



## Second Westcott Village Forum Meeting

Holy Trinity Church 7.30pm 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Purpose: For the Start Up Group to present the agenda circulated beforehand and for the Forum to consider some proposals arising from the presentation

### Key points recorded about / at the Forum Meeting:

1. The Meeting was called and organised by the Westcott NDP Start Up Group.
2. Key notes from the First Forum Meeting are available on the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan sub section of the WVA website <https://westcottvillage.com/westcott-neighbourhood-development-plan/>
3. Prior to the Forum Meeting an Agenda, the WNDP Boundary Application, a draft Forum Constitution and the Presentation slides were circulated by email to those who had signed up to be Forum Members. These documents are also available on the WVA website as noted above.
4. Key points raised /discussed whilst presenting the slides included the following:
  - the required deliverables listed from the First Form Meeting were covered by the slides
  - 125 eligible Members had joined the Forum. At least 21 are required to attend Forum Meetings to make them quorate though 125 attendees is preferable. The membership is geographically spread throughout the intended Neighbourhood defined area
  - 36 attended this meeting – see appendix
  - a ten year plan is considered optimal. The aim is to make it as future proof as possible but to recognise the rapidly changing planning environment
  - in the Draft Local Plan before adoption Westcott area was targeted with 68 new dwellings. This was increased to 123 in the adopted Local Plan and may need to increase by up to a factor of three to meet probable Government targets
  - the current WNDP runs to the end of 2026. It is vital that a replacement is in place by then to guide future developments – including housing – in our local area and a target of conducting a Village referendum in May 2026 was proposed. The next opportunity would be May 2027 and this was thought to be too late. Targeting May 2026 does mean a very tight project schedule so activity must start now. Ten key items are programmed, leading to data being assessed and prioritised and distilled in to 5 to 10 key objectives to form the plan. An external independent inspector reviews everything to make sure it is compliant. Then the final document goes to a referendum
  - the Neighbourhood Boundary Application has been submitted to MVDC.

- Once it has been reviewed and agreed by the Forum, a documented Constitution also needs to be submitted to MVDC. Both documents need to be considered by and agreed by the Cabinet of MVDC Councillors following a six-week public consultation likely to be from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Until the MVDC Cabinet ratifies the Boundary and Constitution, the Forum is considered to be in Start Up mode
- There was broad agreement on the Boundary but a discussion initiated by Liz Cronshey about the Constitution indicated some possible nervousness about listing the names of Forum Members in an Appendix. Whilst it is likely that this is a regulatory requirement to give MVDC an opportunity to verify these Members are eligible to serve as Westcott Residents or businesses, clarification would be requested from MVDC. Depending on that feedback, consideration needs to be given to how this is communicated to ensure potential Members are not discouraged from participating

**Action: Start-up group to feedback once advice from MVDC has been received**

It was noted that the draft Constitution is based on that used for the 2017- 2026 WNDP Forum, plus some additions taken from examples used by other Forums including an outline of Forum Member responsibilities

- A funding bid needs to be submitted to Locality (MHCLG) to cover Neighbourhood Forum spend and activities.

**Action: Ian Dunsford (Planning Policy lead) / James Leaver**

- A brief update was given by Chris Smewing, by Jo Astor and by Nancy Lund on progress in the three Working Groups. More Volunteers are needed please to participate in the Evidence Gathering & Planning Policy Working Groups.

**Action: ALL to consider and volunteer if possible**

- Comments from Forum Members included ones on parking, assessing the impact of what is happening in adjacent neighbourhoods / Parishes and sharing our plans and consulting with them, on the impact of water run-off from other / adjacent neighbourhoods and flooding generally. These are noted for future reference.
- Some Members admitted a lack of knowledge about the whole process and what a WNDP was supposed to achieve. James Leaver suggested that the Plan could be considered to be a shopping list of priorities that the community of Westcott residents want for their Village as a fit with the MVDC Local Plan and on how to allocate Neighbourhood CIL monies
- In addition and as noted in the slides, Forum Members are urged to read the current WNDP to improve their understanding of what the end result might look like

<https://westcottvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Westcott-Neighbourhood-Development-Plan.pdf>

**Action: ALL**

5. Volunteers for the key roles of Chairperson and Secretary of the Management Committee are still required. They will not be filled from the WVA Committee but would be supported by them. Neither role is onerous given that the three working Groups are very ably led but both are crucial for the smooth running of the Forum. Brief outlines of responsibility are included in the draft Constitution.

Post meeting note: Jo Astor has offered share the role of Secretary with someone else as it fits well with the Communications work, so a second person to share the Secretary role with Jo is now sought. A volunteer to take on the role of Chairperson is also still required

**Action: ALL to consider and volunteer if possible.**

6. To conclude the meeting a number of proposals were voted on by Forum Members as follows:

- **Programme** – Forum unanimously agreed to work back from May 2026 referendum
- **Neighbourhood Boundary** – Forum unanimously agreed with that proposed to MVDC
- **Draft constitution** – All Forum Members to read, consider and submit written comments – including no comment / agreement - by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March at the latest to [contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com) – the sooner the better so an amended final draft can be circulated to Forum Members before it is resubmitted to MVDC  
**Action: ALL – urgent and important please**
- **Housing needs survey** – Forum unanimously agreed that this should be separately commissioned to run alongside the village survey
- **Should Westcott consider becoming a Parish Council?** – Forum unanimously agreed to include questions in the survey about whether there should be a Parish Council in Westcott supported by suitable explanation and background. A Parish Council for instance would have more authority and regulatory standing than a Residents Association. This may become more important in the context of the Government’s devolution proposals.
- **Call for Sites** – should we have a ‘Call for Sites’ for housing development? How do we communicate it, what development opportunities are there within the village for densification? Need to explain what this is very clearly and decide when to ask the question. No vote taken. Forum agreed that James Leaver would discuss this further with Ian Dunsford (Policy working group) with the aim of preparing and circulating a paper outlining the pros & cons for the next Forum Meeting to consider  
**Action: Ian Dunsford and James Leaver**
- **Referendum on the revised WNDP in May 2026** – majority of meeting agreed on the timing, to coincide with unitary authority voting.

**Next Forum Meeting:** to be called in June shortly after the MVDC June Cabinet meeting. The date of this June Cabinet is not yet known.

Jo Astor / Paul Goddard  
On behalf of the Start Up Group  
4th March 2025

**Appendix One**  
**Attendees, Apologies for meeting**

**WESTCOTT VILLAGE FORUM MEETING #2**  
**THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2025 AT HOLY TRINITY**

**Attended** 36  
Apologies 29  
No reply 68  
**Total:** 133

<b>FORUM MEMBERS</b>				
	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>RSVP</b>	<b>ATTENDED</b>
1	Abhi	Magesh	yes	yes
2	Carol	Morris		yes
3	Chris	Smewing	yes	yes
4	Christian	Johnson	yes	yes
5	Colin	Pilbeam	yes	yes
6	Deborah	Lewis	yes	yes
7	Francesca	Leaver	yes	yes
8	Gill	Todd	yes	yes
9	Heather	Shakespeare	yes	yes
10	Ian	Hughes		yes
11	Isolde	Trenter	yes	yes
12	Jakki	Phillips	yes	yes
13	James	Leaver	yes	yes
14	Jo	Astor	yes	yes
15	John	Clachan	yes	yes
16	Judith	Packer	yes	yes
17	Kevin	Foo	yes	yes
18	Libby	Witt		yes
19	Liz	Cronshey	yes	yes
20	Magesh	Ramakrishnan	yes	yes
21	Mark	Shakespeare	yes	yes
22	Martin	Finnis		yes
23	Matthew	Heckroodt	yes	yes
24	Nancy	Lund	yes	yes
25	Nick	Lund	yes	yes
26	Nick	Mann	yes	yes
27	Nick	Jordan-Moss		yes
28	Paul	Goddard	yes	yes
29	Paul	Morris	yes	yes
30	Ralph	Sutton	yes	yes

31	Robin	Potter	yes	yes
32	Roger	Christian	yes	yes
33	Roy	Cooke		yes
34	Sally	Hewetson	yes	yes
35	Tim	Way	yes	yes
36	Tim	Gowing	yes	yes
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37	Alan	Pickering	apols	
38	Anya	Ritcher	apols	
39	Becky	Waters	apols	
40	Becky	Banyard	apols	
41	Catherine	Duerden	apols	
42	Elizabeth	Mair	apols	
43	Erika	Gibbins	apols	
44	Gavin	Dove	apols	
45	Geoff	Muge	apols	
46	Gill	O'Hea	apols	
47	Helen	Mardell	apols	
48	Ian	Dunsford	apols	
49	Jacky	Fyson	apols	
50	Jan	Way	apols	
51	Jan	Cunningham	apols	
52	Jane	Betterton	apols	
53	Janet	Ormiston	apols	
54	Mark	Seymour	apols	
55	Nadine	Heckroodt	apols	
56	Natalie	Akenzua	apols	
57	Paul	Ridout	apols	
58	Ruth	Andrews	apols	
59	Sue	Woodward	apols	
60	Susan	Rolt	apols	
61	Suzie	Moore	apols	
62	Sven	Hughes	apols	
63	Tim	Armstrong	apols	
64	Tony	Astor	apols	
65	Vishal	Sagar	apols	
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66	Balamurugan	Thamilarasan	yes	no show
67	Elisa	Davey	yes	no show
68	Richard	Marshall	yes	no show
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69	Alistair	Meldrum		
70	Andrea	Gabb		
71	Andrew	Davie		
72	Andrew	Gordon		
73	Andy	Johnson		

74	Anna	Treter
75	Anna	Kemkers
76	Annie	Sutton
77	Bernie	Waterman
78	Bernt	Ratzke
79	Carolyn	Smith
80	Cheryl	Seymour
81	Chris	Dale
82	Clive	Jaques
83	David	Boyce
84	David	George
85	David	McClintock
86	Edwina	Gordon
87	Elizabeth	Watson
88	Elizabeth	Dunsford
89	Fleur	Subuh-Symons
90	Gavin	Musgrave
91	Gil	Kedgley
92	Helen	Curzon
93	Helen	McClintock
94	Hugh	Parry
95	Imogen	Barker
96	James	Croft
97	Janice	Batchelor
98	John	Davey
99	John	Venn
100	Jon	Mears
101	Josie	Beattie
102	Julia	Atkins
103	Kath	Webster
104	Leah	Mursaleen-Plank
105	Louise	Scillitoe-Brown
106	M	Bowman
107	Maggie	Harris
108	Mary	Holford
109	Matt & Lauren	Prince of Wales
110	Melissa	Byrne
111	Michael	Westcott Garage
112	Michal	Stein
113	Murray	Stephens
114	Nabil	Subuh
115	Ncky	Masters
116	Nigel	Kedgley

117	Olga	Hughes
118	Peter	Dawkins
119	Peter	Dunckley
120	Peter	Shearmur
121	Peter	Scillitoe-Brown
122	Reg	Gibbins
123	Richard	Packer
124	Richard	Masters
125	Roisin	Moore
126	Sally	Croft
127	Sally	Stacey
128	Sam	Stacey
129	Tim	Jeffrey
130	Tony	Winch
131	Tony	Mickle
132	Vivienne	Gurney
133	Wendy	George

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Other Attendees:

Hazel	Watson
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