

Westbury Leigh Village Association Newsletter

Newsletter Number 1 – May 2007

Many people believe that Westbury Leigh is a community with great potential. The idea of setting up a Village Association was first discussed recently at an informal gathering at the home of Sue and Ian Taylor. The village was then leafleted and an open meeting was held at the Community Hall on 18th April.

The meeting was lively and very well attended by around thirty people who agreed that the best way forward was to produce this newsletter. Ten people volunteered to become involved in the newsletter. We expect it will be the first of many group initiatives.

Invitation

Why not come along and find out more at the next meeting of the Westbury Leigh Village Association at 7pm at the Community Hall on Friday 8th June 2007.

There will be regular meetings to which everyone is welcome, and a regular newsletter to which anyone can contribute. We hope that these will happen about every six weeks.

Why Have a Village Association?

Strength: When important issues arise and official bodies (such as the District Council) need to be contacted, we gain strength from the name of the Village Association.

Discussion: Residents can use meetings of the Village Association to discuss issues that are important to them.

Contacts: The Village Association can provide a network of contacts

Interests: If you have a special interest relating to the village (e.g. architecture, wildlife, history....) the Association can help you connect with others.

Social Events: A street party? Entertainments at the Community Hall?

Nick

A Questionnaire

Those who attended the first meetings had a lot of suggestions and ideas about the issues that might concern local residents. It was also felt that the Residents Association should have a clear idea of what the majority of local residents feel is important.

To that end, we will be shortly distributing a questionnaire which will address some of the issues that have been already raised.

If you would take the time to fill it in then we can compile the results and print them in the next newsletter. This is one way everyone can have a voice.

Debs

Advertising Do you live in Westbury Leigh and run a business? Would you like to advertise in this newsletter for just £7.50 (Sample size of ad below). We distribute to 500 households; you would also be contributing to the cost of this newsletter. If you are interested please contact one of the numbers below.

Contacts

If you would like to make contact earlier, please feel free to phone or email:

Debs and Nick: Tel: 302226 Email: njsherwood@hotmail.co.uk

Ian and Sue: Tel: 822659 Email: ianandsusan.taylor@zen.co.uk

BA13 Computer Services

Edward Coleman
BSC (hons) Business Information Technology

Tuition – Advice – PC Setups
Email – Internet
Web and Database Design

www.ba13.co.uk email: ed@ba13.co.uk
Tel: 01373 824215 Mob 07922 396568

Advertise Here

For £7.50

Where is Westbury Leigh?

Westbury Leigh was once about the same size as Westbury and completely separate from it. Times have changed, but Westbury Leigh still has its own identity, different from both Westbury and now Leigh Park. For the purpose of the residents' association, Westbury Leigh is defined as the whole of the street Westbury Leigh and its adjoining streets plus Laverton Road and its adjoining streets. (See Fig. 1 for illustration) **Angela**



Fig. 1 (sample map of Westbury Leigh)

Here are some examples of matters already raised by local people

The Car Park: Following extensive lobbying from an impromptu local pressure group, West Wiltshire District Council has modified its plan to build on Westbury Leigh Car Park. Instead of completely closing the car park to build eight houses on the site, the Council now proposes to build five houses, leaving 17 public car parking spaces. Revised plans are due to be submitted to the Planning Committee, probably in June.

It is important that the lobbying continues, particularly at the Planning Committee meeting, to ensure that the Council finally realises how critical the preservation of the car park is to the village community. The whole of the car park should remain publicly available. **John**

History: Are you interested in the history of Westbury Leigh? Have you any fascinating stories to tell of the old Westbury Leigh Village? Has the village changed since you first moved here, or were even born here? Do you think it would be interesting to find out? We would really like to start a group to investigate this and get stories written down. **Lynne**

Footpaths: As a recent arrival to Westbury Leigh, and dog owner, I was horrified at the condition of the local footpaths which really are not safe to walk on. As a village association we could lobby the council to clear the footpaths and force the landowners to remove the barbed wire which blocks the paths in many areas. **Sue**

Gardens: Anyone interested in gardening? How about starting a group where we could swap plants, tips etc and also be able to nose into other peoples gardens?! **Lynne**

Community Hall: The Community Hall at the Holy Saviour Church is an important focal point for the village. It is run as a charitable trust, managed entirely by local people as a not-for-profit enterprise. The proposed residents' association will work closely with the Trust to ensure that the Hall continues and is further developed as the hub of our community. **John**

Village Shop: We can't replace the old post office or compete with Tesco, but there may be demand for a village shop. The 'shop' could be used as a local information centre, internet café, drop-off and collection point for dry-cleaner / butcher / fishmonger / baker etc. **Sue**

Neighbourhood Watch: There is a shortage of volunteers. Please see the enclosed leaflet. **Derek**

Fundraising

We will need money (for the Newsletter and the hire of the Community Hall, for example). We are looking for several people to form a fundraising group. If you feel you can help, please come to the meeting or phone one of the contact numbers on the back.