- Installing a bench in the Churchyard and a new bench at the War Memorial.
- Employed a Lengths-man to maintain the street scene environment.
- Tackled Himalayan Balsam infestation.
- Supported the PTFA's sunflower competition.
- Organised a Wildflower challenge during Covid.
- Supported the Church in the provision of Welcome Packs for new residents.
- Provision of Awards and Grants to various Community organisations and events, eg School Fete.
- Developing and maintaining links to outside bodies.

- And much much more.

WHPC has always wished to provide open space (s) within West Hill to enhance the Woodland Village but also to provide amenity for the community – sports, etc. This has not occurred as no suitable land has become available and it seems the search will have to look outside of the Parish Boundaries.

Decisions

- 1. Councillors to consider any other outcomes and achievements that should be acknowledged?**
- 2. To note the outcomes from the 2022/23 Plan.**
- 3. To note the achievements of the WHPC over the last 4 years.**
- 4. To acknowledge the contributions of Councillors (past and present) who have positively contributed to the Council and of the Clerks (past and present).**