



Village News - April 2023

A Right Royal WESTfest

Westcott has a long history of celebrating Royal Coronations and the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will be no different. It's not long now until the village comes together at WESTfest so be sure to put Monday 8th May in your diary and come along and join in the fun with your friends and neighbours.

The ever popular WVA Bottle Tombola will feature as usual but we can't do it without your generous donations so please drop off any suitable bottles to Edwin at Queen's Court, Westcott St (just near Bramley House) or Sally at Drydown, The Hildens (at the far end on the left hand side) or drop an email to contact@westcottvillage.com and we will come and collect them from you. We look forward to seeing you all there.



The Big Help Out

To mark His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation organisations across the country are getting together to encourage us all to volunteer in our local community. The Big Help Out is being officially launched on the 8th May and will be supported by a nationwide database of volunteering opportunities for you to search to find something of interest locally.

In support of this initiative the WVA have also put together a list of local volunteering opportunities in and around Westcott which you will find on a new dedicated section of our website called The Big Help Out <https://westcottvillage.com/the-big-help-out/>. We will continue to keep this list updated so please get in touch if you want to add anything.



WVA Open Meeting

We were delighted to welcome so many people to the Open Meeting back in March. The slightly different format was well received and encouraged more discussion than usual.

For those of you who were unable to join us James Leaver gave an opening address touching upon the controversial Sondes Place Farm Planning Application as well as introducing the committee and mentioning subjects such as EV charging and opportunities for people to get involved in village life. Not only are the WVA still looking for a Chair but Westcott Village Hall are also looking for new trustees. Anna Kemkers spoke about WESTfest and encouraged people to get involved.

There was a real hub-bub of discussion around the room with a broad range of subjects covered including; speedwatch, acoustic cameras, a recent spate of vandalism to road signs and how to support our local businesses. While the AGM in June will need to be more structured by its very nature, we will look to repeat this more relaxed discussion style of Open Meeting again later in the year.

Sondes Place Farm Planning Application

We have submitted letters to MVDC objecting in the strongest terms to the Sondes Place Farm Planning Application and were very pleased to also submit petitions with over 260 signatures from people registering their objection at the same time. These can be viewed on the WVA website <https://westcottvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/MO2023-0188-WVA-Letter-of-Objection-with-petition-22032023-redacted-copy.pdf>. To further illustrate the strength of opposition locally there are now over 300 individual objection letters which have also been submitted to MVDC. Surrey County Council Highways department have asked MVDC for more time to make a full technical assessment and transport observations.

Changes to the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Natural England is currently consulting on whether to make changes to the Surrey Hills AONB to extend the areas included and make some other changes to the boundary. The consultation documents can be found using the link below and the closing date for comments is the 13th June 2023. https://consult.defra.gov.uk/ne-landscape-heritage-and-geodiversity-team/surrey-hills-boundary-variation/user_uploads/consultation-report-digital.pdf

The WVA is currently reviewing the consultation with a view to making a representation shortly. Please do let us know your own thoughts once you have read the consultation document.



Community Fridge – now visits on a Tuesday afternoon

Visits from the Mid Surrey Community Fridge have now moved to **Tuesday afternoon at 2.45pm**. This is to take advantage of a wider range of food which is available on a Tuesday. Remember the food is all perfect and is surplus from local supermarkets and wholesalers who would rather see it used in the community than go to landfill. If you haven't found time to visit do pop down. The food is free but donations of £2.50 are encouraged if you can afford to do so. Bring your shopping bags, bring your friends, pick something up for your neighbours.



In other village news you may have noticed the ex Cricketers pub has been sold by auction - we have now made contact with the new owner. Talking of pubs, we are also in touch with Fullers to see how we can help and support our last remaining pub in the village, The Prince of Wales, do pop in and say hello to Daniel the landlord and give his new food offer a try.

As always, please do get in touch with any issues or queries about village life and we will do our best to help or signpost you to those who can.

Your wishes
Westcott Village Association Committee
contact@westcottvillage.com

- Paul Goddard - Secretary
- Edwin Harland - Treasurer
- James Leaver - Planning
- Nick Lund - Highways
- Sally Hewetson - Membership
- Jo Astor - Communications
- Jon Mears - General



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