

WEST HILL Help Scheme - Update 24th July

Once we're again adapting to a "new normal" following the partial lifting of "Lockdown" restrictions. The Council understands that many residents remain cautious about entering public spaces. However others want to venture out from self-isolation and as a result calls to the WHPC Help Scheme have decreased significantly over recent weeks.

What next for the West Hill Help Scheme?

The Parish Council has agreed

- to **"PAUSE"** rather than close the WHPC Help Scheme **from the end of July**
- to "stand down" the West Hill volunteers but ask them to remain on our register of volunteers just in case of future lockdowns
- the Help Scheme phone number **01404 232 100** will continue to be available – it's the Parish Council telephone number. You can leave a message at any time.
- to continue to monitor Government advice
- to continue to signpost help available to residents of West Hill
- to stop monthly Help Scheme newsletters but revert to quarterly Council newsletters
- **to thank our wonderful volunteers publicly** (*Government Advice permitting!*)

Some useful info

- Prescriptions: Well Pharmacy in Ottery are now offering a prescription delivery service (a delivery fee is charged). Postal deliveries are also available.
- Do you know that the **Ottery Help Scheme** supports people in West Hill?

The Ottery Help Scheme is a registered charity providing a variety of support services to all those who live in Ottery St Mary, West Hill and the surrounding areas. Their friendly volunteers are already appreciated by many people in West Hill. They are currently able to run services including



- Community transport (for medical appointments)
- Shopping and prescription delivery service (for those who are shielding)
- Minibus hire
- Befriending
- Bereavement support (socially distanced)
- Carer support (socially distanced or via the telephone)
- Wheelchair hire
- Help with form-filling
- And lots more

For more information call Ottery Help Scheme on 01404 813041, or Website www.otteryhelpscheme.org.uk Email info@otteryhelpscheme.org.uk

WHPC Help Scheme
since 16th March

80+ Wonderful Volunteers
525+ requests for help
425+ Prescriptions delivered
5 Monthly newsletters

Are you a West Hill Volunteer?

Would you be interested in becoming an Ottery Help Scheme volunteer? Perhaps a couple of hours a week?

They need your support!

Contact

Anne Oliver, Parish Clerk

Tel 01404 232 100

email clerk@westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

West Hill Parish Council

WHPC recently said a sad farewell to Cllr Quentin Tailford who has re-located to far flung parts of Devon! Cllrs were very pleased to receive applications for the vacancy from three very capable residents. Following a vote at the recent Council meeting Cllrs were very pleased to welcome Cllr Della Cannings to the Council team.

Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP):

A significant document **is set to be publicly consulted on from 21 September to 16 November**. The document sets out draft policies and site options for the GESP, and proposes significant development in the Exeter area and surrounding areas up to 2040.

The document sets out draft policies on various themes (e.g. climate change, prosperity, housing, nature, transport, infrastructure) and a series of strategic development site **options** for housing, employment and mixed uses. The document, which has been prepared for approval by local councils has a link here <https://www.gesp.org.uk/consultation-phases/stage-two-policy-and-options/>.

The main site options for East Devon include vast tracts of housing at Westclyst/Mosshayne, Greendale/Hill Barton/Oil Mill Lane, Feniton, Whimble, Axminster and Honiton Not all the site options will be required and therefore some will drop away as the GESP moves towards further consultation in future. Further smaller sites for housing will also be needed, which will be delivered through a review of the East Devon Local Plan. More information is available here. (<https://www.gesp.org.uk/>). **WHPC will review the proposals and monitor their impact on West Hill.**

An update from the WHPC Open Spaces Committee

- The bird nesting season is almost at an end and at the end of this month it is time for residents who have hedges bounding roads, lanes or footpaths to trim these to provide safe walking and good visibility for cars, bicycles and pedestrians.
- WHPC has cleared some Himalayan Balsam from the roadside in West Hill Road and at the junction of Ford Lane and Lower Broad Oak Road. You will be aware that this plant is a notifiable species and if you have any in your garden then you should pull it up and crush it before it sets seed. If we all act now we can avoid this becoming a serious nuisance. Garden waste should not be dumped on verges, near water courses or in woodlands. Please compost or use the excellent EDDC green waste service.
- Recently Cllrs met with DCC Highways to discuss drainage and maintenance problems in West Hill. DCC are currently preparing their future programme of work and wished to discuss priorities for West Hill. Drainage concerns are high priority for Cllrs. WHPC is not allowed to spend money on things which are the responsibility of another authority but WHPC is investigating how they maybe able to supplement DCC's efforts legally.
- Sadly there has been some instances of anti-social parking of cars on the highway causing loss of visibility and a potential hazard to others. You are respectfully reminded to always park safely away from junctions.
- After months of planning WHPC has recently installed picnic benches in the Playpark and Broadoak Plantation for the benefit of residents – just in time for the recent Government Covid Notice advising against using such benches for the consumption of food and drink. Temporary notices are being placed at the sites to remind residents of the regulations.
- The WHPC Lengthsman has been doing great work and will be cutting verges again in the autumn to ensure good visibility at junctions. We are also pleased to see the verge on B3180 opposite the West Hill Road junction has finally been cut by Highways having been notified by WHPC and residents several weeks ago!
- WHPC has provided dog waste bins in key locations which are well used but regrettably there is evidence of people leaving black bags of dog poo attached to trees / bushes along footpaths. This is very anti-social, so if no bin is available or it is full please take your bags home and dispose in an appropriate way.

Contact

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