



Village News - September 2023

Dear Residents, we hope you are enjoying the last few days of warmer weather thanks to the late appearance of summer. The sun shone just in time for the Westcott Gardener's Club Show which was a great success, our congratulations to all those involved.

Sondes Place Planning Application and Appeal

We have continued to express our views in writing to MVDC and stay abreast of the planning application and pending appeal for the Land at Sondes Place. We were disappointed at the decision to hear the appeal by Public Inquiry and were concerned our views may be diminished by the lack of professional representation at the Inquiry, as we obviously do not have the resources to instruct professionals who can match the expertise and access the extensive resources available to MVDC or the appellant. We wrote directly to the Planning Inspectorate setting out this concern and reiterated our key objections to the planning application including copies of all our previous representations. We were pleased to receive confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate that it does not matter that we have no legal representation at the Inquiry and all the WVA's written representations have been placed on file and will be considered by the Inspector before a decision is made. A copy of all the correspondence is on the Westcott Village website. We will continue to review the situation and update you with further news as it arises.

The Neighbourhood Fund (formerly known as CIL)

The WVA was pleased to support **Westcott Village Hall trustees** in their application for funds to cover essential repairs and maintenance from **The Neighbourhood Fund** (formerly known as the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy, or CIL) which consists of money paid to MVDC by developers as a levy whenever new homes or retail space is built in Mole Valley. Other Neighbourhood Fund applications are also being pursued by the WVA to request funding for a new **vehicle activated speed limit sign** and also for repairs and refurbishment to the **Westcott Dovecote and Thatched Bus Stop**. The Dovecote and Bus Stop are both an important part of our heritage and an essential facility for bus passengers waiting at the village green. We will update on how these applications progress in due course.

Westfestivity - Saturday 18th November 2023

Exciting news - the amazing WestFest team are turning their hands to more festive fair and are putting on a new Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday 18th November with plenty of stalls and activity planned. It's not too late to book a stall - local arts, crafts, gifts creators, artisan foods and more are all welcome. Standard tables are £25 email westfestsurrey@gmail.com for more info and to book



After many months of badgering MVDC and Surrey County Council we were pleased to see the **abandoned car** occupying a time restricted parking space outside the recently reopened Westcott Stores has been removed. This will make it easier for drivers wishing to make use of the retail outlet or parents doing the school run.

Our thanks to everyone who has recently **renewed their voluntary subscription** to the WVA and especially to those who allow us to claim Gift Aid as Gift Aid alone has boosted our funds by just over £400. It's not too late to make a donation or let us know about Gift Aid. Please follow the links on the Westcott Village website, it's easy to sign up to a regular subscription or just make a one-off donation if you prefer.

We also want to take this opportunity pass on our special thanks to **Jon Mears** who has sadly decided to resign as a Trustee of the WVA and member of the committee. Thank you Jon for all your hard work and the valuable contribution you have made. You will be missed but we look forward to your continued support from outside the committee room.

If you would like to help get involved in a specific project or join the committee please do get in touch as Winston Churchill once said "**You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give**"

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.

Best wishes

Your 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



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