



Westbury Town Council

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Westbury Town Council - Update for Westbury Area Board

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic the town council has been busy supporting the Westbury community, while carrying on with business as usual. The town council and its committees continue to hold remote, public meetings via Microsoft Teams. The public can either join in the meeting (with some notice and an IT test) or simply listen using the link circulated with the agendas.

The Laverton is hosting public access to the Environmental Agency, Northacre consultation. This is arranged by appointment only and we are carefully sanitising the space to ensure we are Covid-19 secure.

The town council winter newsletter will be circulated with the White Horse News at the beginning of February. We are keen to hear feedback and comments. Have we missed anything, is there anything you would particularly like to know?

The town council elections will take place on the 6th May 2021. We would urge members of the community with an interest in local issues to stand for election. We are drafting a public information leaflet but if anyone is interested, please contact the Westbury Town Clerk to discuss.

The report below is only a small example of some of the work we are doing, if you would like to learn more, please visit our website or contact us using the details above.

Community Support

By working in partnership with Wiltshire Council, Crosspoint the White Horse Ministry and volunteers, Westbury Town Council has been able to pool resources to extend the level of funding and support needed to cater for its community during the ongoing pandemic; efforts that have recently included bringing a safe and happy festive season to many local families.

We have a core group of volunteers who make up and deliver food boxes to homes across Westbury, and in the run up to Christmas Day these deliveries, with additional festive treats were welcomed by 84 local households. In addition to this, we were able to provide Christmas gifts to 69 local children, wrapping and delivering them in time to be opened on Christmas morning.

We have been successful in securing grant funding from organisations such as SSE and Wessex Water and this generosity coupled with donations from local businesses and individuals allowed a much-needed boost to many Westbury families who have been affected by the pandemic.

Westbury Town Council's support of its community continues during this most recent lockdown with its ongoing food box delivery to the most vulnerable members of their community, and the additional service of a pastoral care phonenumber provided by Crosspoint and the White Horse Ministry. Our healthy options food boxes are currently being delivered to 46 families in Westbury every Monday and Thursday, and we aim to continue this alongside our prescription collection and dog walking services while the pandemic remains.



Climate Emergency

The town Council declared a climate emergency twelve months ago. The pandemic did temporarily stall our activities, but we have been working hard behind the scene to catch up. The Operational & Organisational Working Group developed a Climate Emergency Action Plan that was approved by the town council in September 2020. There are several projects that we now need to drive forward hopefully with the support of the community but so far, we have:

- Purchased an air quality monitor (the output can be found on our website) that is regularly moved to hot spots in the town. We have been working with Weston University who are using the data to support a community project.
- The town councillors and key staff attended carbon literacy training 28.01.21. This was delivered by the Centre of Sustainable Energy. It was educational and informative and will help the town council to move forward with its action plan.
- The Laverton Green Policy – Do's and Don'ts.
- The town council (with match funding from the Area Board) placed an order for four Vehicle Activated Speed signs (VAS). Initially, these will be placed on the gateway into the town but can be moved to monitor traffic speed in hot spots. The VAS can also record the speed of passing traffic.
- Watch your Speed, 30 MPH stickers have been purchased for residents to stick on their wheelie bins, where traffic speed is an issue.

Business Plan & Mid Term Financial Strategy - Priorities

We continue to deliver the town council's six key priorities as detailed in the Business Plan and we are working hard to finalise the mid-term financial strategy. We are about to release a public communication, reminding the community of our aims.

- Part of this includes the Vision Document for Westbury. This was developed by a specialist urban practitioner and is an aspirational look at Westbury and how the town might look and feel different with investment and partners & public approval. WE hope to share this with the public very soon for their input.
- We are looking to appoint a grant officer, this vacancy will be advertised in the next edition of the White Horse News (02.02.21), further details are available on the town council website.

Town Services & Assets

The town council offices are currently closed to the public, but a skeleton staff are still operating while the remainder of the team are working from home. Our Town Caretaker and Facilities Assistant are ensuring the public toilets are clean and in good working order (the town council has arranged for the contractor to carry out more frequent cleaning). They can easily be spotted in the town (look out for the Town Council electric van) keeping an eye on the parks, play areas and general issues such as litter.

The lockdown has provided an opportunity to improve the play areas. Repainting, repair and replacing play equipment. The town council has used S106 funding to replace the broken IPlay in Penleigh Park with an exciting new multi-play and bench.



The team are also taking the chance to carry out a number of tasks in the Laverton while the building is closed to the public (except for Northacre consultation). For example, replacing a broken hot water boiler, new taps in the kitchen, retiling the kitchen & disabled restroom and creating a memorabilia area in the Williams Room.



We will be ready to welcome people back to the Laverton as soon as restrictions and government guidance allows.

Deborah Urch – Town Clerk

01.02.21