

Newsletter December 2019

Welcome to our newsletter. We hope you find something to interest you.

Have you ever been stopped by a driver trying to find a particular house in West Hill? Even residents can struggle to locate a house!



The Parish Council is delighted to have updated the **West Hill Village Map & House Index** to include the new roads and houses built since 2011. The map has been produced at no cost to residents thanks to the support of local businesses. Their advert fees have funded the printing of the map and this newsletter. A free copy will be delivered to each house in the village and further copies will be available for sale (details to follow). They're very popular with courier drivers! A special thankyou must go to village residents, Jim Cocks, and the late Peter Lonsdale, for their diligent work in tracking the map updates over the past 8 years. Plus thanks to Councillor Alan Cook for preparing the original map in 2001.

We'd like to take this opportunity to quickly look back at 2019 and outline our plans for 2020.

2019

- Following the local election, a **new council** was formed in May. All seven Councillors are residents of the village: Margaret Hall (Chair), Quentin Tailford (Vice-Chair), Jessica Bailey, Alison Carr, Alan Cook, Margaret Piper and Amanda Townsend. Their contact details can be found on the Parish Council website and on our noticeboard at McColls. Alternatively please call the Parish Clerk on 01404 232 100 for more information.
- The village now has an **Air Ambulance Landing Site** on the school playing field. Thanks to a magnificent fundraising effort by Probus and the support of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust and WH Primary School we were able to submit a successful planning application.
- The Parish Council considers every **planning application** in West Hill including applications for tree works. We are a statutory consultee and our comments are taken into account by EDDC when deciding applications.
- **Finances** for 2019-2020 are in good shape. We manage Council funds carefully and have successfully sought grant funding for various initiatives including the **Village Lengthsman** and new goalposts for the **WASPs** football team
- Work on the **Traffic Study Project** has continued during 2019. Many thanks to all residents who attended the consultation to view the various proposals. Your comments and all written feedback have determined the Council's priorities. The top priority, a new pedestrian access to the Village Hall from West Hill Road, has been agreed in principle with the Village Hall Trustees. There will be more news on this project and other initiatives in 2020.
- The **Bus shelter** on Bendarroch Road has been thoroughly cleaned and repainted, and a new canopy installed. The **Play Park** playhouse has a new ramp, ropes replaced, and all equipment has a coat of preservative. An open glade area has been created in the **Woodland Trust Land** Broadoak Plantation.
- Did you know that the Parish Council has set aside **Grant Funding** for West Hill groups and organisations? So far this year we have supported projects including the Village Fete, St Michaels Craft and Flower Festival and TRIP community transport. There's some money left in the pot so if your group has a project that will benefit the village community why not check out our website for more details.



And for 2020.....

Working with the community to maintain and enhance West Hill's special character

Looking ahead for 2020.....

- **Traffic Project** – Over the coming months we'll be working with traffic consultants to design a new pedestrian access to the Village Hall from West Hill Road. The details will go to a public consultation before we submit a planning application. As a consequence of the long delivery times and costs of implementing highway changes such as Village Gateways we'll also be looking at "quick wins" to tackle traffic speeds in 2020. We're currently exploring Vehicle Activated Signs and their possible locations across the village.
- **Greater Exeter Strategic Plan GESP**– We'll be keeping a close watch on GESP during 2020. This is the strategic plan for housing and employment land to be provided up to 2040. Clearly we want to understand how this may affect West Hill. The draft plan is due to be published for consultation in 2020.
- **Broadband** – as we announced several weeks ago Ultrafast broadband is heading for West Hill. We'll be working with Jurassic Fibre and doing our best to bring it to the village in 2020. If you want to be added to our Broadband mailing list contact Quentin.Tailford@westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk.
- **Himalayan Balsam** – We're hoping for lots of village volunteers to join us in June/July to remove the Himalayan Balsam along West Hill Road and to help us celebrate the hard work. Look out for more details.
- **Time for a Picnic?** We now have permission from the Woodland Trust to install picnic benches in Broadoak Plantation. This is the woodland between Higher Broad Oak Road and Lower Broad Oak Road.
- **Finance** – The Government has recently announced that Parish Council budgets won't be capped in the coming financial year. However we're planning for our budget to be unchanged. This means that the Parish Council element of your Council Tax bill we be unchanged or possibly slightly reduced due to the additional houses built in recent years.
- **Weekly Youth Space** – village facilities for teenagers are sadly lacking. We've been working with the Royal British Legion to create a weekly "Youth Space". We're keen to hear whether your teenagers would be interested? Would you be willing to join a supervisor rota?
- **McColl's** – Plans for the redevelopment, including a café and 8 flats, have been approved in principle but are awaiting completion of the S106 agreement. We'll continue to liaise with the developer to try and minimise disruption.
- And **Climate Change** – We are working with **Greener Ottery** to support their efforts to minimise our carbon footprint. Our own plans will focus on **trees**. Environmental groups advise that looking after trees and planting new trees are among the most important actions we can take. *For information this newsletter has been printed on sustainably sourced FSC certified paper.*
- We'd welcome your **feedback** if you think something is missing from this plan.

Do you want to keep in touch with the Parish Council?



The **Parish Council meetings** are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. There is also a meeting on the third Tuesday if there are planning applications or other urgent matters to discuss. Residents are welcome to attend all or part of the meeting. Thankyou to those residents who have come along to a meeting during the past year. At each meeting we set out chairs for residents and we'd love it if you could join us!

Our **website** www.westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk includes the agenda and minutes of each Council meeting, **Councillor contact details**, key Council documents plus news/events.

The Council has an email **mailing list** to alert residents about meetings or matters of interest. New for 2020 we'll be publishing an e-newsletter. If you would like your email address to be included, please email the Clerk.

Contact Us

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