



Westbere Parish Council NEWSLETTER January 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of your Westbere Parish Council newsletter. Any comments, suggestions or contributions for consideration in future editions would be most welcome!

*Westbere Parish Council wishes
all of its residents a very happy
and healthy New Year*

Westbere Village Hall Committee

Although, with regret, the Village Hall Committee decided to postpone the 2021 Christmas Lunch due to Covid they have made a preliminary entry in the diary for Saturday December 3rd 2022. Please mark your diaries to support the village.

The Village Hall is a valuable asset to the village as it provides a communal place for events, classes and the Pre-School. Currently there are four residents on the Committee and they could really do with new ideas and new input. They meet 4 times a year. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the hall committee Chairman, Kathy Wilson, kathrynwilson365@gmail.com.

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer position

The Clerk, Amanda Sparkes, resigned from Westbere Parish Council on 01 October 2021 and at that time she helpfully offered to extend her notice period to 31 December 2021.

Unfortunately, to date, the parish council has been unsuccessful in finding a suitable replacement as no applicants have so far applied for the position. Because of this, Amanda has agreed to continue in post for the time being.

Drains, gullies and street cleansing

At its November 2021 meeting the parish council recorded its thanks to resident Alison Grubb for her efforts and for her report and map following her drains inspection throughout the village. Cllrs also wanted their thanks to also be noted in this next newsletter. (Mrs Grubb was present at the meeting and at that time the Clerk asked for and

received her express permission under GDPR to name her in this publication).

Several of the blocked drains have been subsequently cleared by KCC. The parish council also lobbied for street sweeping and a sweep was undertaken by CCC. The parish council continues to make efforts to improve or supplement this as there is a lot of road debris still to clear.

Have you ever considered standing as a parish councillor?

Passionate about your community?

Full of ideas for your neighbourhood?

Could you represent local people?

What can you bring to local government?

Ever wondered what a Parish Councillor has to do and if this is for you?

- Attend Parish Council meetings – usually once a month
- Take any issues raised by residents to the parish council on the residents' behalf
- Carry out duties to uphold the local by-laws, to protect the local environment and infrastructure, footpaths and highways, lobby for improvements to services, implement new projects for the benefit of the parish, fund raising for new projects, etc
- Comment if applicable, on all planning applications within the parish

Eligibility: You must be aged 18 years or over, be a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of another member state of the European Community, and

- (1) Be on the electoral roll in the parish; Or
- (2) During the preceding twelve months occupied land or other premises as owner or tenant in the parish; Or
- (3) During the same period, resided in that area or within three miles (4.8km) thereof; Or
- (4) During the same period, had your principal or only place of work in that area.

Parish Councillors are elected for a term of four years. They retire together on the fourth day after the date of elections every four years. A person, if duly qualified, may be elected as a parish councillor for more than one parish or community.

A parish councillor has no personal financial liability in respect of anything done in good faith for the purpose of any of the council's statutory functions.

A parish councillor may resign at any point within their four-year term.

If you wish to become involved, or require more information, contact the Clerk by email

clerk@westbereparishcouncil.gov.uk

How to report a problem through the KCC Fault Reporting Portal

The parish council would like to encourage all residents to report problems such as faulty streetlights, blocked drains, and potholes in the vicinity of their own homes. This can be done through the KCC Fault Reporting Portal:

Go to <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

You can report non-urgent issues online including:

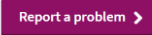
- street light faults
- potholes
- drainage
- traffic signal faults
- overgrown vegetation (including hedges and grass).

How to report a problem



How to report a problem on a road or pavement - video transcript

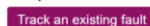
There is a short training video available to watch at the link if you have never reported anything before.

Click on the  button, and the following screen comes up – Select fault type by clicking on the drop down list box, and then click the “Next” button:

Report or Track a Fault

This page will time out after 20 minutes of inactivity

Report a fault



Emergencies

Do not use this form if the problem may cause an accident. Call us immediately on 03000 418181 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or on 03000 419191 at all other times

Tell us about the problem

You will need to tell us exactly where the fault is on a map or using an address. If you can't do this now, please come back when you can

★ This symbol means that you must enter this information

★ What are you reporting?

-- Please select fault type --



You then have three options to identify the location of the fault – Either by navigating through a map – or inputting an address – or by calling 03000 418181

Then work through the screens giving details of the problem, input your details on a final screen and on pressing Submit you will receive a Fault Reference Number. (You may wish to make a note of this, as it can be tracked for progress at a later date on the first page again at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>)

Overgrown Hedges and Overhanging Branches near Highways

Please may we remind residents to cut back overgrown vegetation when and where required. May we also remind householders of their responsibilities for keeping roadside verges tidy. Please ensure that any trees and hedges that are bordering the Highway are maintained and cut back to your boundary to benefit all Highway users. This will prevent the need for KCC Highways & Transportation writing to you requesting that you cut back your vegetation. Your requirements are:

If the boundary of your property borders the footway, then please be aware that:

- The full width of the footway/pavement must be available for use by pedestrians.
- As well, there must be a minimum height clearance over the footway/pavement of 2.1 metres / 7 feet for any vegetation.

If the boundary of your property borders the carriageway, then please be aware that:

- For vegetation over-hanging the road, there must be a minimum height clearance of 5 metres / 16 feet, to accommodate any buses and HGV's using the road.
- If your property is rural, then vegetation should be 0.45 metres / 1'6" feet behind the edge of the road and all signs need to be kept clear of foliage for at least 20 metres.

If Westbere Parish Council needs to ask KCC to arrange clearance of residents' overgrown hedges, overhanging branches or private verge clearance which are causing inconvenience to pedestrians and other road users the householder will be invoiced for any expenses incurred.

Problems on public rights of way/footpaths

Further to a resident's request that there be a named councillor for the public footpaths in the parish, Cllr Kathy Wilson kindly volunteered to be the person that may be emailed about issues such as overgrown vegetation/blockages etc. Contact Cllr Wilson by email

kathrynwilson365@gmail.com and she will onwardly report problems on public rights of way to KCC to deal, although we would encourage residents to report directly themselves - Go to [Public Rights of Way - Public Rights of Way Map \(kent.gov.uk\)](https://www.kent.gov.uk/public-rights-of-way) Vegetation clearance is the responsibility of the landowners (Bretts, Network Rail etc) although achieving resolution can be time consuming. It is worth pointing out that Westbere Parish Council does supplement this by having its grounds maintenance contractor undertake two cuts per year for the footpath from Westbere Lane to Fairview Gardens, when it then falls into Sturry parish.

Age UK Canterbury Services

Age UK Canterbury, an independent local charity, has been working in the local community to help older people for over half a century.

They provide many services to aid the wellbeing of residents:

1. Foot health clinic (mobile or at the centre)
2. Meals to your home, cooked on the day delivered on the day (Monday to Friday)
3. Collins Unit (specialist dementia days Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)
4. Day Centre (Monday, Thursday)
5. COGS Club Monday (specialist early on set dementia |)
6. Dementia outreach service
7. Community navigator service
8. Befriending Service
9. Information and advice

For more information or assistance contact Matthew Wood, Lead Senior Care Worker
on 01227 462368 or by email to matthew@ageukcanterbury.org.uk

The 100 Club – results

Winners for November:-

Number Name Amount

39 G Knell £10

71 A & J Grubb £10

100 T & J Vigor £10

Winners for December:-

58 J Bradley £10

73 V & N Smith £10

106 L & P Bennett £10

Winners for January

5 S Sharratt £10

97 S Elliott £10

118 K & M Fowler £10

Convert your green bin to a red bin - for free!

Canterbury City Council is offering residents the opportunity to convert their unwanted green lidded garden bin into a red bin for paper and card, free of charge. All you need to do is go to their website at canterbury.gov.uk/convertbin and request your conversion kit. Stickers and more information will be sent to you in the post. Please allow around two weeks for that.

As soon as you have attached the stickers as per the instructions, you're good to go. Your red bin will be emptied fortnightly on your usual recycling day.

It is very important that you completely empty your bin of any remaining garden waste before you start using it for paper and card, otherwise it will not be emptied. If you do not have access to the internet to request your kit, please ask a friend or relative to order it for you. They can request that the kit is sent directly to your home.

If you have extra cardboard or paper that will not fit in your red bin, please flatten it, tie it up and leave it alongside your bin on collection day. To encourage as much recycling as possible, residents are allowed as many recycling bins as they need. To find out about ordering more visit canterbury.gov.uk/recycling . By allowing people to convert their green bin in this way, there will be more space for paper and card than is currently available in the inserts. The aim is to reduce the amount of paper and card that falls into the blue bin and contaminates the glass, plastic and cans. We must separate these materials from paper and card as they are recycled separately. If too many things are put in the wrong recycling bin, such as paper with plastic, then the load becomes contaminated and none of it can be recycled.

You can check your bin collection dates and what you can and cannot recycle online at canterbury.gov.uk/recycling.

PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS

Westbere Parish Council keeps a watching brief on planning applications that affect the village or parish.

View and comment on applications online at <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planningsearch>
You have the option to search by postcode, ward, parish or Application Number.
CCC's planning call centre should be able to assist with any difficulties – call 01227 862178 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

The Sturry and Broad Oak major housing developments and the Sturry link road: A28 Link Road - KCC/CA/0091/2019 - Construction of part of a new road (A28 Link Road) including viaduct between A28 Sturry Road and A291 Sturry Hill and associated on-line improvements. View documents at: <https://www.kentplanningapplications.co.uk/Planning/Display/KCC/CA/0091/2019>

KCC has granted the Sturry Link Road application. Work is scheduled to begin on this £30 million 0.9 mile bypass in autumn 2023 and end in the summer of 2025.

Neighbouring application to be aware of – CA/21/02797 - Land to The South Of Island Road (A28) Former Chislet Colliery Hersden
Reserved matters application for phase 1 comprising access into the site together with associated infrastructure and landscaping pursuant to outline planning permission CA/16/00673/OUT.

This comprises a mixed-use development of up to 370 dwellings, local centre, open space, community ecological park, hard and soft landscaping and associated infrastructure with access from a new roundabout on Island Road.

Neighbouring application to be aware of –
**CA/21/02301 – Land to the North of Hersden
(Applicant Persimmon Homes)**

Request for EIAB scoping opinion on mixed-use development, comprising up to 800 dwellings, 1 hectare of business space, community building, healthcare provision, primary school, engineering and demolition, vehicular access, contributions to primary, secondary school education and to Sturry Relief Road and/or to the transportation improvements on the A28 corridor, Green and Blue Infrastructure, landscaping and wastewater treatment.

This is a strategic site in the Canterbury District Local Plan.

The weekly list dated 15 November 2021 records CCC's decision as NO OBJECTION TO

**Two fields, Staines Hill, A28, update:
Village Green status application to KCC for
the Two Fields site**

The Sturry and Westbere Two Fields Action Group submitted an application for the Two Fields to be designated a Village Green to KCC at County Hall on 08 November 2019. The application was heard at a virtual meeting of the KCC Regulation Committee Member Panel on 24 February 2021. The next stage was a Public Inquiry about whether a trigger event has occurred which would render the application for registration as a village green invalid. The Inspector concluded 'there is no trigger event' however reached that decision based on reasons of his own – after rejecting most of the arguments put forward by all the parties involved. The two parties, he said, relied on interpretations of specific policies, which, in his opinion, amounted to wrong starting points. Interpretations of, say, the Local Plan's policy OS6, which sets out the basis on which development may take place in Green Gaps, are insufficient, when it comes to trigger considerations: there are other policies that should be considered at the same time. In his Conclusion, he made the point that although a number of the Local Plan's policies considered in isolation may well suggest that a trigger event has occurred, the Local Plan, as a whole, is actually restrictive of development in rural areas – and hamlets such as Westbere. And that should not be ignored. The Inspector recognised the importance of his decision and acknowledged that there is now 'a clear risk of challenge to any decision KCC makes on the trigger question'. Therefore, he recommended a last opportunity for everyone to comment on his report, before KCC made its decision to accept or reject his views. KCC gave until 14 July 2021 for further (and final) submissions prior to the County Council

considering this matter further. Naturally, the Two Fields Action Group's legal team from the Kent Law Clinic wrote to say they entirely agreed with the Inspector's conclusion.

The matter was then referred back to the County Council's Regulation Committee Member Panel for decision on 02 December 2021 at County Hall.

The Member Panel Meeting met only to consider the question of the 'trigger event' — in order to determine whether or not the Application may go forward to the next stage (i.e. proceed to Public Inquiry.) They decided that no trigger event had occurred.

Bellway Homes had already indicated that they do not accept the Inspector's 9 June 2021 recommendation, so a Judicial Review is all but certain.

Winckworth Sherwood solicitors acting on behalf of Bellway Homes then sent a detailed pre-action protocol letter sent to Kent County Council on 22 December 2021 challenging the KCC Member Panel decision. (Westbere Parish Council was sent a copy of this letter and any resident wishing to see the detail may contact the Clerk.)

The County Council has not yet made a final decision in respect of the application to register the land as a town or village green. Accordingly, Bellway's solicitors state it is able to reconsider its decision that a trigger event has not taken place. They argue KCC should reconsider it and in the light of a fresh determination that a trigger event has taken place it should take no further action in respect of the application; and, in particular, should not refer it to a public inquiry.

[We will keep you updated.](#)

For the applications lodged with KCC to have more paths registered as Public Footpaths across the land (application made July 2019), there is no update at this time.

[We will keep you updated.](#)



[Lifeline.canterbury.gov.uk](https://www.canterbury.gov.uk)

01227 862 540

A lifeline alarm, which can be fashionably worn on your wrist or as a pendant, is a service provided in East Kent by Canterbury City Council's CCTV control room, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. Having a lifeline alarm would help you or a family member feel safe and independent in the home. To book a free demonstration or to make an enquiry please call 01227 862540 or visit <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/lifeline/>

Your Parish Councillors

Paul Glover (Chairman)
Sylvia Harlow
Kathryn Wilson
Ken Dekker

Three vacancies – if you are interested in filling one of these please contact the Clerk.

**For enquiries or reports, please contact the Clerk in the first instance –
Amanda Sparkes:
01304 365 972**

clerk@westbereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Canterbury City Councillors – Westbere has two ward councillors:

Georgina Glover: 01227 711429
georgina.glover@canterbury.gov.uk
and

Louise Harvey Quirk: 07704 948305

louise.harvey-quirke@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk

Our Kent County Councillor

Alan Marsh: 01227 265112
alan.marsh@kent.gov.uk

Visit WPC website for more local information at:

<https://westbereparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

The KCC Community Warden for Sturry and Hersden is Susan Beeney. Call: [07811 271257](tel:07811271257)
Email: susan.beeney@kent.gov.uk

Electricity operators' number 105: 105 is a national phone number to call to report or obtain information about a power cut. Dialling 105 is free of charge, and will connect you to the local electricity network operator – the company that manages the cables, power lines and substations that deliver electricity into homes and businesses in your area. Call 105 if you spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put anyone in danger. If there's serious immediate risk, call 999 too. Vulnerable customers can sign up to the Priority Services Register on 0800 169 9970, email psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk or apply at www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority (For a gas emergency – dial 0800 111999)

For enquiries regarding the **Westbere Village Preservation Society** please contact the Westbere Village Preservation Society secretary, Alison Grubb, email: wvpreservationsociety@gmail.com.

Westbere Charities

The Charities are keen to ensure that anyone in need within the Ancient Parish of Westbere, roughly the present parish plus areas of Island Road and Fordwich Road, (ask the Westbere Charities Clerk for details) receives assistance in accordance with the terms of the Charities. The Charities are aimed particularly at residents over the age of 55 and students undertaking tertiary education. If you know of anyone who might benefit, please contact the Charities' Clerk for information and application forms: Malindi Tucker – 01227 710209. All communications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

WESTBERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND MEETING DATES

Parish Council meetings take place in Westbere Village Hall at 7pm on the third Monday of each month except no meeting in August and December – 15 November 2021, 17 January, 21 February, 21 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November 2022

If you would like to receive an email or a Large Print Version of this newsletter please contact the Clerk, Amanda Sparkes on 01304 365972 or email clerk@westbereparishcouncil.gov.uk

This Newsletter is produced, issued and distributed by **WESTBERE PARISH COUNCIL**



Please recycle this when you have read it

Sturry, Fordwich and district / Aire-Sur-La-Lys Twinning Association



**Join our mailing list to be kept up to date with events
Follow us on Facebook: Sturry, Fordwich and District Twinning Association @Sturry Twinning
Email: info@sturry-fordwichtwinning.co.uk
Website: <http://sturry-fordwichtwinning.co.uk>
Phone: 07563 962 505**

Report incidents to Kent Police

Parish Cllr Kathy Wilson reminds residents to please keep comments and observations coming in to her, but as she cannot report what any resident sees to the police, to log a report with Kent Police themselves too: Report online to Kent Police at <https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>
Email: kathrynwilson365@gmail.com

If you are new to the village and would like to receive neighbourhood watch alerts from Kathy please email her with your email address and she will add you to her list. This will give you information on police reports, trading standards alerts and scams, and local road closures, etc.