

WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman: Cllr G Fuller Parish Clerk: Ms L J Close FSLCC

Spending in Westfield 2019/20

This year Westfield Parish Council has introduced a small increase in its precept (a levy on residential properties in the area) amounting to a precept of £198,650, equating to £102.47 for an average band D property per year, an increase of £3.47 per year.

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.

Why are we increasing the Band D Equivalent this year?

Conscientious monitoring of income and expenditure over the years has enabled Westfield Parish Council to create a stable financial base from which it can work towards delivering projects for the community.

We are aware that our unitary authority, Bath and North East Somerset Council, has faced some severe budget cuts over recent years which have impacted on the services in Westfield. For example, last year BANES stopped funding youth service provision in Westfield completely.



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Established 2011

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 has a **Neighbourhood Plan** which directs future developments in the Parish.
- It funds **youth services** as part of a wider Cluster Group
- 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).
- It encourages **community spirit** by funding events such as the Christmas Lights and the Switch-on event and the summer Fun Day.
- It supports the **parish environment** by funding the hanging baskets and the planting schemes in the decorative pit trucks around the parish, as well as the raised beds at Jubilee Green shops and campaigning to keep footpaths clear.
- The Parish Council supports **local organisations** through grant funding.
- The Parish Council provides and, in partnership with community organisations, maintains four **public access defibrillators** in the parish.

How did the Parish Council perform in the last year?

2018 saw three years of hard work on the Westfield Neighbourhood Plan come to fruition when it was passed at a referendum of the parish and agreed by Bath and North East Somerset Council.



The Neighbourhood Plan is now part of planning policy in this area, informing the standard and type of new housing and business development, the use of green space and amenities.

The cost of youth services in Westfield were met by the Parish Council this year and it is good to see the Tuesday evening youth work at the Trinity Methodist Hall Westfield go from strength to strength. Below, Youth Connect describe their work.

“We have run a number of projects so far; all of these have come from what the young people of Westfield said they would like to do, and from us assessing their needs.

The music project still runs each week and has been our most successful project with lots of young people getting involved and getting accredited for their time and dedication they have put in to learning new skills.

Some young people from Westfield were given the opportunity to perform at a local spring festival, Youth Connected. We hosted a youth tent and young people helped to plan and run the event as well as perform.



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We run cookery sessions each week and this is always very popular. Young people decide what they would like to cook and a senior youth member has written all ingredients and planned out what we need to bring each week.

We held a BBQ at the park recently that was very well attended, we also invited some street performers from the natural theatre company to join us. They engaged young people in street theatre and fancy dress and took videos of young people acting in the park. This was a very good opportunity for young people to be creative and work with an amazing outside agency.

We have run a number of different issue based workshops including things like alcohol safety information, sexual health help advice and information and work around revision and exam stress. Young people like to relax and be creative in our sessions so we have a chill out space where they can colour, paint, do arts and crafts and listen to music.”

More Christmas lights were added to the lampposts this year so that driving through Westfield in December was bright and festive.

The Lights Switch-On event attracted a record number of residents, who attended for the carols, the Christmas message from Rev. Roussel, the complimentary mulled wine and visit to Father Christmas.



It was another successful year for the Summer Fun Day at Westhill Recreation Ground and the Fun Fair at Norton Hill Recreation Ground was welcomed back by local people.



The Inspirational Citizen Award was launched in 2018 with the first recipient, marathon man John Reynolds, being honoured for his commitment to encouraging running and promoting Westfield nationwide with the Westfield TT running group.

The Front Garden competition saw residents of Glebelands win the best front garden category for their excellent choice of plants providing colour all year round with effective variation of height and well thought out design.



Residents of Kestrel Place won the best container category.



A small area of unsightly land at Birch Road was made ready for planting by the Parish Council and planted up voluntarily by a local resident.

Litter picking events were co-ordinated through the year by a local councillor and go a long way to keeping Westfield tidy.

The 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1 saw the first remembrance event at the memorial stone at the top of Elm Tree Avenue.



In December the Parish Council forged links with Westfield Massachusetts with a radio link up to help them celebrate the start of their 350th birthday. Chair of the Council Geoff Fuller said, “It was fascinating to be in the recording studio and to be able to see the two men we were talking to on a video link. There is a huge difference between the two Westfields in terms of size. Otherwise it is eery how many similarities there are in our histories. Both communities began as agricultural areas and both have a history in manufacturing. There are numerous place names around Westfield MA that also exist in the vicinity of Westfield here – for example, Southwick, Southampton, Blandford and Bristol. It was a real pleasure to chat to Bryan Sullivan and Harry Rock and a huge thank you to BBC Somerset for enabling it to happen.”

What is new for 2019/20?

The Neighbourhood Plan highlighted the need for more allotments in Westfield and we are working with Westfield Allotment and Garden Society towards creating a new site at Larch Court.

A Westfield Green and Open Spaces Working Group has been set up to prioritise and drive projects to enhance our open green space. The renovation of the old Roman Road footpath was one item raised by local people in the Neighbourhood Plan. Others include the renovation of Snails Brook and the linking of land at Shakespeare Road Play Area with the new town park in Midsomer Norton via a nature trail with picnic facilities. A stand-alone pavilion at Westhill Recreation Ground is being investigated and funding sources are being explored.

The replacement of the rapidly deteriorating wooden ‘fort’ at Westhill play area is being arranged with a modern and challenging alternative. We are working with BANES towards the renovation of Shakespeare Road play area, funded entirely by developer contributions.

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. Residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council and you can view our 2019/20 budget at any time on our website.



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