

Westoning on Sunday – Online

Virtual Edition No: 4

The Newsletter of Westoning Parish Council

February 2021

STAY HOME

Protect the NHS

Save Lives

HANDS

FACE

SPACE

COVID-19 UPDATE

This third extended lockdown is placing a heavy burden on many residents in Westoning and we are all hoping that the vaccine rollout will allow a semblance of normality to return later this year. However, while the first dose of the vaccine is thought to provide about 60% - 70% efficacy, that level of protection will not be obtained until about 3 weeks after the initial vaccination. The second dose administered between 6 and 12 weeks after the initial 'jab' is expected to increase the level of efficacy to 90% to 95%.

For your own health and safety, as well as the health and safety of others, it is imperative that we all continue to take all the usual precautions until the virus is under control and the pressure on the NHS has been reduced considerably.

'Westoning Cares' is still operating and is able to get shopping or medications for anyone who is shielding or is unable to do those things for themselves. The contact numbers are shown below so help is just a phone call away.

Name of Contact	Telephone Numbers	Email Address
Steve Alcock	01525 755039 or 07710 172546	steve.alcock3@ntlworld.com
Joyce Nethersole	07770 642159	Holmes02@icloud.com
Maureen Graham	01525 873870	malcolmgraham1@ntlworld.com
Nigel Washington	01525 714442 or 07722 297299	nwashy2@gmail.com

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WESTONING PLANTERS ABOUT TO TAKE ROOT

The Christmas Lights that so many residents put up in December really brightened up the village. Now that the dreary days and nights of Winter are upon us, we can only look forward to Spring for something to brighten up our streets. This is where our proposal for Planters around the village comes in!



Dimensions of Planter

Length – 1800 mm

Height – 500 mm

Width – 500 mm

Material – Pressure treated softwood timber with a 15 Year Guarantee

The Parish Council has obtained permission from Central Bedfordshire Council (the Highways Authority) to install about 20 planters in approved locations around the village over a period of time. The approved locations are mostly at junctions where there are grass verges and where the planter will not obstruct vision splays. The Parish Council has budgeted for the purchase and planting of about 6 planters in the 21/22 year but the locations of these planters will depend largely on the availability of volunteers who live nearby to tend them and water them when needed.

It is also possible for an individual resident, a family or business to 'Sponsor' a Planter by making a one-off donation of £250 to WPC. A sponsored Planter can, if the sponsor wishes, bear the name of the sponsor or a company name on the front face of the planter or it could be dedicated to a loved one. Name plaques and dedications must be in a standard format. If there was sufficient support, a planter could be sponsored by a group of residents on behalf of a Street, Road, Close, Gardens or Lane. The sponsor would then be responsible for tending the Planter by weeding it and keeping it watered in dry or hot weather.

There will be a few restrictions that must be observed such as colour of wood treatment and type/height of plants planted to comply with Highways Authority conditions.

Please contact Elaine Russell on elaine09russ@hotmail.com to register your interest in tending or sponsoring a planter and identify the preferred location.

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WEAR SOMETHING LIGHT AT NIGHT

Church Road in Westoning is a popular route for walkers and dog walkers as well as those going to the Church or Manor Fields. However, the top section of Church Road has no pavement so pedestrians and vehicles have to share the carriageway.

Most residents who drive up and down Church Road drive slowly, especially when there are pedestrians about, but the growing number of home-delivery van drivers do not always exercise the same level of caution. While it is not ideal to suggest more road signage in a village location, there may be a case for imposing a 20 MPH speed limit from 'God's Acre' along with a warning of pedestrians in the road.

Pedestrians could also help to avoid accidents by wearing a High Vis band or jacket when walking on Church Road at night or during twilight hours so that motorists can see people walking on the road well before they approach them. Pedestrians walking in groups can also enhance their safety by all being on the safe side of the road when a vehicle is approaching, especially when they have animals with them

DAMAGE TO VERGES

There are an increasing number of verges around the village where vehicles are regularly driving over the kerb causing deep muddy ruts to be gouged out. This results in an unsightly mess that makes our village look uncared for. It is an offence to drive a vehicle over a kerb onto a footpath or verge so drivers doing so are liable to prosecution.

As the Parish Council and numerous residents do all they can to make and keep the village clean and attractive, YOU can help by keeping your vehicle fully on the road or driveway if you have one.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

At the January meeting Philip Kelly, the landlord of the Chequers, was co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill a casual vacancy. This is not the first time a landlord of a village pub has been a member of the council as Richard Roberts, the landlord of the Bell was chairman of the council for many years. As a local businessman, Philip will bring a new perspective to the council's activities and we are sure his contribution will be most valuable.

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VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION

Following a very successful fundraising effort work is due to begin soon to build an extension to the front of the village hall. It will include new toilets, plus facilities for the disabled. We're also taking the opportunity to upgrade the electricity supply and I apologise in advance as this will require temporary traffic lights opposite the Village Hall on Church Road. The new supply will be underground and thus requires a trench to be dug across the road and car park.

As soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow, the hall will be open during the building work. Access will be by the side gate, across the front of the house and in through the fire exit door. Hopefully all activities will be able to resume soon; please look on our website to see what's available and to find contact details.

We're always looking for new faces to join the team of trustees who manage the hall on behalf of the village. If you're interested please contact Jill via email - enquiries.wvh@gmail.com.

BIG SCREEN FILMS

We have plans in place to start showing films again just as soon as we feel we can do so safely.

50-50 SHARE CLUB

If you'd like help raise funds and also have a chance to win one of the four monthly prizes please join our 50-50 Share Club. 'Shares' cost £1 each per month and full details are on our website or you can pick up a form from the village hall or school house next door.

COMMUNITY RECYCLING

During the building work the recycling bins will be relocated to inside the side gate of the house. We can accept all of the following but not wrapping from other products. The recycling schemes are sponsored by manufacturers and relate to products, not the type of plastic.

- Crisp packets – any brand including multipack bags
- Bread bags
- Confectionery wrappers
- Flexible cheese wrappers including all Babybel wrapping
- Dental care products (electric toothbrush heads, floss sticks & floss containers but not ordinary toothbrushes)

Registered Charity No: 300080

www.westoningvillagehall.co.uk

To make a donation to our building project please visit:
www.cafonline.org/system/charity-search-results