



Westbere Parish Council NEWSLETTER September 2024

WESTBERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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. Meetings are scheduled for 21 October, 18 November 2024.

www.westbereparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Defibrillator for community use at the Village Hall

We are very pleased to advise that, assisted by a grant from the DHSC for a defibrillator at the village hall, this was installed on 25 May 2024 on the outside of the hall. The parish council paid for installation and pays for insurance and ongoing consumables (battery and pads when needed), and the hall committee pays for electricity for the heated cabinet housing the defibrillator.

The defibrillator is available for anyone to use 24/7, and we obviously hope it won't be needed. It's in a locked cabinet - in an emergency call 999 giving its location for the code to unlock the door.

Previous experience or first aid qualification/training is not necessary to use the defibrillator –

<https://vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5> has a recorded demonstration/training session and FAQs.

Our Application to record three public footpaths across "The Two Fields"

The parish council applied in July 2019 to try and add 3 new paths across the Two Fields registered on the definitive map. This has now been allocated to a KCC officer. The Clerk and Chairman met this officer on 12 July 2024. The reason the application has taken longer than normal is that the village green application would have meant this application was null and void so the village green application was heard and determined first. Whilst that was refused, the Inspector's report will help the footpaths application. We expect there to be a Public Inquiry and a timescale of 12-18 months.

Revised Canterbury District Local Plan timetable

On 30 July 2024 the new Government's Deputy Prime Minister announced that housebuilding would be at the heart of the new government's plans and launched a consultation on a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). That consultation ends on 24 September and it will take some time for the government to digest the representations, and making its final decision on what changes it wants to make.

We think the new NPPF and new Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) will be published in December. In May next year, CCC will also discover its latest local housing need (LHN) figures which tell CCC what type and mix of housing it needs.

All of this means, the 25 June 2025 deadline set by the previous government no longer applies and CCC more time to adapt its plan and has more time to prepare additional technical evidence ahead of the Regulation 19 stage. The council wants to take advantage of the extra time to:

- digest the feedback it received from the consultation and what it should do about it
- think carefully, in light of that feedback and numerous other technical considerations, about where in the district the bigger sites (strategic allocations) that are needed to deliver the government's housing targets should go. (Housing targets are likely to be mandatory and the government has suggested the district's target needs to rise from 1,142 to 1,178 units per year)

- keep talking to stakeholders such as Kent County Council, National Highways, Natural England, the Environment Agency, other councils etc
 - continue to assess any potential sites that may come forward
 - make progress on the modelling needed to test the council's transport strategy is robust
 - ensure its net zero and biodiversity net gain policy ambitions remain as robust as possible
- With that in mind, the [Cabinet will be asked to approve a new timetable](#), known as the Local Development Scheme, at its meeting on 30 September 2024. The following dates are proposed:

- December 2024 – the government publishes its new NPPF and PPG
- May 2025 – Local Housing Need figures released
- Autumn 2025 – publication of final draft for approval by councillors and the launch of a six-week consultation under Regulation 19
- Spring 2026 – submission of the Regulation 22 Local Plan to the Secretary of State. Planning. The council submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State together with the representations (any comments) received at the Regulation 19 stage. The Secretary of State will appoint a Planning Inspector to undertake an Independent Examination of the Local Plan. At that point the government will appoint a planning inspector who will arrange an examination in public, a set of public hearings where CCC's draft will come under scrutiny from the inspector, developers, statutory bodies and the public.
- Then Inspector's Report Issued. The Inspector's Report will say if the Plan is 'sound' or 'not sound' and whether it is legally compliant. The Inspector may make recommendations on how to make the plan 'sound'. Followed by
- February 2027-March 2027 - The final stage is for CCC to formally adopt the Local Plan. The council had originally planned to release the feedback from the Regulation 18 consultation when it published the final draft local plan early next year. However, now that publication is delayed, the consultation results can now be found at www.canterbury.gov.uk/regulation18feedback

Overgrown Hedges and Overhanging Branches near Highways

There are a number of properties with vegetation, shrubbery or trees* being allowed to become overgrown and protrude across the footpath. This makes conditions on the adjacent footpaths hazardous to pedestrians, especially those with pushchairs, and can also impinge on the sightlines of motorists in some instances. Please may we remind residents to cut back overgrown vegetation when and where required. 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 Kent County Council needs 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.

** Please remember for trees, if you live in a conservation area, you may have to advise Canterbury City Council of your intention to undertake tree work.* You must give the city council 6 weeks' notice, in writing, of your intention to do any work to trees in a Conservation Area. You must not carry out any work during the six week period, unless you receive written permission to do so. To give notice Email the planning department planning@canterbury.gov.uk or Call the planning centre on 01227 862178. Or write to Canterbury City Council, 14 Rose Lane, Canterbury CT1 2UR

Are you emergency ready?

5 steps to become better prepared

STEP

1

Make an emergency grab bag – consider:

- Torch
- Keys
- Medication
- First aid kit
- Toiletries
- Important documents
- Radio and batteries
- Money and credit cards
- Clothing and blankets
- Mobile phone and charger
- Pet food
- Food and water
- Emergency contacts



STEP

2

Make a 'Household Emergency Plan'

Make an emergency plan for your home and practice it with your household. Your plan should include: contact numbers, how to turn off your gas, electricity and water, and sources of information and advice.



STEP

3

Sign up for weather and flood alerts

- Sign up for Met Office weather alerts: www.metoffice.gov.uk
- Get Environment Agency Flood Warnings: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings



STEP

4

Check your flood risk

Check your home's flood risk by visiting the Environment Agency website at www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk



STEP

5

Join the Priority Services Register

The Priority Services Register is for customers who may need additional support in a utility outage. Find out if you or a relative is eligible to sign up for this free service by visiting www.thepsr.co.uk



Scan the QR codes for more information or visit
www.kentprepared.org.uk/5-steps

The 100 Club – results	Winners for March 2024:- Number Name Amount 24 M Clarke £10 52 H Pinnock £10 60 I Laslett £10	Winners for April:- 32 M&J Morcom £100 59 B&D Poulter £50 53 A&M Whittington £40 56 S Harlow £30 49 K Brice £20 93 John Boyce £12 83 J Halley £12 113 A Kelly £12 10 J Dawson £12 52 H Pinnock £12	Winners for May:- Number Name Amount 21 D Elliott £10 95 M Tucker £10 122 L & S Stanley £10
	Winners for June:- 22 F & D McGoldrick £10 60 I Laslett £10 110 C Dawson £10	Winners for July:- 33 C Smurthwa £10 40 J & G Jones £10 85 C Beresford £10	Winners for August: 50 F & G Miller £10 58 C McKenzie & M Martin £10 129 N Rees-Davies £10
	Winners for September:- Number Name Amount 26 S Reynolds £10 114 J Wilson £10 115 A McDonald £10		

Your parish councillors: Paul Glover (Chairman), Sylvia Harlow. (vice chairman), Kathryn Fielding (previously Kathy Wilson), Ken Dekker, Georgina Glover, Granville Glover, Dave Wilson

Parish Clerk, Amanda Sparkes: 07759 263725 clerk@westbereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Canterbury City Councillors: harry.mckenzie@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk and keji.moses@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk

KCC Kent County Councillor: Alan Marsh 01227 265112 alan.marsh@kent.gov.uk

KCC Community Warden for Westbere Sturry, Fordwich and Hersden: Linda Hayes.
Call: 07969583916. Email Linda.hayes@kent.gov.uk

Westbere Charities – 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) may receive assistance in accordance with the of Charities' terms. 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 are treated in strictest confidence.

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

This newsletter is available to view on the parish council's website only. To Opt-in to receive a hard copy, contact the Clerk - you must opt-in to receive a printed copy.

Residents email address database - Westbere Parish Council has a database of residents' email addresses to receive this newsletter electronically, and to update you on an adhoc basis on Parish Council business. To join the database email your name, email address and postal address, along with your written consent to hold your details for Council Business *only*, to clerk@westbereparishcouncil.gov.uk. We would be delighted to add you to our database and will not share these details with anyone. *Thank you to those of you already signed up!*

If you would like a Large Print Version of this newsletter please contact the Clerk, Amanda Sparkes on 07759263725 or email. clerk@westbereparishcouncil.gov.uk