



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

### WVA Open Meeting

In the coming year there are some very important matters, which the WVA wants to involve all residents in. These are best dealt with at the WVA Open meetings – they are your opportunity to shape the future of the village.



Around 50 people attended the last Open Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February – which was perhaps less than we were hoping for, given the importance of the subjects on the agenda. You can read more on this in the minutes of the Open Meeting which you will find on the WVA website.

The next Open Meeting is planned for **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May and will again be in Holy Trinity Church starting at 7.30pm** – so please put this in the diary now and make every effort to attend and have your say.

### WVA Draft New Constitution

There were some very useful comments and suggestions on the draft Constitution, which were taken into consideration in the final version of the document.

Consultation ended on 16<sup>th</sup> March and the document is now in the final stages of approval by the WVA committee before being sent to the Charity Commission for their comments and approval. Once we have this, we will be arranging an Extraordinary General Meeting to put the new constitution to a village vote.



### Your Village Association needs you

There are still two vacant seats on the WVA committee and interestingly we have had a number of people approach us about joining the committee – more in fact than there are places to fill. Rather than make appointments, as we did in the past, we would like to hold elections to the committee so that existing members and prospective new appointments all subject themselves to election. The time to do this would be at the EGM and thereafter every year at the Annual General Meetings in October. If you are interested in

joining the committee then please send me a note explaining who you are, your credentials for sitting on the committee, and the reasons why you feel you can make a difference – a couple of paragraphs is all that is needed, not a full-blown “supporting statement”!

### The Hut Development

There has been a lot happening behind the scenes and it would be fair to say that the scheme, first proposed in early October 2017, has been complicated, fraught with difficulties and changed building configurations. As a result it has taken a long time, despite the strenuous best efforts of the Hut Trustees.

The latest iteration of the plan is to provide on the current Hut site:

- A stand-alone doctor’s surgery and dispensing chemist facility of 278sqm servicing up to 4,000 patients – a stipulation by NHS England to futureproof the facility – which includes the current Riverbank Surgery patient list.
- A community centre of 160sqm providing a range of community-based facilities including café, support services like CAB, Help the Aged etc, a Youth Club, and community internet facilities for those who do not have these at home, as well as an event hire venue.
- Six residential units each with two dedicated parking spaces.
- 16 further parking spaces for the use of the Surgery and Community centre



Once detailed plan drawings have been finalised then the Hut Trustees will hold an AGM (open to every resident in the village) to give the authority to proceed, apply for all the necessary approvals including seeking planning permission, and then move hopefully to start works by the Autumn. At the AGM the Hut Trustees will be looking for new members to join the committee and help develop the services at the new community centre. The Hut Trustees also plan to organise a village residents letter of support, signed by as many people as possible, to send to NHS England thanking them for backing our vital village service by retaining a doctors surgery and dispensing pharmacy in the village.

### A Village Community

On a much lighter note, my wife and I spent a wonderful 2 hours on the (very wet) afternoon of 3<sup>rd</sup> March at a Folk Concert in Holy Trinity Church.

Entertaining us were **Jonas and Harbottle** a professional folk group – half of whom were home grown here in Westcott – who had just completed a three-week tour in Germany and were about to embark on one in the UK. (Google “Jonas and Harbottle” to listen to their music). Those readers who attend

Holy Trinity will know that the interior of the church has been transformed by some impressive new lighting which creates a whole different atmosphere and which complimented perfectly the sounds of the folk group that day. It was a perfect example of how to create new opportunities for our community facilities and help draw the community together, as well as a plug for the talent that exists or has grown up in Westcott. If you haven't yet seen the new lighting, or attended an event in the church, either religious or secular, then we recommend you go!

### **WestFest - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019**



Finally, we are delighted to have given over a dedicated page on the new WVA website to promote our annual village fair, WestFest. You will find all the information you need in the run-up to the event, which this year is being held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Definitely a date for your diaries!

Please continue to comment on or make suggestions to improve the WVA website so that we ensure it is **THE** place to go for village news, information, and events.

As always, you are invited to write to me on issues which concern you, and the WVA will do their best to address them.

**Tim Way**

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