

WESTERFIELD

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 25th April 2018

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2017/2018

CHAIRMANS' ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

PLANNING REPORT

ANNUAL REPORTS FROM

LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

and, if applicable, written reports from our

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR
SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCILOR

Chairmans' Annual report 2017-18

Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 25th April 2018

This is the 11th occasion that I have prepared the report for the Annual Parish Meeting and as I started I thought "I have probably said this before"! Turning up the back copies confirmed my thoughts and many of the issues keep coming back – some more frequently than others!

Two years ago we reflected that although exceptionally busy the only thing that happened was "words" either being read in consultation documents or written in requests that seemed to be getting nowhere. Then last year I reported that some things had actually happened and decisions made – well this last twelve months have been a bit of both – some notable happenings and also a lot of unsatisfactory responses. Notably the defibrillator was installed at the Village Hall and a good number attended the evening to explain what it does and how it can be used. It was also encouraging that a number of local people are interested in further training to further improve the potential effectiveness of this equipment.

The Parish Council has had a full complement of members throughout the year who have all contributed to the work of the Council. I thank them all for their support and their commitment to the village. We have also been pleased to be working with our Clerk, Rod Caird, who has guided us through some of the difficult pieces of legislation that we have to work to. This has been the first year for a long time that Yvonne Maynard has not been a member of the Parish Council but we are indebted to her for organising our Litter Pick on April 14th - in fact my notes for the 2008 meeting thanked Yvonne for the same task that year and she has been doing it ever since!

It was interesting that in 2008 a Public Meeting was held in Westerfield with the Planning Officer of Suffolk Coastal about a possible development of 1000 homes between Rushmere St Andrew and Church Lane Westerfield. It surprises me that less than 20 attended that meeting in 2008 and yet during the last year there have been more than that number when the Parish Council discussed much smaller planning applications in the village.

The 2008 report also discussed the Local Government Boundary Review and it now appears the County Council wants this to be raised again. Party political issues suggest that this not likely to be well supported but it is still apparent that the general public are confused about who does what. Meanwhile the District Councils are doing their own thing by merging or collaboratively working together.

The review of Local Plans is now being considered by the District Councils – The First Consultation and call-for site created a lot of interest in October and the next stage of consultation is awaited. When published it is likely to identify numbers and locations of sites that will be included in the plan for up to 2035. The Parish Council made a strong case for maintaining the character of Westerfield but until the next round of consultation we hold our breath!

I expressed concern last year about the lack of a police presence in the village and being part of a Safer Neighbourhood Team covering 47 parishes. We have had the benefit of the Mobile Police Station in the village once every two months on a Wednesday morning but even that is to be reconsidered to see if it is being effective. Perhaps it is a question of "use it or lose it". Our thanks to Peter Hudson for attending SNT meetings in Woodbridge to maintain a village interest.

With the support of the Police and County Council more parishes now operate Speedwatch schemes. Westerfield Parish Council are now managing the costs of the Fynn Valley group and hence a separate account is included in the Finance Summary. The Westerfield volunteer team are all registered with the Police and operate within Police rules. We now have the Speedwatch camera every four weeks and the team is led by Barry Reeve who organises the rotas for the equipment and the volunteer staff. It is noticeable that when in operation t

here are less speeding motorists than when this initiative first started – the ultimate success would be that no one speeds and the service would be unnecessary but until then we seek to maintain this service which ensures greater awareness of speeding to drivers.

Rosie Horsfield has been pursuing Suffolk Better Broadband for a definitive action plan and timeline to show when Westerfield will get “Better Broadband” and eventually see an upgrade to a “Superfast” service. There have been so many conflicting statements that it has been impossible to be confident about the dates and magnitude of improvements. Suffice it to say we have two broadband cabinets in the village and that should enable some improvement – but how much and when?

A village-wide consultation led to a Parish Plan being prepared in 2006. This led to an action plan whereby many initiatives were introduced to the community. The success of some of those initiatives was that they were being organised by local people for local people. It is important to realise however that the population of the village is changing and it is essential that younger members of the community and newcomers to the village are integrated and given the opportunity to support and organise activities for us all. Society makes many demands on peoples’ time but the feeling of being a community rather than a dormitory is worth preserving. I do not have a magic wand but believe we have to be active in maintaining this status.

Although there was advance publicity about East Anglia Windfarms there has been surprise that the works going on in fields around Westerfield are connected with that project. Scottish Power have regularly been in contact to ensure that footpath closures and road traffic management issues are brought to our attention and I have obtained information that may be of interest for the later presentation. Similarly there has been talk about the “Upper Orwell Crossings” but little discussion about what they may do to alleviate traffic problems in Ipswich and the surrounding areas especially when the Orwell Bridge is closed. So more information on that project later!

Network Rail have indicated that as part the Level Crossing improvements there will be a number of short weekend closures of the B1077 **for all traffic** at the Level Crossing and one more lengthy closure in 2019. Remembering the chaos caused by a similar closure last year with busses and lorries in Church Lane please take the opportunity to make representations when you get the opportunity.

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that come into force at the end of May have been designed with all the best intentions of ensuring privacy but they place a potentially restrictive burden on local communities and organisations who rely on interaction dialogue with their communities. The Parish Council have to be audited as to how they comply with these regulations but I hope this will not hinder the ability to contact each other within the village on local matters.

Finally, last year we had two elections and this year we should have none, but next year 2019 will be at least two, the Parish Council and the new East Suffolk District Council elections.

Peter Miller (Chairman)

Websites

Westerfield Village Web-site

This can be found at www.westerfield-village.co.uk and contains details about village activities and a news section for current information. It is kept up to date by Val Byrne so please help her by forwarding anything of interest about the village and what is going on. The number of hits being made shows that it is being read by many people, both local and from further afield.

Parish Council Web-site

This can be found at www.westerfield.onesuffolk.net and contains agendas and minutes of parish council meetings and reports as well as other information.

Financial Report 2017-2018

Income and expenditure

The precept and a small amount of interest made up the regular income during the year. Hedge and grass cutting costs, street lighting charges, and general administration costs have increased over the year and Insurance is regularly monitored to maintain adequate cover for the risks involved. The grant to the Parochial Church Council towards maintenance costs includes the grant which should have been paid in the previous year. The Parish Council purchased a defibrillator for the benefit of the village.

The Parish Council received a grant of £1,395 from our District Councillor's budget towards the cost of acquiring defibrillator, and £8,409.35 from Suffolk Coastal as the Parish's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) entitlement. This sum comes from new build ventures in the parish and has to be spent within five years on community projects.

Note that since March 31, 2018, a further £200 has been received from Parish Councils participating in the Speedwatch scheme. There is therefore no deficit currently on that account.

Bank Balances

As at the 31st March 2018 the Deposit Account stands at £46,098.73 and the Current Account at £1,255.07 making a total of £47,353.80. A payment made by cheque and not yet presented amounts to £140.00 leaving an actual balance carried forward of £47,213.80. The following table shows a summary of receipts and payments for 2017/18 for the revenue account, reserve account and the speedwatch account.

The Parish Council is holding, as per recent meeting minutes, a specific reserve of £25,000 against the cost of traffic calming measures which have not been invoiced by the County Council. That reserve, plus the CIL payment, accounts for a large majority of the sums held in the Council's Deposit Account.

Future Plans

Services provided by the County Council and District Council are at a minimum level and require input from the Parish Council to meet expectations of village cleanliness and appearance. It is likely that further work will need to be carried out locally in the coming year. Further street lighting replacements will soon be needed for the remaining Parish Council owned lights. It is also anticipated that the new Data Protection Regulations will present costs to the Parish Council.

Rod Caird – Clerk/Financial Officer

Westerfield Parish Council Accounts Summary 2017-18

	April 1, 2017	<i>April 1, 2016</i>
Revenue Account	3158.10	<i>1598.63</i>
Reserve Account	32914.11	<i>31016.41</i>
Total	36072.21	<i>32615.04</i>

Receipts and Spend					
	2017/18	<i>2016/17</i>		2017/18	<i>2016/7</i>
Receipts			Spend		
Precept	9370.00	<i>9380.28</i>	Admin Costs		
VAT Refund	289.55	<i>00.00</i>	Salary and travel	2931.05	<i>2438.06</i>
Speedwatch	200.00	<i>125.00</i>	Stationery etc	231.60	<i>863.86</i>
Bank Interest	20.27	<i>17.42</i>	Audit Fee	210.00	<i>248.80</i>
Suffolk Coastal re Defib	1395.00		Subscriptions	376.68	<i>368.89</i>
Suffolk Coastal re CIL	8409.35		Training	00.00	<i>18.00</i>
			website	60.00	<i>50.00</i>
			Running Costs		
			Grass Cutting	888.00	<i>600.00</i>
			Street Lights	462.71	<i>586.61</i>
			Insurance	304.18	<i>314.47</i>
			Hall Hire	98.00	<i>68.00</i>
			Other	180.36	<i>108.30</i>
			Other payments		
			S137	00.00	<i>246.23</i>
			Grant to Village Hall	00.00	<i>00.00</i>
			Transfer to S/watch a/c	00.00	<i>50.00</i>
			Grant to PCC	900.00	<i>255.00</i>
			Defibrillator	1674.00	<i>00.00</i>
			Speedwatch	216.00	<i>00.00</i>
Total Receipts	19684.17	<i>9522.70</i>	Total payments	8532.58	<i>6377.17</i>
			bal. at 31/3/18	1255.07	<i>1598.63</i>

Speedwatch					
Receipts	2017/18	<i>2016/7</i>	Payments	2017/18	<i>2016/7</i>
bal. bf April 1	-90.98	<i>10.43</i>	New camera		<i>0.00</i>
From parishes	200.00	<i>125.00</i>	Misc. replacements	216.00	<i>276.41</i>
From Westerfield		<i>50.00</i>			
Total Receipts	109.02	<i>185.43</i>	Total Payments	216.00	<i>276.41</i>

		bal. at 31/3/18		-106.98		-90.98	
Overall reconciliation	2017/18	<i>2016/7</i>		2017/18	<i>2016/7</i>		
Balance of Reserve account at 31/3/18	46,098.73	<i>32,914.11</i>		Bank Balances as at 31/3/2018	47,353.80	<i>36072.21</i>	
Balance of Revenue account at 31/3/18	1,255.07	<i>3158.10</i>		Less cheques paid but not yet presented	140.00	<i>538.05</i>	
Balance c/f 2017/18	47,353.80	<i>35534.16</i>		Adjusted Balance	47,213.80	<i>35534.16</i>	

(all above figures subject to audit and final approval of Parish Council)

Westerfield Parish Council Planning Report for 2017-2018

Westerfield Parish Council have been consulted on a further 12 planning applications for the village over the last year. Of the applications considered there were six applications for house extensions and conversions and four to vary conditions on previously approved applications. The Parish Council generally did not object to these applications but where necessary did make significant comments to ensure that the works being considered were not detrimental to drainage and rights of way in the village.

The two applications for outline housing development in the village were both considered in detail by the Parish Council and resulted in objections that the developments did not comply with the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and other local issues.

Last year it was reported that an application for housing development on land at The Mount in Church Lane was rejected by Suffolk Coastal but this was the subject of an appeal against this refusal. The appeal was successful and the Secretary of State has instructed that this application should now be approved

The East Suffolk Local Plan has now been formally adopted and includes two sites that are considered suitable for possible development during the next ten years. One of these sites is the Old Station Works near the Westerfield Business Centre where an application has been approved for a mixed development for housing and light industrial/commercial use employment. The other site is that alongside Lower Road between The Oaks and Linden Cottage where no formal application has yet been submitted.

All applications for further housing need to be carefully considered in the light of ongoing permissions in the village and the cumulative effect on the character of Westerfield. Details are listed below. More information on all planning applications can be found on the website www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Registered Date	No.	Location	Proposal	Parish Council Observations	Suffolk Coastal Decision
Outstanding Applications pending consideration from previous years					
	IP14/00638/OUTFUL	Ipswich Garden Suburb Fonnereau Village	Amended to exclude the detailed application section- further details of outline.	Continue to object but also to stress that drainage works in Henley gate must occur prior to building on	Provisional permission granted but subject to resolution of identified constraints

22/06/2016	DC/16/259 2/OUT	Henley Gate Henley Road Ipswich Suffolk IP6 9AA	<u>Mixed use development comprising up to 1,100 residential dwellings (C3); a local centre inc. up to 250sqm (net) of convenience floor space (A1), up to 300sqm of comparison floorspace (A1), up to 250sqm in use classes A1-A5; and up to 500sqm community centre (D1); provision of land for a primary school (D1); provision of sports facilities, Country Park (including visitor centre D1) and open space (including amenity space/childrens play areas and allotments) and sustainable urban drainage systems; associated landscaping, infrastructure and engineering/earthworks; and the creation of 2No. new vehicular accesses from Henley Road, 1No. vehicular access from Westerfield Road (to serve Country Park only), pedestrian/cycle bridge over railway and vehicular bridge over railway (access only).</u>	this section Objected as:- a) cumulative drainage effects from the whole Ipswich Garden Suburb and global warming are not proven to be negligible on properties in Westerfield. b) the east/west route across North Ipswich will not cope with the traffic from the Ipswich Garden Suburb. c) traffic forecast on local roads in Westerfield is underestimated and will have a detrimental effect on the village environment and Road Safety.	(Ipswich BC) Application Permitted subject to further details on air quality effects.
05/07/2016	DC/16/276 5/FUL	Land North Of The Mount Church Lane Westerfield Suffolk	<u>Erection of 5no. new dwellings</u>	Objected as not acceptable under SCDC Local Plan and unsatisfactory access	Application Refused but Secretary of State has approved on appeal
26/09/2016	DC/16/403 0/VOC	Development Site Fullers Field Westerfield IP6 9AX	<u>Variation of Condition 2 on application DC/14/3660/FUL - Extension of existing access road and erection of fourteen new dwellings including four affordable homes - Re-positioning of Plot 13, removal of internal garage and provide an additional bedroom, and the erection of a detached cart lodge to serve the house</u>	No comment	Was pending consideration Now Application Permitted
26/09/2016	DC/16/403 1/VOC	The Lilacs Fullers Field Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AH	<u>Variation of Condition 2 on application DC/16/2210/FUL - 9no new dwellings plus amendments to 2015 consent to make a total of 23no dwellings including 7no Affordable Homes for rent - Changes to Plot 13 including a slight re-positioning of the dwelling house, removal of internal garage and provide an additional bedroom, and the erection of a detached cart lodge building to serve the house</u>	No comment	Was Pending consideration Now Application Permitted
03/03/2017	DC/17/090 1/LBC	Mill Farm Westerfield Road Westerfield IP6 9AA	<u>Listed Building Consent - Conversion of existing barns to form 2 dwellings plus associated car parking from existing private drive. This application is to amend details approved under DC/15/2539/LBC and is related to the addition of rooflights to the new roof of Plot 2 only. A variation of condition application has also been submitted to vary the details approved under full planning permission DC/15/2077/FUL</u>	No comment	Was Pending Consideration Application now withdrawn
03/03/2017	DC/17/089 9/VOC	Mill Farm Westerfield Road Westerfield IP6 9AA	<u>Variation of Condition 2 of application DC/15/2077/FUL - Conversion of existing barns to form 2 dwellings plus associated car parking from existing private drive - To reduce the size of the extension of Plot 1 following discussions with the client.</u>	No comment	Was Pending Consideration Application now withdrawn
New Applications during year 2017/2018					
07/04/2017	DC/17/15 40/DRC	Swans Nest Westerfield Road Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AJ	<u>Details as required by condition 3 of DC/16/1364/LBC - Proposed single storey extensions and alterations to North and South-west</u>	No comment	Application Permitted
19/04/2017	DC/17/16 65/FUL	Westbrook Lower Road Westerfield	<u>Two storey front extension</u>	No objection	Application Permitted

		Suffolk IP6 9AR			
11/05/2017	DC/17/19 92/FUL	Ash House Westerfield Road Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AG	<u>For the extension of an existing lounge to the rear of Ash House</u>	No objection	Application Permitted
12/05/2017	DC/17/20 34/LBC	Westerfield Hall Westerfield Road Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AJ	<u>Traditional mass concrete underpinning to two storey rear extension.</u>	No objection	Application Permitted
12/06/2017	DC/17/25 48/FUL	Swans Nest Westerfield Road Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AJ	<u>Proposed erection of 2no. garden sheds and fencing repairs following demolition of existing garden shed</u>	No objection	Application Permitted
06/10/2017	DC/17/42 78/FUL	Peddars Way Westerfield Road Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AG	<u>Alterations and extension to convert existing bungalow to two storey dwelling</u>	No objection	Application Permitted
23/10/2018	DC/17/54 05/DRC	Felixstowe Branch Line And Westerfield Level Crossing	<u>Discharge of conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 & 22 of C/10/0544 - Dualling of Felixstowe Branch Line from Nacton to Trimley St Mary, reconstruction of crossings, diversion of footpaths, consequential alterations of structures and drainage and improvements to Westerfield level crossing (as per deemed planning permission).</u>	No comment	Application Permitted
24/11/2017	DC/17/50 09/AME	The Lilacs Fullers Field Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AH	<u>Approval of revised drawings for Plots 16 & 17 which describe changes of a first floor rear window to double doors and Juliette balcony on both plots.</u>	No comment	Application Permitted
04/12/2017	DC/17/51 38/OUT	Land East Of Westerfield Road	<u>Outline planning permission (with all matters reserved) for 22 dwellings with parking and gardens.</u>	Objected as not in compliance with the Local Plan	Application Withdrawn
08/12/2017	DC/17/52 15/OUT	Mallards 5 St Marys Way Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9BQ	<u>Erection of five new dwellings with car parking spaces accessed off St Mary's Way</u>	Objected as not in compliance with the Local Plan	Application Refused
17/02/2018	DC/18/07 47/FUL	Malindi Swan Lane Westerfield IP6 9AH	<u>Proposed front kitchen extension and new roof to existing garage</u>	No objection	Awaiting decision
12/03/2018	DC/18/10 53/PN3	Bartley Barn Lower Road Westerfield Suffolk	<u>Single Residential Development, use existing vehicular access onto lower road. No impact of air quality on intended occupiers, no noise impact of development or risk of contamination, no risk of flooding, no other industrial uses or distribution of use.</u>	No objection but any permission must allow use of Footpath 18, not interfere with the watercourse flowing through the property and allow access to the adjacent Electricity sub station	Awaiting decision

Reports from Westerfield Church and Village Charities

St Mary Magdalene, Westerfield - Church Report Jan-Dec 2017

As Non-Stipendiary Priest-in-Charge I head up a Ministry Team of five: my wife, as Associate Priest (also non-stipendiary), two Readers and an Elder. This last year we have enjoyed the additional support of Sarah Jenkins, an ordinand on attachment to the benefice whilst studying at a theological college.

The pattern of Sunday services has continued unchanged with an 11am service each week and an 8am Holy Communion service on the second Sunday of each month. An informal Prayer Service has taken place on most Wednesdays at 9.30am, with a Communion Service on the first Wednesday of most months. When there was a fifth Sunday in the month, a combined benefice service was held in one of the churches on rotation, including the Witnesham Baptist church. On line Advent and Lent courses were made available to anyone wishing to participate. During Holy Week, daily services were held, rotating round the three churches in the benefice. There have been no weddings, 2 baptisms and 2 funerals during the year.

The church has continued to sponsor the Scout, Cub and Beaver groups, who have attended the monthly All-Age Worship services four times in the year. A Carol Service was held for them in December which was very well attended.

The annual Church fete, held in August, was very successful with good attendance from both church members and villagers as well as other local people. We are fortunate in receiving help with the fete from non-churchgoers, which we greatly appreciate. Our annual Gift Day, held in September, was also most successful.

Following a fall of masonry from the tower last year this has continued to be closely monitored but no further falls have occurred. In October small sections of lead flashing were stolen from the Church and Church Room roofs, damaging some tiles in the process. This has since been repaired, using synthetic lead on the Church Room Roof and real lead on the Church roof. The pond in the paddock has had a lot of work done to improve it and a safety fence erected. A conifer tree next to the road in the churchyard was felled in December as it was damaged and obscuring the view of the church.

The Church's Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in July. Some work to replace roof tiles as identified in this report has been completed. Work on the tower was also included in the report and action on this will be commenced next year

Volunteers, working to a rota, have continued to clean the church and church room. This works well. A very small number of people assist at services by reading lessons, administering the chalice, leading

intercessions and undertaking sidesperson duties as well as preparing coffee after services. We are grateful to these people but we desperately need more to help at services by reading or carrying out sidesperson duties or preparing coffee after services. Hilary Bisset coordinates a team of flower arrangers who ensure that the church looks welcoming throughout the year. We thank all who help in these activities, making sure the church looks well cared for and inviting to visitors.

When I had my Ministerial Development Review (MDR) with Bishop Mike late last year, he asked me where I have seen God at work. Parts of our church community here in this Benefice are flourishing; my heart leaps when someone asks to become an active member of a PCC or volunteers for a job or show interest in exploring faith—that's God at work.

Our Away-Day in November was a departure from the usual with Rev Canon Sally Gaze working with us all day. She helped us see how God is active in using us to work in our communities. We began a process of thinking about what needs to be done next and how we can grow individually and as a church community.

We have a total congregation of 110 amongst our three churches. With an average attendance of 60-65 each week over the three churches. These are not always the same people as not everyone can or chooses to come every week. What's the effect of that? Firstly there's a loss of continuity and contact; our ministers are not in the same church every week and it can be a month or more before we catch up with people. The other problem is the vexed question of money. That's why we keep encouraging people to give by monthly standing order direct from their bank. Is this something you could do?

One thing we continue to do well. Food and drink are always good ways to get people together and interacting. We had a fantastic Lent Meal at Witnesham as part of our Kagera Lent Appeal. It was a simple supper but the buzz in the room was beautiful as people chatted and made friends. Our guest speakers Chris and Anji Dawkins spoke movingly about the link between our Diocese and the Diocese of Kagera demonstrating how fortunate we are in the UK compared with the difficulties of keeping alive over there. Yet, God's church is flourishing over there in a way we are not. Why? Are we too affluent? Are we too complacent?

As a result of that evening together and the fun Lent Challenge, we were able to send £1,500 (including the Gift Aid) to the Bishops' Appeal—more than any other rural benefice in the diocese.

On a smaller scale, the congregations of Tuddenham and Westerfield came together again for a Harvest Meal in the Autumn. People from the village were invited and came. Events like that together with the social side of our three Christmas Carol Services are good opportunities for congregation members to invite friends and neighbours to join us.

There is a warm welcome at St Mary's every Sunday at 11am (and quality coffee served afterwards). As a church we are here for the whole community 24/7.

The Revd Alan Forsdike, Priest-in-Charge, The United Benefice of Westerfield and Tuddenham St Martin with Witnesham, Tel 01473 252904, Website - wtandw.org.uk

Westerfield Village Hall Charity No 1086331

Lettings for the past year have been very good the Hall being in use on most days, there is however still room for more bookings so please think of this as a venue if you are holding a party, family get together or need a small room for a meeting, the person to contact is Yvonne Maynard on 01473 226709 or check availability on the Westerfield website.

Projects for the coming year:-

Replacing the main hall lights and the old coin operated electric meter .

Relining the car park.

A general touch up of the paint work and floor in the hall.

The Village Hall AGM takes place on the 18th of June at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, followed by cheese and wine, please come along and support your Village Hall.

My thanks to the trustees and committee members for their help and support during the past year.

C Farrow Chairman

Bridget Collett Education Foundation Charity No 310435

The Bridget Collett Educational Foundation traces its origins back to the Will of Miss Bridget Collett who died in the 1660s. She was a spinster who lived and was buried in London but it is believed that she was related to the Collett family who lived in the Manor House, Westerfield. In her Will of the 23rd September 1662 she left property in Claydon in trust to support the young people of Westerfield Tuddenham, Akenham and Henley in their educational endeavours. To this day, the Trust continues in robust health and is open to applications from parents, carers, schools, community and sports groups and students aged between 18 and 25.

In 2017, we are pleased that 17 young people in the local area have benefited from the Foundation. 10 children attending the local primary and secondary schools have received grants to ensure that they gain maximum benefit from the school year and 9 students over the age of 18 have received grants towards further education, apprenticeships and university courses. Are you or your family eligible to apply?

The current level of standard grants for the current academic year are agreed as follows:

Children aged 5 to 11	£330.00 per annum
Children aged 12 and up to and including the age of 18	£440.00 “ “
‘A’ level students at comparable level	£600.00 “ “
Students on full time Further Education courses, up to age 25	£600.00 “ “
Students on part time Further Education courses will be paid an appropriate rate at the discretion of the Trustees.	

In addition to these individual grants, Westerfield Scout Group, Henley and Witnesham Guides and the The 1st Witnesham Brownies and Rainbows have received support as has Thomas Wolsey School to enable the continuation of music therapy.

Witnesham Primary and Otley Primary have also received support to enable all children to participate in school trips and Witnesham has received funding for the extension of the outdoor play area. The Trust has also agreed to a fixed term of support for specific gymnast training.

Young people over the age of 18 can apply to the charity directly and we are pleased to support further education, apprenticeships, college courses as well as university places. The only eligibility is to be continuing in education or training.

If anyone is under the age of 18 whether at primary or secondary school, working as an apprentice or pursuing education or training, then the application is via parents or carers. If anyone felt that their children would benefit from additional support for a special project or if the family has fallen on hard times we would be pleased to hear from them.

The Trustees liaise closely with Witnesham and Henley Primary schools to ensure that eligible parents are aware of the Charity but we welcome applications directly. We are keen to promote applications to the charity, so please pass the word on to any neighbours, friends and family.

The board of trustees who manage the funds are Bill Pipe (Chair), Yvonne Maynard, Mary Scholey, Hugh Rowland, Julia Farmer and Charlotte Morrison with Cllr Robin Vickery as the representative from Suffolk County Council. The trustees meet twice a year.

It is with great sadness to report that David Brow who had wisely steered the Trust over many years has passed away. The Trust owes David a great deal – his time, his experience and his wisdom served the Trust and the Trustees very well. David will be greatly missed.

Further information and application forms can be found on www.bridgetcollett.org.uk or phone Bill Pipe or Yvonne Maynard (01473 226709)

Yvonne Maynard (on behalf of the Trustees)

Reports from Village Groups and Organisations

Westerfield Art Club

A recent addition to the activities in the village hall on Mondays from 10.00am. Further information, costs and contact details can be found on the Westerfield Village website at www.westerfield-village.co.uk

Westerfield Bowls Club

Westerfield Bowls Club is going from strength to strength. Our membership is growing, especially with new members who are resident in the village. The playing green at the beginning of the year is in excellent condition and club members are most grateful for the hard work put in by the groundsman and his team. The result is that the club and its glorious surroundings are the envy of many other bowling clubs. It is pleasing to say that we have again been requested to host a number of finals of the local Bowls Association because of the setting and the friendliness of our club.

The bowls club is a valuable asset to our community. It is a friendly club that endeavours to make guests and visitors most welcome. Members of the local community who are experienced bowlers, or who are interested in learning about bowls, should come along to the club on a Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock and introduce themselves. The club arranges a social bowl each Saturday afternoon when visitors are most welcome.

Tony Baker (Secretary)

Wednesday Coffee Morning

The Wednesday Coffee Morning from 10.00 till 11.00 continues to be a flourishing weekly event. More people have become involved in running and organising it so that it has become a more Community run event and responsibilities are spread. Attendances are normally between 25 and 30 each week and this provides a valuable opportunity for people in the village to meet each other.

It has been good to have some new people join us but there is room for more so if you are new to the village or have lived here for a considerable time do come along and enjoy a coffee and chat and get to

know other people from within the village and further afield. Any profits from the Coffee Morning are donated to the Village Hall funds

A big "thank you" to Russell Bridges for setting-up the tables & chairs each week and to everyone who helps to keep the Coffee Morning running smoothly.

Westerfield Events Group

We had a very successful outing to the End of Pier show in Cromer last August followed by a wonderful high tea provided for us at Aylsham Lodge Hotel. This outing is always enjoyed by everyone who goes.

Instead of a Christmas Fish and Chip lunch this year we held a Valentines lunch. As always, these types of events are always very popular and had a capacity attendance.

This year we are holding a "Summertime" afternoon tea on Saturday June 23rd from 3-6pm. This will include full afternoon tea and musical entertainment. Tickets will shortly be going on sale. Numbers will be limited so make sure you get yours early.

Olive Miller (Committee member)

Fit Villages (Pilates, Chi Kung and Yoga)

The Pilates class is held in the Village Hall on Mondays for one hour starting at 10.45am.

Chi Kung sessions are held in the Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons at 2.15pm and on Thursdays (apart from the 2nd Thursday in each month) at 7.15pm

Yoga sessions are programmed in the Village Hall for Thursday mornings at 9.40am.

Further information, costs and contact details for these and other similar activities can be found on the Westerfield Village website at www.westerfield-village.co.uk

Westerfield and District Gardening Club

The Gardening Club meets in the Village Hall at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month, excluding January and August. Membership is £20.00 for the year and visitors are very welcome at £4.00 for the evening, which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket. The 2017 programme for the Club was a huge success and we saw attendance at the monthly meetings grow.

The 2017 summer outings were well attended - to both Capel Manor Gardens in Enfield and to East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens and Blacksmiths Cottage Nursery (where we were joined for coffee by a tortoise!).

The 2018 programme has also got off to a fine start, with membership of 50+ and, it seems, most of them attending the meetings! Arrangements are in hand for a trip to the Sandringham Flower Show and Bressingham Gardens and at our Christmas party we will be entertained by Mr Charlie Haylock.

The full programme can be found on the Village website, in the Parish Council newsletter and the InTouch magazine.

Michell Doick

Westerfield Horse Show

Our 2017 show started off as a cool day but once the sun came out everyone enjoyed themselves. The Fancy Dress competition attracted a very high entry. It is amazing how ponies take all the dressing up in their stride! Other classes for "tinies" were also well supported. The course builders and judges were however disappointed by the fewer Jumping Competitors, especially at the bigger heights. The total amount raised on the day was £2000 for the MacMillan Nurses on the Woolverstone Unit at Heath Road Hospital. Thanks to all who contributed to this total, whether it was from sponsoring events, giving Tombola prizes or making cakes. Or just coming along to watch.

There will be some additional classes this year with sidesaddle riders joining in and also some races for the "25 and overs" in the Gymkana after the childrens section is completed.

We hope to see you again this year on June 30th when we shall once again be supporting MacMillan locally.
Sylvia Partridge

The United Benefice of Westerfield and Tuddenham with Witnessham Mothers' Union

We have had another interesting year with meetings held on the first Thursday of every month (apart from January and August).

The programme has been varied and interesting ranging from the visit of a Police Dog Handler (with dog!), a talk: "My Mother a Houses of Parliament Waitress", and another on the work of the British Legion. Members also contributed to the programme: Rev'd Catherine Forsdike spoke about her "Year of Spin", Ken Bristo gave an amazing talk, "Reflections as Time Goes By" with memories of life and experiences accompanied by photographs and other items. Rev'd Alan Forsdike told us about "Miss Meadows and Christchurch Park" which was the story of his house and how the land around the park was developed in Victorian times.

We held two communion services, a Wave of Prayer service, a shared lunch at my home 'Acer Cottage'. We sang carols and gave readings for Christmas followed by a splendid tea.

Our coffee morning raised £121 for the MU Head Office Summer Appeal and we made two donations of £50 to other good causes. Members knitted no fewer than 30 "twiddle muffs" for people with dementia and the muffs were distributed to local homes for the elderly.

I attended two MU deanery meetings and two MU council meetings. Mary Scholey and I attended the Lady Day service and paraded our banner. Rita and I joined a coachful of members from around our diocese to attend the annual world-wide council meeting held in Edinburgh. We combined this with a few days holiday where we enjoyed fun, faith and fellowship.

My thanks to the Rev'ds Alan and Catherine for conducting our services, to Claire Lunney and Christine Laughlin for playing the organ and piano, to Daphne Bristo for the beautiful birthday posies and to Mary Scholey for keeping our finances in order and of course I must thank all our members for their support and encouragement.

This is my final report as I stepped down as Branch Leader at the end of the year after 11 years of service. I am pleased that Rev'd Catherine has agreed to take my place. I have very much enjoyed the role and shall continue as a member. Mothers Union is a world wide organisation working to support families and

communities around the world with 4,000,000 members. We are always looking for new members; please contact Rev'd Catherine on 01473 252904.

Ann Bennett (Branch Leader)

1st Westerfield Scout Group 2017 – 2018

Beavers

At the start of the year we had 18 Beavers, (our maximum – previously the most we would take was 15). We started working towards our Teamwork Badge and the children gained their Global Badge by finding out about endangered animals, recycling and 'Fairtrade Fortnight'. The Experiment badge was fun: the children grew cress, made larva lamps and volcanoes and did dissolving experiments. We also started our Gardening badge, with Claire coming to teach the children how to plant seeds correctly. The end of the term was our highlight, a trip to Wardens for a sleepover with 3 other Colonies. We did a night walk, archery, fire lighting and had fun on the beach.

With 2 beavers moving up to Cubs and another 2 children too old to continue we dropped back to 14 Beavers after Easter. We had regular gardening sessions in Keeo's garden where we grew Lettuce, beetroot, carrots and looked after our flowers, beans and pumpkins that were growing in pots. We all took some lettuce home and sold our pot plants at the Scout Fete on 2nd July.

We developed our teamwork skills at an evening in Rendlesham Forest when we built dens and had team challenges and went to Christchurch Park to do a Tree Trail Challenge. Also during the summer term we went on the Westerfield Group Camp to Hallowtree with the Cubs and Scouts. The children took part in a blindfold rope trail, fire lighting, archery, crate stacking and made friendship bracelets. Camp fire was fun when the children sang songs and led skits. The children also enjoyed being in groups with the older children.

Coming back to Beavers after the summer break we had 11 Beavers, having lost 3 to Cubs at the end of the Summer Term. With 2 due to leave after Christmas we were keen to get some new recruits. We had some children on our waiting list but they were too young to start. Otley Beavers, being at capacity, forwarded my details to those on their waiting list. Natasha, who did a great job encouraging Beavers to work towards badges at home finished helping as Henry moved up to Cubs in September but we were fortunate to have Nathalie (to lead on badge work) and Hazel, both training to become leaders and Bobby who is a young leader.

In September I enjoyed having Beavers over to my garden to complete the Gardening Badge, they grew a brilliant crop of carrots and lettuce, along with potatoes and sunflowers, which we harvested at the beginning of this term. They also completed their Team work and Navigator badges. The children drew maps of the paddock and the following week had to find clues which we had marked on their maps. They also took part in a relay race to find out what equipment you need when you go for a walk or expedition.

The main badge focus before Christmas was the Disability Awareness Badge. Mary Liley visited and explained how her wheelchair works and why she needed it. Ann Kent showed the children the crutches and sock puller onner she used when she had her hip mended and Hazel explained about disabilities you can't always see. We also did some games, imagining we were in the Paralympics when we could, for example, only use one leg or not have use of our sight. We also visited Pets at Home where the children learnt what food and bedding rabbits and guinea pigs require and enjoyed stroking the animals. This was a good introduction to the Animal Care badge for those children wanting to work towards it at home.

All of the leaders were very proud of the nativity artwork and amazing singing and poetry reciting (and actions) the children did at the Westerfield Scout Carol Service. With 2 more Beavers moving to Cubs in January we continued to look for more children to join Beavers, Jason produced an advert for 'In Touch' and local schools.

Cubs

Numbers are higher with 20 boys and girls, with 4 due to come up from Beavers shortly. Most Cubs have continued on into our Scout Troop. Some are from northern Ipswich with a few local to Westerfield,

Witnesham, Tuddenham & Ashbocking. We have 1 Pack Leader, an Assistant Leader in training, an assistant Cub Leader & Occasional Helper, waiting to be appointed to start her training. We also have a Young Leader, a former Cub with the Pack, completing the service element of his D of E award.

The highlight event in 2017, was a whole Group w/e camp at Hallowtree with the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. Activities and badges were earned for each section. In Autumn, some of the Cubs took part in a District International Internet/Radio 'Jamboree on the Air' at Kesgrave, where they were able to quiz a Scouting 'buddy' in another country about their Scouting. Some Cubs took part in a District 'scrapheap' challenge which they enjoy. We concluded the year with good participation with our Christmas Card sorting with families, to raise funds and all took part in our Charity Group Carol Service.

This year, as well as our usual Pack programmes, we have planned a trip to a 'Go Outdoors' who sponsor our hikes & camping badges, to learn all about the equipment needed. We have a district night hike (@ Otley) & camp in May coming up.

When the weather is fine, we try to get out into the paddock & the local area for our meetings.

'Akela', Joan Gibson Feb '18

SCOUTS

The Scout Troop currently consists of 16 scouts (8 boys and 8 girls) and two Leaders. Apart from the regular Friday night meetings, mainly held in the Village hall, the events during the year included the St Georges day Parade which was in Woodbridge. Parading through part of the town up to Woodbridge School where a short service was held in the sports dome.

We held a spring camp in March at Boxford Spinney, then a Group camp in June at Hallowtree campsite with the Cubs and Scouts, the Beavers joined us for the second night. During the weekend they took part in Archery and Crate stacking as well as numerous other smaller activities. In September we went back to Boxford for a weekend camp, the main activity being Air Rifle shooting.

There was the Cub/scout Link camp in October with the 7 youngest scouts taking part along with some of the older cubs.

November and we entered two teams into the District Scout cooking competition, the scouts had a great time. This year the format was changed with the teams having to randomly select a country then having to produce a relevant main course. All the teams then had to prepare the same dessert. Although we have won several times in the past, this year was not one of them.

The Group held its annual Carol service at Westerfield in December with the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts taking an active part.

The scouts finished the year by doing Ringo's at the Ski Centre, this is where they go down part of the slope in inflatable rubber rings.

Peter Runnacles (Skip) Scout Leader

Westerfield Tennis Club

The Tennis Club continued in 2017 to have another successful summer season, meeting for 6 enjoyable evening sessions, including some under floodlights when necessary. It is open to any tennis players who live in Westerfield who would like to have a good and sociable evening playing doubles. Our first evening will be on Monday 14th May and then on the second Monday of each month until October. Play starts at 7.00pm and if anyone in Westerfield would like to join us please call Karen Davidson on 01473 218943

Karen Davidson

University of the Third Age (U3A)

This is a UK-wide movement which brings together people in their 'third age' to develop their interests and continue their learning in a friendly and informal environment. This group meets for art on Friday mornings in the Village Hall at 9.45am and is proving to be very popular.

Westerfield Women's Institute

2017 was another enjoyable year for the WI. We had some excellent speakers including an interesting talk on the Rebuilding of Bury Cathedral by the team leader for the project; the WI President gave a most entertaining flower arranging demonstration with five lucky members taking home a beautiful arrangement; and there was a talk on felting, yesterday and today which was most enlightening.

The lunch club occasionally meets at various local venues to enjoy a social lunch. The craft clubs are still going strong and have produced some beautiful work, including quilts for the Linus charity for seriously ill children who were then allowed to take them home.

We had two parties, one for our 93rd birthday in May, where we had musical entertainment, and another to celebrate Christmas. Always an occasion enjoyed by everyone attending.

We had three members leave as they had moved away and we welcomed two new members.

New members are always welcome and anyone interested in joining us should come along to the village hall on the second Thursday in the month, at 7.30 pm. It's a great social evening and a way of making new friends.

Lynda May Secretary, Westerfield WI

Suffolk County Council Report for Carlford Division April 2018.

I was re-elected as your County Councillor for Carlford Division just prior to your last Annual Parish Meeting, and since then I have attended numerous mandatory training sessions, covering such things as Health and Safety, Corporate Parenting, IT, Emergency Planning, my role as your councillor and courses associated with committees I have been appointed to.

The councillor appointments I was given following the election in May were:-

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Pension Board.

Suffolk Armed Forces Community Champion.

East Anglian Army Reserve and Cadet Assn Representative.

Cabinet Committee for Health and Wellbeing issues.

Joint Advisory Committee for Areas of Natural Beauty.

Suffolk County Council Observer on the Boards of The New Wolsey Theatre and Eastern Angles Theatre Group.

I have also been appointed to the Lord Lieutenant's 2018 Committee for Commemorating the Centenary of the Signing of the Armistice. We have been planning 5 Major events across the County, as well as encouraging other events being organised by other organisations within the County. I am also encouraging the Planting of Oak Trees across the County as a living memorial to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, especially members of the Suffolk Regiment. Your Parish Council may like to participate.

I have also been on the interviewing Panel to find a replacement for our retiring Armed Forces Commissioner, and our choice has been ratified by the Suffolk Leaders Board, and Lt Col John Ogden Ret. has been appointed.

In addition to attending all the main Suffolk County Council meetings, I have also attended as many Parish Council meetings as possible, and numerous fetes, coffee mornings and social events throughout the Division, in order to meet as many Parishioners as possible.

Most of the concerns I have encountered at Parish Council meetings are issues relating to Highways, whether it be potholes, speeding through villages, speed restrictions, hedge cutting, footpaths or signage. I wasn't allocated a local highways budget this financial year, which has meant I haven't been able to achieve much due to lack of finance to resolve these issues. However, I have been able to finance various projects, such as defibrillators and improvements to village halls, from my Locality Budget.

Apart from the Education Budget, the two main areas of expense are Children and Young People and Adult Social Care. Both those budgets have overspent in the last year, and the shortfall has had to be made good from the Council's reserves. As a result, Suffolk County Council's basic council tax rate has been increased for the first time in seven years, and the amount raised has been ring fenced for Adult Social Care.

Suffolk County Councillors have had some very difficult decisions to make, and as Councillors we are having to find different ways of providing services in a very difficult economic climate.

County Councillor Robin Vickery.

How to contact the Clerk to the Parish Council

Rod Caird, 26 Church Lane, Henley IP6 0RQ

Email – westerfieldpc@gmail.com

How to contact your Parish Councillors

Graham Austin, Field View Cottage, 9 Lower Road, IP6 9AS

Tel 250166

Bob Hill, Hawthorns, Main Road IP6 9AQ

Tel 251787

Rosie Horsfield, Firholm, Main Road IP6 9AJ

Tel 289718

Peter Hudson, 14 Fullers Field IP6 9AX

Peter Miller, Longways, Main Road, IP6 9AJ

Tel 212316

Charlotte Morrison, The Slade, Main Road IP6 9AJ

Tel 250414

Barry Reeve, The Brambles, Church Lane IP6 9BE

Tel 251843

How to contact your County Councillor

Please contact me by e-mail at Robin.Vickery@suffolk.gov.uk for any assistance you may require with the County Council.

How to contact your District Councillor

Please contact me 07714 598155 or e-mail at robert.whiting@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk for any assistance you may require with the District Council.

How to contact Woodbridge Safer Neighbourhood Team

Woodbridge SNT, Suffolk Constabulary

Theatre Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4NE Telephone 101