

Welcome to our May newsletter

I became the Chairman of the Parish Council on 1st March.

I'm working with Councillors and the Clerk to establish our work plan for 2022-23 Council year. Key to me is that as a Council we engage as much as possible with the Community and work with residents to address local issues. The priorities this year are to:

- ensure with your input that we influence the East Devon District Council's developing Local Plan, that will set the proposed development levels and locations in the coming years for the Village;
- deliver, with the Village Hall Trustees, the new pedestrian pathway from West Hill Road to the Village Hall and School now that planning approval has been achieved;
- complete installation of new Play Park equipment;
- raise the profile of the Council and encourage candidates to come forward at the 2023 election; and
- develop through our Road Safety Group and Trees Group improvements to our environment.

I hope you find this newsletter informative. Your views and queries are always welcome.

Cllr Della Cannings, QPM, WHPC Chairman

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West Hill Annual Parish (Community) Meeting 9th May

It was lovely to meet village residents at the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting. Our first since 2019 due to covid restrictions.

Covid also affected our plans for 2022! The meeting originally scheduled for March 25th was cancelled because of the high incidence of COVID-19 infections in the area at the time. With the very kind co-operation of Martin and the **Feathers Badminton Club** we were able to re-schedule the event for 9th May. Unfortunately, our guest speaker was no longer available.

During the evening community groups and organisations gave an update on their plans and activities. Ottery Help Scheme, TRIP and PCSO Jonathan Sims attended the meeting and gave an update on West Hill matters. There was particular interest in District and County Councillor Jess Bailey's update on the Local Plan (see page 4 for information).

Della, the WHPC Chairman, admirably rose to the challenge of giving a brief overview of WHPC activities since 2019!

WHPC hopes this event will continue to develop in future years. It's a great opportunity for everyone in the village to share their thoughts and ideas. There are few other occasions where the West Hill community can get together.



Welcome to our new Councillor

Cllr Stephen Owen was co-opted to the Parish Council in January 2022.

After many years working elsewhere in the country Cllr Owen has returned to West Hill where his family lived for many years.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee

2022 is a special year when we will all be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Events and activities are being planned across the whole country during the year, and especially during the Big Weekend from 2nd to 5th June. The Parish Council has been busy helping West Hill's groups and organisations with various plans for the four day holiday (and other events during the year).



What's happening in West Hill?

- **West Hill's Jubilee Oak**, kindly donated by East Devon District Council, has been planted on the green at Courtfield Close. Thank you to nearby residents who offered to care for the tree.
- West Hill Garden Club have planted a commemorative oak tree on the green at Beech Park.

Both trees have been registered with the Queen's Green Canopy. So far, 47 trees have been registered in West Hill. Do let us know if you register a tree!

- West Hill PTFA will be holding a jubilee street party for all the primary children on the last day before the half-term holiday. Each pupil will be given a **commemorative 'Jubilee' medal** funded by the Parish Council.
- The Royal British Legion will be flying the Union Jack on their newly installed commemorative **Jubilee flag pole** at the Legion Club (*partly funded by a grant award from WHPC*).
- With the support of St Michael's Church, the Parish Council will be planting a **Covid Memorial tree** and siting a **Jubilee bench** in the new community garden area at the far end of the graveyard as a memorial to those that have died during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be a space for quiet contemplation and remembrance of loved ones who have passed away during this difficult time.
- West Hill Pre-school will be holding a **Scarecrow Competition** with a 'royalty' theme during the half-term and Big Weekend to raise funds (*and have fun!*). It's open to everyone in the village. For details on how to enter please see the WHPC website, noticeboards or email whpreschoolevents@gmail.com. WHPC will be providing (*small!*) prizes for the competition. We know you're creative..... let's see those red, white and blue scarecrows!

The Big Weekend Programme for West Hill

Thursday 2nd June Perhaps take a stroll and find the royal scarecrows in the village

Friday 3rd June RBL Street Party in School Lane and Legion Club: Open to all residents

This event is **open to everyone** in the village and will be held in School Lane (which will be closed to traffic for the day) and the Legion Club. The RBL will provide a Bar, Band, BBQ, Candy Floss and activities to keep both young and young at heart entertained. The RBL invite you "to bring along your own picnics and refreshments for what we hope will be a very enjoyable village celebration of Queen Elizabeth's 70 years of service to our nation". If you want to help organise the event please give Dave a call on 07766 928048.

Saturday 4th June Queen's Green Canopy plaque event at Beech Park 11.00am

Sunday 5th June St Michael's Church service followed by 'Bubbles & Cake' in the garden

Plus, many small family garden parties across West Hill.

West Hill Parish Council wishes you all a lovely Jubilee Weekend.

Did you know West Hill's Royal British Legion Clubhouse is open to all residents?



West Hill's Royal British Legion Branch and Club have been a firm fixture in West Hill for many years. In recent years the "RBL" has welcomed many new members but the popular clubhouse and facilities are available to guests, visitors and local community groups alike. They're also available to hire.

The clubhouse is well equipped with

- a large lounge plus beer garden
- well stocked bar, tea/coffee
- 110" projector screen for live sports events
- skittle alley, pool table and dart board!
- Adjoining the lounge is a Snooker Room with full size snooker table.
- There's also a fully equipped kitchen. This is used for events such as the popular "big breakfast". The RBL team have ambitions to provide a future lunchtime service.

Opening Hours

Monday	7:00pm - 11:00pm
Tuesday	7:00pm - 11:00pm
Wednesday	7:00pm - 11:00pm
Thursday	5:00pm - 11:00pm
Friday	7:00pm - 11:00pm
Saturday	7:00pm# - 11:00pm
Sunday	NOON - 3:00pm 7:00pm - 9:00pm

open earlier for events

During the long covid lockdowns the RBL team have been busy re-furbishing the clubhouse on School Lane. They've also been busy submitting (successful!) grant applications to fund further work to improve facilities and the green credentials of the building itself.

The Legion has been fortunate in attracting their first ever "major" National Lottery Community Fund Grant of £45k for refurbishment of the Club interior (a tier above the £10k "Grants for all" that they have previously received from the Lottery). Community groups such as the West Hill Womens Group and the Parish Council were keen to support their bid for a grant. The money will be used for the

- Replacement of the old fire exits with new disability compliant automatic opening fire exits;
- New more energy efficient double glazing; Replacement interior doors; New floor coverings throughout the building; New tables and chairs for the main lounge;
- Re-decoration and refurbishment of the Snooker room

Post covid lockdown the RBL is looking forward to a "normal" season of events with both members and our wider village community able to enjoy our facilities and catching up with friends old and new



Platinum Jubilee

Street Party, School Lane

June 3rd 1230-1700pm

Bingo

1st and 3rd Sundays every month

(in aid of the Poppy Appeal)

Bar Opens 7pm, Eyes down 7.30pm

Upcoming & Regular Events

Weekly

Wednesday 5 – 8pm

Ember Wood Fired Pizza's

Thursday 4.30 – 7pm

Codfather Fish & Chips

Movie Nights - every Monday

Bar Open from 7.00pm, Curtain Up 7.30pm. Upcoming films:

May 23rd Notting Hill

May 30th Belfast

Jun 6th Thunderball

Opera Night

Bar Open 7.00pm, Curtain up 7.30pm

May 26th Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte"

For more information

www.rbl-westhill.co.uk

Club Chairman, Dave Underwood, 07766928048



New Local Plan for East Devon: Latest News

One of the key responsibilities for East Devon District Council (EDDC) is to create a **Local Plan**.

EDDC has started work on the review of the Local Plan. The revised Local Plan will determine how much, and where, development there will be in East Devon up to 2040.

One of the aims of the plan is to meet the **Housing Need** figure.

The Housing Need figure, which is calculated according to a government-imposed formula, has recently been revised. East Devon now needs **946 new houses per year**, increased from 918 per year. This is because one of the factors used in the calculation is the “affordability ratio” which is calculated by dividing median house prices by median gross annual workplace-based earnings. Recent rises in house prices have pushed this ratio upwards.

What is a Local Plan?

Local Plans are used to help decide on planning applications and other planning related decisions. In effect, they are the local guide to what can be built where, shaping infrastructure investments and determining the future pattern of development in the district

Where will the new houses be built?

Two-thirds of the East Devon is covered by Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and others are subject to environmental constraints. Development in these areas is tightly controlled. As a result development to achieve the housing target has to be focussed on the parts of East Devon outside the AONBs.

Following on from a motion proposed by our District Councillor Cllr Bailey, EDDC considered the housing target to be unfair as it did not consider the constraints of the AONBs. They agreed to write to Michael Gove, Minister for Levelling Up, to challenge use of the standard formula in East Devon. The reply from Mr Gove was not helpful, and so the need remains to produce a local plan that meets the identified housing need in full.

Timetable

Because of the extra work needed, the draft Local Plan will now not be ready until the autumn, at which stage there will be a public consultation.

The timetable is now as follows:

- Draft plan – consultation starting Autumn 2022
- Publication – consultation starts Autumn 2023
- Submission – early 2024
- Inspector’s Hearings – 2024
- Adoption – early 2025

The working draft of the Local Plan has been discussed extensively in meetings of the East Devon District Council (EDDC) Strategic Planning Committee. District Councillor Jess Bailey sits on this committee and has been working hard to make improvements, and to hopefully rule out some of the more worrying options for extra housing around West Hill. For more details see Cllr Bailey’s reports to WHPC which are published on our website along with the Agendas for Council Meetings.

Important points from discussion of the working draft of the Local Plan

- The hierarchy of settlements has been agreed, so that most development should go to the higher tiers – Exmouth and the major towns of East Devon. There should be no more than about 10% growth in Tier 4 villages such as West Hill unless exceptional circumstances or infrastructure comes alongside supported by evidence such as the Neighbourhood Plan or with infrastructure attachments to it. This should mean no more than about 80 new houses for West Hill.
- There will be a feasibility study on the proposed 2nd new town – between the A3052 and the A30, between West Hill and Exeter. There are strong reasons to support another new town to help meet the housing need, but there remain serious concerns over the provision of the necessary infrastructure, which should be explored in the feasibility study. If a new town is not possible, there will be much greater pressure on existing settlements to provide the additional housing.
- There were options in the working draft for significant extra housing around villages, including a possible 470 houses around West Hill. This option was **not** supported by the Strategic Planning Committee.
- The "green wedge" policy is to be reviewed, with additional areas (including between Ottery St Mary and West Hill) to be assessed for inclusion. This would restrict further housing in the green wedge and prevent coalescence of the settlements, and would reinforce the policy we have in our Neighbourhood Plan.
- There is currently a further "call for sites" to identify possible land for development. This should be targeted on the major towns, where development is more sustainable, and on identifying brownfield sites or redevelopment sites. Town and parish councils should be involved in this exercise, though to date this has not happened.
- The East Devon Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) panel has produced an interim report. This assesses sites identified from the 2017 and 2021 Call for sites submissions, identifying a significant amount of land as being available, suitable, and achievable in the district. A more detailed assessment of individual sites should be ready by the summer.

Strategic Policy – Settlement Hierarchy

This proposed strategic policy will set out the following settlement *hierarchy*, where the principle of development is accepted due to having access to a range of jobs, community facilities and services:

Tier One – Principal Centre: Exmouth

Tier Two – Main Centre: Axminster, Cranbrook, Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Seaton, Sidmouth

Tier Three – Local Centre: Broadclyst, Budleigh Salterton, Colyton, Lymington, Woodbury

Tier Four – Service Village: Beer, Branscombe,, **West Hill**, Whimple.

What will the West Hill Parish Council do?

The Parish Council is committed to keeping West Hill residents informed as the review progresses. We will:

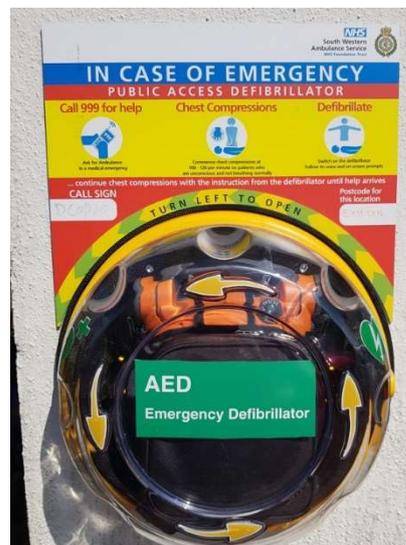
- Form a small working group to liaise with District Cllr Jess Bailey (who sits on the Strategic Planning Committee) to provide feedback and input into discussions of the Working Draft Local Plan
- Arrange public events to publicise the Draft Plan and facilitate consultation with our residents
- Make a formal consultation response to the Draft Local Plan
- Arrange further consultation events for the Publication Version of the Local Plan
- Keep the website www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk updated with latest details

Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPADs)

The Parish Council are pleased to announce the installation of two new defibrillators in West Hill.

We are grateful to West Hill's RBL for ensuring one is on their premises, and the other is installed at 11 Eastfield. Further, we thank JR Electricals for fitting the defibrillators.

The CPADs are fitted in conjunction with the South West Ambulance Service.



Defibrillator at 11 Eastfield

In the event of an emergency

If someone calls 999 for an ambulance and the call handler thinks that a CPAD could help **and** you live within 200 metres of the **RBL Clubhouse, School Lane** or **11 Eastfield** the caller handler will advise you to arrange for someone to collect the CPAD.

If you live outside the 200m area and think a CPAD could help in an emergency please arrange for someone to collect the CPAD. They are for public use. Please remember to return the device and advise the RBL or the Council that the device has been used.

- **Therefore, it's important everyone knows where defibrillators are available.**

There is also a CPAD at the Village Hall. The Parish Council is not responsible for this device.

A defibrillator is a device used to give an electric shock to help restart a patient's heart when they are in cardiac arrest. When someone suffers a cardiac arrest the heart stops and blood is no longer being pumped around their body. The longer they go without emergency life-support, the harder it is to restart their heart. Whilst 100% recovery cannot be guaranteed, it gives a patient the best chance.

Defibrillators are Easy to Use

On behalf of the Parish Council, South Western Ambulance Service ran a familiarisation course on 11th May. It was well attended and found to be useful.

If you couldn't attend the session please be assured that defibrillators are easy to use, instructions are available on the device. Also, in the event of an emergency, the 999 call handler will advise you what to do.

Other sites? Can you help? There's an opportunity for the Council to acquire a third CPAD for the village. We are still seeking a suitable location in the Higher Broadoak, Lower Broadoak or Hawkins Lane area. A gateway with electrical supply in a visible location would be preferable. If you think you can help, please contact the Parish Clerk. (contact details at the foot of the page)

Community First Responder (CFR) Team

The South West Ambulance Service is establishing and equipping a local team of Community First Responders. The three members are currently undergoing their training. CFRs attend particular types of medical emergencies where it is essential for the patient to receive immediate life-saving treatment or help. They are volunteers and are despatched by the ambulance service to give more immediate aid before an ambulance can arrive. Once it is operational, we will make sure you are made aware.

Playpark News

Thank you to the many playpark users who pick up litter and pop it into the bins provided.

We know that you and the Parish Council want the playpark to be a safe and inviting place for young children to play.

Sadly, others don't have a similar respect for a shared public space. This photo shows what Councillors recently found on their weekly playpark inspection.

Come on you Haribo chewing, Kitkat munching, crisp crunching, biscuit chomping, fizzy drink guzzling, Budweisser drinking folks you know where the bins are!



Don't drop it - Bin it !



Responsible dog ownership

Owning a dog involves responsibilities as well as pleasures. The following basic tips can help prevent your dog from causing a nuisance:



- Train your dog in elementary obedience, so that it is under control at all times
- Make sure your dog is identified, at least with a collar and tag, and has been microchipped
- It is now a legal requirement in East Devon to always keep your dog on a lead on roads and on pavements next to roads. You should also keep your dog on a lead where there are other animals, for example when walking on a footpath through a livestock field
- Make sure that your garden is properly fenced so that your dog can't escape. Never let your dog out on its own, but take it for properly controlled exercise.
- Always carry a bag you can use to pick up after your dog. Take the waste home to your black rubbish bin or sack or use a litter or dog waste bin. Even better, train your dog to 'go at home'.
- Don't let your dog bark constantly - a well-trained dog is not one that barks at everyone and everything. Dogs that are kept outside for long periods often bark more. Find out when and why your dog barks and take steps to prevent it. We can give advice in the worst cases
- Don't leave your dog alone for long periods; dogs are pack animals and need companionship. Remember - you have a duty of care under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
- your dog alone in a hot car, they can become dehydrated and even die in a very short time
- Sign up to Devon Loves Dogs www.devonlovesdogs.co.uk/joinus It's a free membership scheme for dog owners and dog walkers. You will get helpful tips on where to walk your dog and how to care for our beautiful coast and countryside. Join one of our free, regular waggys around the area. You can get a free goodie bag too!

Remember, dogs live for about 14 years, so think hard before you take on such a responsibility. If you can no longer keep your dog, contact a re-homing charity or environmental health on 01395 517456 for help. Do not put your dog out onto the street where it could be injured or cause an accident.

Further information is available from [East Devon District Council website, www.eastdevon.gov.uk](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk). Alternatively advice can be obtained from the council by contacting the Environmental Health team using the Report It facility on the EDDC website, by calling on 01395 517456 or by emailing environmentalhealth@eastdevon.gov.uk

Stop Press

McColl's

As this newsletter goes to print concerning news about McColl's is making headlines.

McColl's shop and Post Office is an important village facility used by many residents.

The Parish Council will monitor these events closely. Morrison's appear to have made a bid for McColl's however the situation seems uncertain. The Parish Council has sent a letter to Morrison's and the Administrators which stresses the importance of the West Hill shop and Post Office.

Steps to University Seminar

1st September 2022

Are you off to University this Autumn?

Especially for you, there will be an informal day of workshops to be held in the West Hill Village Hall.

The workshops will include self defence with a top instructor, safety, finance and budgeting, cooking on a budget and independent living: all geared to set you up for a positive start to your next academic step.

There will be a Q&A session with students already at university.

Please register to attend by emailing fi_taylor@icloud.com. Places are limited, so please make contact soonest.

The seminar is **FREE** - It is sponsored by the West Hill Village Hall Trustees and West Hill Parish Council.



Handy Phone Numbers for East Devon

Do you need short term financial aid for heating or food? Household bills?

East Devon District Council (EDDC) Financial Resilience Team 01404 515616

Do you need any other information and advice?

Citizens Advice East Devon 01395 265070

Are you or a loved one struggling with your mental Health?

Talkworks Mental Health 0300 5553344

Do you need information or support services for older adults?

Care Direct 0345 1551007

Be confident and safe at home

Home-Safeguard 03306782381 from EDDC

Helping people to remain independent and safe in their own home through telecare alarm service

Parking Permits for East Devon Residents

Various options are available from East Devon District Council. Switchboard 01404 515616 or www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Do you need help with transport? to a medical appointment? for shopping?

Ottery Help Scheme 01404 813041

TRIP Community Transport 01404 46529



West Hill PTFA
Village Fete
Saturday 9th July
12.00-4.30pm at School, Beech Park
Everyone's welcome!