

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman: Cllr G Fuller Parish Clerk: Mrs L J Welch FILCM

Established 2011

Precept 2017/18

This year, Westfield Parish Council is pleased to say that it has not increased its Band D equivalent on the precept and therefore residents of Westfield living in an 'average' band D property will pay the same rate on the Parish Council precept in 2017/18 as they did in 2016/17. The precept tax for a Band D equivalent home for the year 2017/18 will be £98.72. This is taken from a total precept for Westfield in 2017/18 of £181,953.

The purpose of this leaflet is to set out the main areas of our work and to highlight where the public money is spent within the Parish Council.

How and why are we freezing the Band D Equivalent this year?

Westfield Parish Council faces the same inflationary increases in the cost of products and services as all organisations. However, we are conscious of the financial strain on households at the current time and with the likely rise in other costs the Parish Council wanted the precept cost to residents to be one of the few that did not increase. With careful monitoring of our expenditure and healthy reserves as a result of careful spending and investment in previous years we are in a position where we can freeze the Band D equivalent this year (2017/18).

However, we are conscious that it is becoming more difficult to keep costs down and in the current climate where all resources are stretched it is possible that the precept may need to be increased again in the future. We will endeavour to keep this to a minimum.

Exactly what services does the Parish Council offer?

- The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on **planning applications** and provides a local voice on **highways** and **environmental matters**.
- It is working towards a **Neighbourhood Plan** for Westfield, which, once approved by referendum will direct future developments in the Parish.
- The Parish Council manages **sports and leisure facilities** at Norton Hill Recreation Ground and Westhill Recreation Ground.
- These facilities offer football pitches, a tennis court, play areas, BMX track, table tennis, boules, basketball and bowling (with one rink open to non-bowling club members).



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- It supports the **parish environment** by funding the Christmas Lights and the Switch on Event.
- It also funds the hanging baskets and the planting schemes in the decorative pit trucks around the parish, the raised beds at Jubilee Green shops and the curved end of the raised flower bed outside the Westfield Methodist Church.
- The Parish Council supports **local organisations** through grant funding.
- It manages the emptying of most of the dog bins in the parish and maintains some of the benches.

How did the Parish Council perform in the last year?

In 2016 the Neighbourhood Plan working group began work in earnest in drawing up a vision for Westfield. This began with a series of public events at which residents were invited to give their views as well as a household survey which was sent to all homes in the Parish and which received an excellent response from residents. Children from Westfield Primary School designed the plan's logos and we set up a Facebook page to keep residents up to date with what is planned. Going forward the group has commissioned a feasibility study into the potential for a community centre for Westfield and is starting to develop the main themes and policies for the plan. New residents on the working group are always welcome.



In June 2016 the Westfield Fun Day enjoyed a fifth successful year once again attended by a record number of residents and visitors and offering a variety of activities with some old favourites as well as new delights.

The Fun Fair made a welcome return for the third year in a row and was enjoyed by many hundreds of visitors from Westfield and beyond. Having consulted with the residents local to the recreation ground the Parish Council was pleased to put in place conditions which ensured that the event was of minimal disruption to them. Thanks go to the grounds contractors who were able to return the ground to its former state for the continued enjoyment of residents through the summer.

The hard work of volunteers who planted 4000 daffodil bulbs last winter at Wesley Avenue and Jubilee Green was rewarded with a beautiful display throughout the Spring. An equally hardy and even smaller group of volunteers did the Parish proud with the planting and maintenance of the coal trucks at Elm Tree Avenue and Ruskin



Road and the new flower beds around the trees on Jubilee Green were awash with vibrant colours right through into the Autumn.



The annual Front Garden Competition in July received a record number of entrants kindly judged by horticulture specialists from Bath College. The top prizes went to Mitchard's Butcher's and 4 Inner Elm Terrace.

The Parish Council was delighted to support a number of local organisations through grants provision this year amongst them the provision of a night café for young people in Westfield to meet through the year.

Finally, this year we have added to the festive lights on lampposts so that they extend further through the Parish. We hope that the lights, along with the Christmas trees, brighten up the dreary evenings as well as providing some daytime Christmas cheer with their colourful designs. The switch-on event was blessed once again with good weather and attracted a record number of residents with music from the Silver Band and Westfield Ladies Choir and a performance of Westfield Primary School and Kilter Theatre's Song for Westfield. With the usual mince pies, mulled wine and a visit from Father Christmas the event is now firmly placed in the Parish calendar.

What is new for the next financial year?

With the Neighbourhood Plan now pushing ahead the working group will be drawing up policies and aspirations for the Parish culminating in a public consultation on the draft plan ahead of the Inspector's examination and finally, a Parish referendum to approve the Plan.

The Environment and Development committee is working on a Heritage Walk for Westfield to incorporate interpretative signage and maps. The Parish Council is also very keen to continue to support youth provision in Westfield and has budgeted funds for this purpose. We hope that our community events and initiatives will continue to flourish as they establish their place in the annual Parish calendar. A new contractor has been appointed for delivery and maintenance of the hanging baskets and flower displays.

Your Parish Council is working to provide the best possible environment and services for the people of Westfield. We positively encourage your views and suggestions for the future of our Parish.

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