Welcome to the Summer Newsletter of West Parley Parish Council.
The Parish Council continue to work tirelessly in order to represent the interests of all residents in planning, local events and other initiatives that affect the lives of us all.

There are ever growing pressures on our community from increased economic activity, as well as pressure on our housing. As you may remember West Parley Parish Council along with many residents were rigorous in our opposition to the 2 West Parley developments when they were first proposed in the core strategy. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful (albeit that the Northern development has since been radically scaled down). However, the first of the two big developments sanctioned by East Dorset District Council (Wyatt Homes development of 320 houses to the South of New Road), as part of the Core Strategy, has now reached the planning stage. West Parley Parish Council has been invited to meet the Planning Consultants for Wyatt Homes in a closed session in early July. This is good practice within the planning process and gives councillors, who represent the residents of West Parley, the opportunity to review the plans ahead of the public exhibition.

Wyatt Homes Public Exhibition, scheduled for 11th July, between 4pm and 8pm, at West Parley Memorial Hall,
We would strongly encourage as many of you to attend as possible. This is your opportunity to look at the plans for the proposed development, to raise concerns and to ask questions. Please keep an eye on all Council communications, so we can keep you updated as things progress.

Thank you to all who helped the Council win a bid for £2000 from the Groundworks Tesco ‘Bags of Help’ by posting blue tokens at local Tesco Stores, on our behalf, in pursuit of outdoor gym apparatus for West Parley Recreation Ground. We have since received a similar funding commitment from the Steve Bernard Foundation and so are well on our way to reaching our £8000 target, which will allow works to begin on the recreation ground.

In addition to the gym development, the Council has entered a new bid to Tesco to develop the play area with a new wooden seesaw. Please watch out for this at your local Tesco and support us if you can.
The Council is mindful that the Recreation Ground is potentially vulnerable to unauthorised encampments by travellers. This was brought home by a recent incursion in the Memorial Hall car park. Fortunately, due to prompt action by numerous residents who raised the alert and support from Dorset Police, the travellers were moved on within 16 hours of arrival and major damage was, on this occasion, avoided. With this in mind we have installed bollards at the North end of the Recreation Ground and have increased security at the main entrance with the siting of 2 large boulders to narrow the entrance.

The West Parley Parish Guide is now complete and should have been delivered with your recent Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter. Thanks go to Councillor Bundy for her efforts in compiling this guide which, I’m sure you would agree, is a superb representation of our wonderful village! Also grateful thanks to Chrissie Davies and Juli Harman. Additional copies of the guide will be available from the Parish Clerk, in Tesco West Parley and Parley Pharmacy/Post Office as well as being printable from the website.

We are fortunate to have such splendid sporting facilities in West Parley. Although the Parish Council are not involved in the day to day running of Parley Sports Club (to whom we lease the Clubhouse and grounds), it is our mission to support the pursuit of all aspects of sport taking place on the grounds.
West Parley Parish Council Personnel Changes

Councillor Diana Penwill stepped down from her role as Vice-Chair. The Council would like to thank her for all of her hard work in this role. Diana remains on the Council none the less and continues her excellent work helping and supporting our village and the community. Councillor John Dinsdale has become Vice-Chair. We also welcome 2 new councillors: Lynn Wilson and John Barber. There has been a 5% increase in the Parish Council precept this year. This is the first increase in 5 years. We are fortunate that much maintenance around the village is carried out for free thanks to the goodwill of the West Parley Residents Association volunteers. However, the increase is necessary to keep pace with other costs and will only amount to around £1.50 for most families.

We are aware that Bournemouth 7s festival caused some concerns this year. The organisers work hard to minimise impact on local residents. We will be having a debrief meeting with them shortly, so please forward any thoughts or concerns to the Parish Clerk (enquiries@westparley-pc.gov.uk) to be included in our discussions.

West Parley Residents Association (WPRA) has entered the village in the Dorset Best Kept Village awards for 2017. After coming second in the Large Village category at the first entry in 2016, it is hoped that a first place will be within reach this year. Village volunteers do a huge amount of work throughout the year to keep the village tidy by trimming verge edges, maintaining 25 roadside planters and public gardens, as well as frequently litter picking the verges of the main roads, for which the Council is extremely grateful. Thanks also go to the many residents who keep the outside of their properties tidy to support the competition entry. The competition looks at almost all areas of the village including shops, business premises, public recreation areas and public buildings, churches and the condition of main roads. Judging is between 1st May and 31st July.

Heritage Project at Dudsbury Rings

After the WPRA also winning the Environmental Champions award in 2016, the village has been entered into the Peoples Project category of this year’s awards. This is for the work being led by the Girl Guides, as landowners of part of the Dudsbury Iron Age hill fort.

Upcoming events include:

- Garden Competition: Best Front Garden, Best Back Garden and Best Hanging Basket (Entries Close 1st July. Entry forms available on WPPC website and at Tesco).
- ‘Sting in the tale’: Two hours of Storytelling and other activities for our children at the West Parley Memorial Hall.
- ‘Nuts About Nature’: 2 hours of FREE fun in Parley Woods, the Parish Council’s hidden gem, with Moors Valley Rangers on 14th August. Perfect for children of all ages with an interest in nature. Together with the Rangers, families can explore different habitats and find out about the creatures that live there. All the sessions provide children with an opportunity to learn about wildlife in a fun ‘hands-on’ experience.

For dates and times of the above events keep an eye on the Parish Council facebook page and website: www.westparley-pc.gov.uk

There are also many events organised by local groups who are always looking for new members. The Garden Club meets at the sports club on the last Tuesday of each month (except August) and have a variety of speakers throughout the year. There are health walks, WI meetings, Rotary Club and Townswomen’s Guild. Details of all of these groups and more can be found on the West Parley Parish Council website.

www.westparley-pc.gov.uk
www.westparleymemorialhall.org.uk

WANTED

The WPRA are always looking for more volunteers and the Council are always on the lookout for new Councillors. So if you want to help and meet some new neighbours... we’d love to see you! See our website!