



Westcott Village Open Meeting

7th December 2022

Agenda

1. Welcome & Chairperson's Address
2. Apologies
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Open Meeting (10-Mar-22) and of the AGM (30-Jun-22)
4. Short Updates from Committee Members:
 - Planning Matters: James Leaver
 - Membership: Sally Hewetson
 - Highways: Nick Lund
5. Westcott Village Hall Update
6. Questions & Comments from Residents
7. AOB
8. Drinks & Social

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Planning Matters

James Leaver

Planning – WVA's role

- WVA is MVDC's consultee for all planning applications in Westcott
- We write to MVDC and/ or SCC when we need to and focus on:
 - Compliance with WNDP and MVDC policy
 - Assisting residents with relevant concerns
 - Consistency
- We provide pre-app advice to residents/developers
- WVA is not anti-development and we support or object to applications only when we believe it is right to do so

Planning – WVA activity in 2022

- 12 planning letters with comments or objections and 3 enforcement actions with MVDC
- Holding MVDC planning to account re. affordable housing, CIL payments and governance
- A representation to SCC consultation in relation to motorbikes on Wolvens Lane BOAT
- A representation to the Planning Inspector on 5 September re. Policy DS63 (Mill Way)
- Publicity and response to Gleeson Land consultation re. Sondes Place Farm
- All our correspondence and representations are published on the WVA website



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Future Mole Valley

Local Plan 2020-2037



December 2022 Update

Mole Valley Local Plan 2020-2037

- Progress since March Open Meeting
 - March: Inspector Roisin Barrett appointed by Secretary of State to conduct an Independent Examination in Public of the draft Local Plan
 - June: Session 1 hearings – procedural and legal
 - Summer break
 - Late Sept: Session 2 hearings – housing supply, green belt, vision & spatial strategy
 - Early Oct: Session 3 hearings – environment, housing and infrastructure policies
 - Late Oct: Session 3 continued – site allocations
- MVDC responding to Inspector’s post hearing questions
- WVA responding to Inspector’s targeted consultation re. green belt
- Inspector’s report and proposed modifications awaited
- Winter 2022/23: adoption of MVDC Local Plan

WVA's Local Plan Representations

Local Plan representations - March 2020, November 2021, September 2022

Our concerns:

- Spatial strategy – 0.7% of green belt is not sustainable
- No deliverable/costed infrastructure solution for Dorking one-way system
- Congestion on A25 compounded by proposed Sondes Place Farm and Milton Court Lane allocations (c.250 dwellings) with new vehicular access for Priory School
- Merging Dorking and Westcott settlements
- Housing delivery assumptions for Westcott
- Mill Way House – exceptional circumstances case for loss of green belt not made

CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

- Presentation in March – a push to spend our Neighbourhood CIL
- MVDC then launched a “consultation” on CIL governance
- Allocation of CIL – a new process – new guidance, selection criteria and forms
- WVA now providing a co-ordinating and supporting role for bids from Westcott
- More ideas welcomed
- Current funding pot is c.£29,400

CIL Project Pipeline

Projects with sponsors

- School – *Sally Hewetson and Simon Coles*
 - Playing field all weather surface
 - Play slope
 - Forest school
- Village Hall - a refurbishment grant (former Reading Room) – *Hugh Parry*
- Digital speed sign – *Nick Lund*

Potential projects in feasibility

- EV charging – *James Leaver/Nick Lund*
- Car club scheme – *James Leaver/Nick Lund*
- Village Green enhancements - bike racks, larger bins – *Nick Lund*
- Cradhurst recreation ground enhancements - an all-weather path/ track - *tbc*

Useful Links

- <https://futuremolevalley.org/>
- <https://westcottvillage.com/planning/>
- <https://westcottvillage.com/future-mole-valley/>
- <https://westcottvillage.com/westcott-neighbourhood-development-plan/>
- <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/home/benefits-grants/cil-neighbourhood-grants>



Membership

Sally Hewetson

WVA Membership

- AGM membership proposal which received unanimous acceptance:
 - All Westcott residents are members of the WVA
 - All residents can attend WVA meetings and vote
- Subscription – not mandatory BUT if you can, YES PLEASE!
 - Your ability to pay should not be a barrier to taking part
 - Not being able to pay DOES NOT take an individual's voice away
 - The street steward system did not work consistently well across the village
 - Better communications and electronic banking

What has the WVA delivered

- Inviting the Community Fridge to the village and providing financial contributions
- Purchased the Christmas tree lighting and decorations
- Respond to planning applications on behalf of the village
- Loaned money to the Reading Room to carry out a feasibility report
- Set up the speed and noise prevention group
- Neighbourhood Development Plan: influences local planning decisions and helps to protect the character of Westcott as a distinct community
- Purchased a card reader to enable electronic payments
- Installed a notice board on the Green
- Purchased a PA system
- Run multiple social media accounts
- Responded to numerous MVDC and SCC requests
- Purchased the remembrance silhouette soldier
- Remembrance poppies
- Organised carol singing on the Green
- Donated to ladies cricket and sports club
- Installed a second defibrillator
- Purchased 6 laptops for the Westcott school
- Installed dog fouling signage
- Commenting on and trying to influence the outcome of the MVDC Local Plan so that it better serves the needs of Westcott
- Championing our local infrastructure needs for the future, e.g. on-street electric vehicle charging

Membership summary

If you like what we do...

...and you can afford to pay a subscription, please do!

- ✓ Standing order
- ✓ Gift aid

Please tell us what you want from the WVA.



Highways

Nick Lund

Highways update

- EV charging
- Car club
- Parking for our village businesses
- Speedwatch
 - Ongoing invitation to new volunteers
 - Re-energising for 2023 – new co-ordinator on-board
- Potential new 'Vehicle Activated Sign' opposite Holy Trinity Church

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AOB

1. King's Coronation celebrations
2. Emergency first-aid courses for village volunteers

Carols on the Green

Friday 16th December @ 6pm



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Thank You