

Westbury Leigh Village Association

*Minutes of meeting held 7.30pm 26 July 2007
Westbury Leigh Community Hall*

Present: 22 residents

1 *Report from Treasurer*

Local sources of funding have been investigated. This is no longer urgent as the Community Hall Committee has made a generous donation of £300, which will cover the cost of newsletters and room bookings for several months.

The upper room should be booked for future meetings – it would be cheaper, the atmosphere would be more informal and it would be easier to hear people.

People with small businesses were reminded that they could advertise at very modest rates in the newsletter and on the WLVA website.

2 *Traffic*

A general discussion on traffic in Westbury Leigh included the following points:

- 2.1 Residents of longstanding consider that current traffic levels are nothing compared with what it used to be like, but more recent residents do have concerns
- 2.2 Specific problems depend on exactly where on the road people live
- 2.3 In spite of the Leigh Park link road, there is still through traffic eg people from Dilton Marsh using Westbury Leigh from habit and people directed by sat-nav systems (which show Westbury Leigh as the direct route from Frome to Westbury)
- 2.4 The Spur (from the roundabout at the end of Westbury Leigh) will be closed for 5 weeks from 30th July; this will show what Westbury Leigh as a cul de sac would be like
- 2.5 There is a removal business (“In Transit”) at The Maltings; recently there has been an increase in the number of pantechnicons travelling down Westbury Leigh and they have been parking and manoeuvring inappropriately.

Action:

Everyone to report back at next meeting on the impact of The Spur closure

The Secretary to gather facts about the In Transit lorries and write to the manager (and possibly the landlord of the premises) about the impact on residents.

3 *Social events*

The landlord of The Hollies offered to host a barbecue with free food for Westbury Leigh residents (weather permitting). It was agreed that the best date/time would be a Sunday afternoon in August (preferably not the bank holiday weekend). The front garden of the Community Hall was suggested as an alternative venue. It was suggested that there should be something for children eg a bouncy castle.

It was pointed out that there will be a large green at the bottom of Church Lane once the Persimmon site office has moved (due in about a month). It may be possible to use this for future events.

Action:

The Chairman to agree date and venue with The Hollies.

Lynne Sonnet and Debs Sage to design a leaflet (to accompany the next newsletter) giving details of the barbecue.

Volunteer needed to own the overall organisation of the event.

4 *Any other business*

- 4.1 The landlord of The Hollies was asked about his planning application for an extension. He explained that his objectives were to:
- 1 move the pool table from the bar area to the back of the premises
 - 2 create a better atmosphere for families and those wanting a quiet drink
 - 3 bring the restaurant more up market
 - 4 reduce noise.
- 4.2 Some residents have started to look into the possibility of Westbury Leigh establishing its own Parish Council (ie secession from Westbury Town Council). This is particularly relevant given the approval for the Wiltshire unitary authority, to which parish and town councils will report directly.

At least 250 signatures from residents on the electoral roll in a clearly defined area are needed to start the process, which takes about a year. The Parish Council would be a statutory body, with elected councillors, and would have more weight than the Village Association.

There was some debate on whether a parish council would benefit the village and whether any residents would actually volunteer to serve on it. It was felt that Council membership could be used as a “stepping stone” by non-residents, rather than being for the real benefit of the village.

Action:

Sue Wilkin to find out information about the new unitary authority and to identify a Dilton Marsh Parish Councillor who would be willing to talk about the role of the Dilton Marsh Parish Council to WLVA.

- 4.3 Some residents have met with Simon Philpott, West Wiltshire District Council Parking Project Manager.

He was reassuring about the future of the car park – he has no plans to change its conditions of use. He also said that he would be receptive to proposals from the WLVA (or other Westbury Leigh community group) for the lease or purchase of the car park from WWDC.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.