



Open Meeting of the Westcott Village Association Thursday, 10th March 2022 at Holy Trinity Church

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Open Meeting held on 14th October 2021
2. Matters Arising from the minutes
3. Community Infrastructure Levy – presentation and discussion
4. Broadening involvement in the WVA – presentation and discussion
5. Future MVDC Local Plan – update and next steps including an overview on how / why the WVA comments on current planning applications
6. An update on current WVA projects
7. The Queen’s Jubilee – discussion of ideas to celebrate the event
8. Open Forum - Questions from residents
9. Proposed next Open Meeting dates are 30th June 2022 for the AGM dates and 20th October 2022.

Representing the WVA were Edwin Harland (EH), James Leaver (JL), Sally Hewetson (SH) and Paul Goddard (PRG). EH took the chair.
Apologies received from Tim Way, Simon Bradley and Nick Lund.

1. Welcome and Introductions

EH welcomed everyone to the meeting explaining that he would chair as TEW was unable to attend due to a positive C19 test. EH explained that TEW would listen (not see) via the Church Zoom facility and contribute if required. EH ran through the protocols for the meeting.

Before continuing, EH asked Sandra Ede to come forward and accept a card, gift and thanks from the WVA following her resignation as a Trustee and in recognition of her fifteen years’ service on the Committee. EH highlighted the fact that in this time she had only missed one meeting; she would be warmly remembered for her passionate contributions to meetings, and her generous baking of cakes for WestFEST. We were pleased that then Councillor Chris Hunt, Chairman of MVDC, presented a framed ‘Chairman’s Certificate’ award to Sandra

following her nomination by Councillor James Friend ‘for her actions in the local community and promoting community cohesion’.

2. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last Open Meeting on 14th October 2021 were taken as an accurate record. Two items in those minutes were identified as still requiring tangible progress being:

- i) an outstanding response to the application for double yellow lines to be painted towards the top of Westcott Street just below the A25 where any parked vehicles cause a significant obstruction so close to the main road. It isn't clear when Surrey Highways will progress the application but when it is, residents in the vicinity will be consulted before any changes are made. Any residents receiving a communication from SH are asked to notify the WVA please.
- ii) the need to address ongoing concerns about transport / journey to school / school parking arrangements and particularly pupil and parent safety when coming to and leaving the Westcott school site and the lack of adequate parking in the vicinity of the school contributing to inappropriate parking by parents on Pointers Hill and Broomfield Park.

Other matters relating to traffic speeds and poor signage and road markings in the vicinity of School Lane are also still being discussed with Surrey Highways and still need to be concluded.

A follow up question was posed by Elisa Davey as to whether Westcott School has prepared a Transport Plan and if so whether it is available to view.

In commenting on the points above, SH noted that neither Councillor James Friend (JF) who is now Chair of the Surrey Hills All Saints School ‘Local Committee’ nor the Headmaster, Simon Coles was able to attend the Open Meeting. However, SH reported that JF was able to confirm that discussion is ongoing about using the Westcott Sports Club for parking with a Walking Bus to school (Note as at 17/3/22, the Surrey Hills All Saints website has information on Local Committee responsibilities and on the detail of a Walking Bus trial scheduled from Thursday 21st April to 6th May 2022.) JF confirmed the school had not yet prepared a Transport Plan.

The WVA Committee agreed to discuss transport and parking matters with JF on behalf of the school which will be done when the trial has ended. Please note that JF can be contacted directly if residents prefer.

3. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - see also supporting slides

JL presented an overview explaining how CIL arises and how it is administered. He confirmed it can be applied to a wide range of types and scope of infrastructure projects. He confirmed the CIL pot available now for eligible works in Westcott is currently £29,300 which includes the contribution from 'The Crown' development. There is the prospect of more monies to come from future developments in the village.

JL confirmed that the WVA has been nominated by MVDC as the eligible organisation through which applications need to be made for funds with applications likely to need matched funding though MVDC might consider 100% grants. The pot will be available for the next five years or until it is allocated.

The WVA are now inviting project ideas from organisations or individuals which meet the criteria of providing, improving, replacing, operating or maintaining infrastructure in the village. There is a defined process to follow with formal paperwork and plans to be prepared and the WVA will sponsor and assist with suitable applications. Links and paperwork examples will be placed on the WVA website for review.

JL concluded by confirming that access to CIL monies is a great opportunity for the village to work together for the benefit of all residents.

4. Broadening Involvement in the WVA – see also supporting slides

The Trustees want to broaden involvement and achieve greater participation and interest from residents in village matters and so improve the relevance and effectiveness of the WVA.

In short, to achieve the above, one step the Trustees still wish to take is to remove on a trial basis, the link between payment of a fee for membership of the WVA and being entitled to vote at WVA meetings. This meeting was used to consult about a proposal likely to be put to the 2022 AGM as follows, that:

- All Westcott residents wishing to attend will be eligible to vote at any WVA meetings at which a vote is called
- The Trustees will suspend payment of membership fees for two years as a trial – 2022/23 and 2023/24 – and will reassess the position for 2024/25
- The Trustees encourage ...recommend...urge existing – and new – members to continue to pay annual gift aided voluntary contributions in order to fund new and ongoing activities and the

Trustees are confident you will do so (bank details: WVA, 82-11-07, 2007 2790)

- Current funds available cover foreseeable expenses over the next two years

No vote was taken but several comments from the floor were positive in support and understanding of the reasons for the change suggesting a proposal could be passed if put to the AGM. It was noted that removing the need to pay a fee would ensure the WVA were seen to be acting in the interests of everyone in the village.

In addition, JL noted the intention of the WVA to try to find and potentially fund with others a 'Communications Role' for the village to ensure conversations / discussions are held across all written and social media including a refresh of the WVA website to improve awareness of the existence and potential of village organisations. This drew positive responses from the floor.

In response to a comment suggesting that the WVA Chairman would imminently stop providing written updates in the village magazine, TEW confirmed this was not the case and he will continue to use the magazine where possible. He did note that residents need to realise that publishing deadlines are such that news in the magazine could be out of date by the time villagers read it hence the wish to explore other communication methods in addition.

5. Future MVDC Local Plan & planning applications – see also supporting slides

JL updated the meeting on the history and current status of the Future MVDC Local Plan using the accompanying slides. He emphasised the concerns that WVA had expressed to the Council at the various consultation phases, and which are likely to form the basis of ongoing lobbying for changes. JL noted that it is still only a plan, and any development will be subject to normal planning application procedures and controls.

Feedback was received that some local residents have been unaware of the whole process as they haven't received Village Magazines but given the publicity and literature distributed to every household, JL noted there was little else the WVA could have reasonably done differently to engage with residents.

6. Update on current projects:

Due to time constraints, EH mentioned a few key items as follows:

- that a new notice board was to be procured and positioned between the dovecote and the bus shelter. It will be available for village organisations to use. It has been partly funded by a grant of £1750 arranged by Hazel Watson, for which the WVA is most grateful. (Note post meeting: having closed the Mace shop, the owner has requested the two WVA Notice boards be removed from the outside walls. Alternate sites are to be considered.)
- An article brokered by the WVA has been printed in the Village magazine (March issue, pages 28-29) asking for volunteers for various roles in the village. EH highlighted the vital role played by volunteers in multiple Westcott activities (Reading Room, Sports Club, Baby Meals, Village Magazine.). He reminded attendees that due to people moving away or retiring due to ill health, there was a continual need for new volunteers and urged residents to consider if they could help. EH said that the article had yielded a volunteer to keep clean the defibrillator in The Burrell, to whom EH expressed his most grateful thanks.
- Speedwatch has restarted and has been boosted by another six volunteers giving a pool of twelve. More are always welcome to increase the number of opportunities to encourage slower and therefore safer and quieter vehicle movements in the village. Positive feedback on the effectiveness of Speedwatch was received at the meeting and thanks expressed to the volunteers.
- A watching brief continues on the condition of the – expensive - surface of the surface of Wolvens Lane given Surrey Highways are allowing motorcycles to continue to use it, and the ongoing safety concerns. The Trustees asked residents to contact the WVA (contact@westcottvillage.com) with their observations and details of any problems they encounter in preparation for a request to Surrey Highways to reconsider who can legally use this byway.

7. Queen's Jubilee

EH confirmed that the Trustees had discussed what the WVA could do to mark the event and concluded that planting a tree or trees in a suitable place in the village supported by a gathering with tea and cakes

available would be reasonable and appropriate. Organising Street Parties will be left to local street groups.

JL asked residents to consider where best to plant a tree in the village – Sandra Ede nominated The Burrell and others thought the edge of the Green. A suggestion was also made to organise a baking competition for the cakes with prizes with any monies raised from the sale to be donated to charity. Other suggestions included a village picnic (bring rugs and food) or an early evening gathering.

If villagers have any ideas on how the WVA can assist in celebrating the Queen's Jubilee they were asked to email them to contact@westcottvillage.com or speak to any Trustee.

8. Open Question Session

Three written questions were received in advance of the meeting as follows:

- 1) Relating to the school transport plan and parking problems - answered in agenda point 2 though acknowledged as only work in progress
- 2) Whether the WVA could ask local farmers to stop using bee killing pesticides – not covered at the meeting but answered in writing with some information from Hugh Broom
- 3) In relation to the former Cricketers pub/Indigo Spice restaurant, whether the WVA could help residents to persuade MVDC to take action to ensure the owner of this long empty property improves its condition and makes it at least tidy and presentable to all those living in Westcott and passing through.

JL responded by saying the WVA have had significant and regular dialogue with MVDC such that they have agreed to serve and s.215 notice on the owner. (A s.215 notice typically requires an owner to take remedial actions when the amenity of an area is negatively impacted by the condition of land or buildings.)

There being no other questions, EH thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions. The meeting closed at 9.20pm

PRG 16/3/22

END

Attendees signed in at the Church; (apologies to several additional attendees whose names were not captured.):

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| Colin Pilbeam | Timothy Jeffrey |
| Rob Potter | Kevin Foo |
| Nabil Subuh | Stuart Hunt |
| Angela Delaford | Andrew Gordon |
| Hazel Watson | Paul MacGregor |
| Janet Dawkins | Tim Gowing |
| Peter Dawkins | Susan Farman |
| Graham Clark | Elisa Davey |