

WESTERFIELD

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 11th May 2016

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2015/2016

ANNUAL REPORTS FROM

LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY
SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Thirty Years ago in 1986

**The first elections were held for members of
Westerfield Parish Council.**

The first Chairman was Mr Norman Sewell

And other members were

Dr D N Hall

Dr A J C Hyde

Mr J P Baker

Mr I Lord

Mr R M Partridge

Miss Vera Sadd

**We thank them for laying the foundations of the
community that we have today**

Chairmans' Annual report 2015-16

Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 11th May 2016

While preparing this report I read my comments of last year and I was not surprised that some of the points I included then are still the same today. I will try not to repeat the details that I included last year but it is inevitable that the comment will be "so what's changed?". It is probably symbolic of our democratic process that we seem to spend more time consulting on issues rather than actually achieving decisions and end results. I fear this is true at all levels from national government to local councils.

The Parish Council started the year with a full complement of members but regrettably Eileen Fisher resigned in September as she moved away from the village. The various procedures were followed to seek a successor and at the March meeting we were pleased to welcome Graham Austin as a new Councillor. Graham has previously attended Council meetings as a parishioner and we look forward to his contribution as a representative of the village.

All scheduled Council meetings last year were held as planned and there have been several additional meetings needed to provide comments on planning matters that needed careful consideration. It is therefore appropriate for me to thank all members for their support over the year and also to appreciate their commitment to the life of the village

It was with sadness at our November meeting that we paid tribute to Julia Woodcraft who passed away following a short illness. Julia was loved by so many for her monologues at social events and concerts yet she was also a hard worker and inspiration to the community in Westerfield. She was involved with many village organisations and was a Parish Councillor for many years including a spell as Chairman up to 2003. In the last month we have also said farewell to another stalwart of the village, John Baker, who was everybody's friend and did so much to make the village what it is for us to enjoy today. After the village was unified in 1985 (it had been partly in Ipswich and partly in Deben) an election in 1986 saw Parish Council elections and John was an original member later becoming Chairman up to 1994. John had a vision that a large area behind the Church could be a communal area and was responsible with others for clearing the area of land we know today as the Paddock. In more recent years John was willing to help the Speedwatch team in the village until mobility became difficult but whatever was going on John wanted to be there and encourage others. He will be sadly missed at our future events. Finally, after a long illness our County Councillor Peter Bellfield passed away in April. Peter was a gentleman who took his responsibilities as a councillor seriously and in a kind and friendly way. He served us well as a village.

In last years' report I said that in many ways we had seen little actually happen and yet we had been exceptionally busy in (1) seeking to get some things done (2) seeking to prevent things happening and (3) seeking to maintain those things that we value.

There has been much publicity about "savings" in public expenditure and while this is supposed to control increases in our Council Tax bills the effects of these cuts needs to be assessed. In the past year there have been consultations on the level of service to be provided by the Suffolk Fire Service and the information produced to justify reduced numbers of staff and equipment needs to be scrutinized in order to respond. Maybe we in Westerfield being near to Ipswich feel differently to villages in more rural surroundings but if the more urban equipment is used further away is there sufficient cover locally? We would like to trust the experts but are we taking too great a risk.

Similarly, the number of staff employed by the Police Service is being reduced and methods of policing changed but if this is a minimum level consideration could be given by Parishes to fund an additional member to meet the expectation of local communities.

The Local Plan for Suffolk Coastal District Council for the period up to 2027 is about to be submitted to the Secretary of State and includes support for land in Westerfield to be included in the Country Park proposed between the built-up part of the Ipswich Garden Suburb and Westerfield Village. It also includes an assessment of two sites in the village that would be considered suitable for housing

development, the Old Station Works Site (ex Cubitts) for a shared use between housing and employment, and the site of the old football pitch in Lower Road for shared use between housing and a village green type facility of open space. It is considered in the document that the village could support an extra 40 dwellings between these two sites. The Plan also amends the Village Physical Limits Boundaries to enable better control of planning applications in the Parish.

The Local Plan for Ipswich Borough Council is currently subject of an Examination in Public with some sittings already held and more to take place over the next three months. Progress on the Ipswich Garden Suburb is somewhat dependant on the Local Plan being approved and this would indicate that it will be some months before actual Planning Applications are made. The current examination is considering the inter-relationship of aspects of the plan such as job growth, housing provision, traffic capacity and drainage, and the cross-border co-operation with neighbouring authorities in dealing with these issues. Even the prospects of East Anglian devolution have come under scrutiny in this assessment.

In 2014 I reported that the County Council had finally agreed the content of our traffic calming scheme for the village. Last year there had been no progress supposedly because of problems with the outsourcing of the highways function to Kier. Strong letters and words eventually got a flurry of activity so that the actual locations and design was completed in January but since then no contact, no update, no progress! If the Parish Council had been allowed to place an order directly with the Contractor the work would have been completed during 2014!

With the support of the Police and County Council more parishes are now operating Speedwatch scheme. 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 team now have a Speedwatch camera every three weeks and also use a Portable Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on a regular rota. 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 there are less speeding motorists than when this initiative first started – however more volunteers are needed to maintain this service which ensures greater awareness of speeding to drivers.

I am frequently asked about the availability of public footpaths for leisure walking in Westerfield. The County Council have recently published a definitive map for the original Deben RDC part of Westerfield so it does not include the paths between Sandy Lane and the B1077 at Cygnet House and the The White House, the footpath between Swan lane and Lower Road and the Footpath 18 Fonnereau Way. These paths are included in a definitive map relating to the former County Borough of Ipswich. Very confusing but they are public rights of way!

This year we are celebrating the Queens 90th Birthday and we have made a good start with a big Village Clean-up organised by Yvonne Maynard – Thanks to everyone who made the special effort to attend - it was time well spent and we will be putting some more flowers out again this summer to provide some colour. The Events Group have arranged a musical celebration in the Paddock on May 21st between 3.00 and 7.00pm so bring your chairs and picnics along and enjoy an afternoon of fun together.

Rosie Horsfield seeks to maintain a dialogue with Abellio Greater Anglia about the East Suffolk Line service but until the new franchise is let there is unlikely to be improvement. She has also been responsible for pushing for better broadband that is urgently needed.

Much of the village life revolves around people and this meeting includes reports from all village organisations and activities. Please keep supporting local initiatives – it is our village and local support is important in maintaining the community and character that we value.

Finally, we will have had three elections/referendums this summer, for the Police and Crime Commissioner last week, the Europe In/Out referendum in June and a by-election sometime in the Autumn for a new County Councillor. I hope we all have the right information to make our choices!

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 2014-2015

Income and expenditure

The precept and a small amount of interest made up the regular income during 2014/15. Hedge and grass cutting costs and street lighting charges have shown little change and Insurance is regularly monitored to maintain adequate cover for the risks involved. Two training courses have been attended during the year relating to Parish Council Administration. The Parish Council made the usual grant to the Parochial Church Council towards maintenance costs and also shared the cost of dealing with moles. A grant was made to Westerfield Village Hall towards urgent window repairs.

Bank Balances

As at the 31st March 2016 the Deposit Account stands at £31016.41 and the Current Account at £1598.63 making a total of £32615.04. Payments made by Cheque and not yet presented amount to £1242.04 leaving an actual balance carried forward of £31373.00. The following table shows a summary of receipts and payments for 2014/15 for the revenue account, reserve account and the speedwatch account. The Chairman's report mentioned that the traffic calming measures have not yet been completed and this will require payment of approx.£22000. Completed work on Parish Council owned street lights estimated at £1154 has not yet been invoiced.

Future Plans

Services provided by the County Council and District Council are at a minimum level and will require input from the Parish Council to meet expectations of village cleanliness and appearance. Already this year additional sweeping has been commissioned to clear debris from our footways.

Further Street Lighting replacements will soon be needed for the remaining Parish Council owned lights. The amount of work involved in administering the work of the Parish Council has increased in recent years and measures will need to be taken to enable this work to be maintained satisfactorily.

Kathy Broyd – Clerk/Financial Officer

Westerfield Parish Council Summary of accounts 2015-16

Total Funds Brought Forward			
	2015/6	2014/5	2013/14
Revenue Account	7113.60	4077.53	7726.07
Reserve Account	20650.00	20650.00	7450.00
Speedwatch Account	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	27763.60	24727.53	15176.07

Revenue A/C			
	2015/6	2014/5	2013/14
Receipts			
Bal. bf 1/4/2015	7113.60	4077.53	7726.07
Precept	9031.00	9043.43	9000.00
VAT Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recycling Credit	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	12.59	10.14	7.42
NALC Bursary	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Traffic Calming Grant	0.00	0.00	5000.00
Total Receipts	16157.19	13131.10	21733.49

	2015/6	2014/5	2013/14
Payments			
Admin Costs			
Salary and travel	1913.47	2222.89	1666.84
Stationery etc	445.96	492.79	153.32
Audit Fee	0.00	100.00	0.00
Subscriptions	345.75	430.75	293.00
Training	118.00	10.00	0.00
website	64.97	0.00	62.49
Running Costs			
Grass Cutting	300.00	388.34	449.76
Street Lights	426.08	520.99	534.62
Insurance	300.03	306.62	314.14
Hall Hire	98.00	121.00	20.00
Other	295.00	182.07	103.47
Other payments			
S137	53.28	456.33	275.00
Grant to Village Hall	400.00	0.00	0.00
Speedwatch/T.Calming	75.49	82.99	0.00
Grant to PCC	350.00	300.00	300.00
VAT	258.59	402.73	283.32
Transfer to Reserves	0.00	0.00	13200.00
Total payments/transfers	5444.62	6017.50	17655.96
bal. at 31/3/2016	10712.57	7113.60	4077.53

Reserve A/C			
	2015/6	2014/5	2013/14
Receipts			
bal. bf 1/4/2015	20650.00	20650.00	7450.00
transfer from revenue a/c	0.00	0.00	13200.00
Total Receipts	20650.00	20650.00	20650.00

	2015/6	2014/5	2013/14
Payments			
Transfer to revenue a/c	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00

					bal. at 31/3/2016	20650.0 0		
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Speedwatch A/c							
Receipts	2015/6			Payments	2015/6		
bal. bf 1/4/2015	0.00			New camera	1014.00		
balance transfer from Clopton PC	162.67			Misc replacements	152.24		
SCC Grant for Camera	1014.00						
Total Receipts	1176.67			Total Payments	1166.24		
				bal. at 31/3/2016	10.43		

Overall reconciliation							
	2015/6	<i>2014/5</i>	<i>2013/14</i>		2015/6	<i>2014/5</i>	<i>2013/14</i>
Balance of Reserve account at 31/3/2016	20650.00	20650.00	20650.00	Bank Balances as at 31/3/2016	32615.04	28741.81	25156.61
Balance of Revenue account at 31/3/2016	10712.57	7113.60	4077.53	Less cheques paid but not yet presented	1242.04	978.21	429.08
Balance Speedwatch Account at 31/3/2016	10.43						
Balance c/f 2016/17	31373.00	<i>27763.60</i>	<i>24727.53</i>	Adjusted Balance	31373.00	<i>27763.60</i>	<i>24727.53</i>

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

Westerfield Parish Council Planning Report for 2015-6

Westerfield Parish Council have been consulted on 22 planning applications for the village over the last year. There were eight applications for house extensions, one for a barn conversion, one for a garden building and one for structural repairs to a listed building. The Parish Council did not object to any of these applications.

Of the applications for development, most involved variation of conditions or information on reserved matters. The Parish Council did not object to an application for two barn conversions at Mill Farm that needed listed building consent and should tidy up an area that has been slowly showing signs of decay. An application for housing development on land at The Mount in Church Lane was not in accordance with the Local Plan and was rejected by Suffolk Coastal. The emerging Local Plan suggests that Westerfield could accommodate a further 40 houses and two sites were identified in the site allocations document. One of these sites is the Old Station Works near the Westerfield Business Centre that has an outstanding approval for industrial use but attracts little interest. An application for a mixed development for housing and light industrial/commercial use employment has been considered and the Parish Council have not objected but have made several comments for Suffolk Coastal to consider. 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 the Westerfield. This aspect will be considered in the consideration of the latest application for further dwellings on Fullers Field that has not yet been discussed by the Parish Council.

Details are listed below (overleaf). More information on all planning applications can be found on the website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Registered Date	No.	Location	Proposal	Parish Council Observations	Suffolk Coastal Decision
Outstanding Application pending consideration from previous year					
06/11/2014	DC/14 /3660/ FUL	Os 4300 North Of Fullers Field Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AH	Extension of existing access road and erection of fourteen new dwellings including four affordable homes	Objected as not acceptable under SCDC Local Plan and unsatisfactory access arrangements	Application Permitted
New applications during the year 2015/2016					
14/04/2015	DC/15 /1513/ FUL	The Maples Westerfield Lane Tuddenham St Martin IP6 9BH	Side extension	No comment	Application Permitted
20/05/2015	DC/15 /2077/ FUL	Mill Farm Westerfield Road Westerfield Ipswich IP6 9AA	Conversion of existing barns to form 2 dwellings plus associated car parking from existing private drive	No objection	Pending Consideration
22/06/2015	DC/15 /2539/ LBC	Mill Farm Westerfield Road Westerfield Ipswich IP6 9AA	Conversion of existing barns to form 2 dwellings plus associated car parking from existing private drive	No objection	Pending Consideration
18/08/2015	DC/15 /3380/ DRC	Land Adjacent Manor Farm House Church Lane Westerfield Suffolk	Discharge of condition nos; 3, 8, 1, 13, 15 and 18 of DC/15/0748/FUL (erection of two new dwellings, varying details approved under DC/14/3368/FUL)	No comment as did not affect basis of objection to original proposal	Application Permitted
18/08/2015	DC/15 /3379/ DRC	Land Adjacent Manor Farm House Church Lane Westerfield Suffolk	Discharge of Conditions 3 (materials), 8 (Discharge of surface water), 11 (Refuse/recycling storage), 12 (refuse/recycling presentation), 14 (landscaping), 16 (means of enclosure) and 19 (archaeological work) on DC/14/3368/FUL	No comment on submitted details	Application Permitted
25/09/2015	DC/15 /3912/ LBC	Westerfield Hall Westerfield Road Westerfield IP6 9AJ	Traditional mass concrete underpinning to two storey rear extension.	Application supported	Application Refused
29/09/2015	DC/15 /3941/ FUL	Land North Of The Mount Church Lane Westerfield Suffolk	Erection of 5 no. new dwellings including 1 no. affordable dwelling including altered existing access.	Objected as not acceptable under SCDC Local Plan and unsatisfactory access to Church Lane	Application Refused
01/10/2015	DC/15 /3973/ FUL	Seagem Westerfield Road Westerfield IP6 9AA	2 storey domestic extension, ground floor lounge room with bedroom and en-suite above.	No comment	Application Permitted
05/10/2015	DC/15 /4003/ VOC	Os 4300 North Of Fullers Field Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AH	Variation of condition 2 (drawings) of Planning Permission DC/14/3660/FUL	No comments on submitted details	Application Permitted
27/10/2015	DC/15 /4352/ PNH	Redwood Lodge Westerfield Road Westerfield IP6	Single storey rear extension	No consultation	Application Permitted

		9AA			
05/11/2015	DC/15 /4480/ DRC	Os 4300 North Of Fullers Field Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AH	Details as required by conditions 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10 of Planning Permission Consent DC/14/3660/FUL.	No comment on reserved matters and submitted details	Application Permitted
08/12/2015	DC/15 /4943/ LBC	Mill Farm Westerfield Road Westerfield Ipswich Suffolk IP6 9AA	Construction of 1.8m red brick wall and 5-bar gate to form boundary between existing house and new dwelling (Planning Application no. DC/15/2077/FUL)	No objection	Application Permitted
08/12/2015	DC/15 /4942/ FUL	Mill Farm Westerfield Road Westerfield Ipswich Suffolk IP6 9AA	Construction of 1.8m red brick wall and 5-bar gate to form boundary between existing house and new dwelling (Planning Application no. DC/15/2077/FUL)	No objection	Application Permitted
15/12/2015	DC/15 /5031/ OUT	Land At Old Station Works Westerfield Road Westerfield Suffolk	Outline planning permission with all matters reserved, except for means of vehicular access to/from the site, for the redevelopment of the site for a mixed use scheme comprising 1,120 sqm of office floorspace (B1a), 35 dwellings (C3 Use Class), of which 12 will be affordable, with 160 sqm community floorspace (D1/D2 Use Class), publicly accessible open space and associated works on land at Old Station Works, Westerfield.	Supported in principle but concerned that a village shop is not included in the scheme as shown at the local exhibition. A local shop would meet the desire of residents that was noted both during and since the preparation of the Westerfield Parish Plan. (Copy of comments available on request)	Pending Consideration
17/12/2015	DC/15 /5077/ FUL	Briar Banks Church Lane Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9BE	Erection of rear single storey extension	No comment	Application Permitted
07/01/2016	DC/16 /0041/ FUL	Harlyn Church Lane Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9BE	Replacement of existing front single storey porch flat roof for a pitched roof	No objection	Application Permitted
12/01/2016	DC/16 /0113/ SCO	Henley Gate Westerfield Road Ipswich	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report (815 dwellings, a district centre, a primary school, vehicular access, amenity space and infrastructure)	The EIA should not be considered in isolation but as part of the whole Ipswich Garden Suburb. No objection to areas of land within the Parish as part of the Country Park. (Copy of comments available on request)	Not Available
12/03/2016	DC/16 /1084/ FUL	Pine Lodge Westerfield Road Westerfield Ipswich IP6 9AL	Installation of a new septic tank: WPL DMS4 treatment plant	Application supported	Pending Consideration
22/03/2016	DC/16 /1257/ FUL	Rovian Glen Westerfield Road Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AJ	One and a half storey and single storey rear extensions and associated works plus a new front parking/turning area.	No comment	Pending Consideration
31/03/2016	DC/16 /1364/ LBC	Swans Nest Westerfield Road Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9AJ	Proposed single storey extensions and alterations to North and South-west	Pending Consideration	Pending Consideration
31/03/2016	DC/16 /1363/ FUL	Swans Nest Westerfield Road Westerfield	Proposed single storey extensions and alterations to North and South-west	Pending Consideration	Pending Consideration

		Suffolk IP6 9AJ			
01/04/2016	DC/16 /1382/ FUL	The Lilacs Fullers Field Westerfield Suffolk IP6 9Ax	Erection of 9 No. dwellings including changes to plots 10, 11, 12 and 15 on approved DC/14/3660	Pending Consideration	Pending Consideration

Reports from Westerfield Church and Village Charities

Westerfield Parochial Church Council Report for 2015

Thank you for this opportunity to present a report to the Parish Council. As last year, I've divided the report into two parts – the church as a building (small letter c) and the church (capital letter C) as a body of people witnessing to the Christian faith.

Church Building and Churchyard

Last year I reported that the Parochial Church Council had undertaken various items of repairs to the fabric which were recommended in the statutory Quinquennial Inspection. That work continued throughout last year and included internal repairs and much needed redecoration. The lighting and sound system were both upgraded, repairs and improvements were carried out to the organ and small alterations were made to pews on the north side to accommodate the installation of a digital piano. During the first quarter of 2016 the work will be completed and the PCC plans to have a service to celebrate the work later in the Summer.

In the churchyard, the grass was regularly trimmed, hedges cut and general clearance of overgrowth of trees was undertaken. More needs to be done but is limited by lack of funds. The PCC is grateful to the Parish Council for the grant of £300 each year towards churchyard maintenance. This grant is made because if there was no open churchyard, the parish would have a legal responsibility to provide a burial ground. The cost to the PCC of maintaining the churchyard in 2015 was £1,700. We respectfully ask if the Parish council could consider increasing their grant for 2016.

Church Worship and Service to the Community

Westerfield is part of the United Benefice of Westerfield and Tuddenham St Martin with Witnesham. The Benefice has an active and dynamic Ministry Team headed by me, Alan Forsdike, as self-supporting Parish Priest for the benefice. I serve with a self-supporting Associate Priest, my wife Catherine, three Readers, Paul Laughlin, Carolyn Rivett and Keith Jillings* and an Elder, Julia Farmer.

The PCC has provided a service of worship every Sunday at 11am. On the second Sunday of the month there was also an 8am Holy Communion service. An informal Service of Morning Prayer has taken place most Wednesdays at 9.30am, with Communion on the first Wednesday of most months.

Relations between the benefice and our fellow Christians at Witnesham Baptist Church are good. In partnership with them, several successful *Messy Church* events have taken place on Saturdays attracting large numbers of families. These are open to anyone in Westerfield, Tuddenham and Witnesham.

The Benefice Youth group, led by Elder Julia Farmer with others, numbers about 10 and meets twice a month in Witnesham.

The Church continues to sponsor the large and active Scout, Cub and Beaver groups, who attend the monthly Family Service in church when they can. A full church attended their annual Carol Service.

In the wider community the church supports Ipswich *Town Pastors*, *Lighthouse*, *Talitha Koum* and *Families in Need* to whom we offer gifts, food and other donations throughout the year. All these activities offer us opportunities to share our faith in practical ways. In all we do, the people of the Church are serving God. This is our response to God's generosity: we are truly blessed by his love and it is our duty and joy to share that love with others through our lives.

The PCC and I are grateful for the support given by local villagers in cleaning the church buildings, working in the churchyard to ensure our church looks well cared for and inviting to visitors and assisting at services. We particularly appreciate help setting up, running and attending the church fete and for contributions to

the Annual Gift Day. Both of these give financial support to the work of the Church (large C) and the physical presence of the church (small c) in this village.

Alan Forsdike, Parish Priest

**it is with great sadness I have to add that Keith Jillings died on 24th March 2016. A tribute to him will be published in the May edition of "In Touch with Westerfield..."*

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 Mrs Jean Scruby on 01473 2211533 or check availability on the Westerfield website.

The never ending maintenance of the hall continued with the floor being sanded and refinished, and the front door facing the road being replaced. The main dormer window wooden side supports had become rotten and have been replaced with brickwork that should last for another one hundred years. Our thanks to Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Parish Council for grants that made this work possible.

The Village Hall AGM takes place on the 20th 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 Bridget Collett who died in the 1660s. She was a spinster who lived, and was buried in London and it is believed that she was related to the Collett family who lived in the Manor House Westerfield. In her Will of 23 September 1662 she left property in Claydon in trust to support the young people of Westerfield (more recently extended to include Tuddenham, Akenham and Henley) in their educational endeavours.

During 2015, the Foundation awarded grants to help support 17 young people. 12 of these were for children attending local primary and secondary schools and 5 for students attending universities or colleges of further education. We have continued to provide a grant to the Westerfield Scout Group to help with the ongoing costs of running this organisation, to the Brownies group in Winesham and to the 1st Henley and Winesham Guides.

This year, we had a surplus of income over expenditure and the Trustees considered an application for funding from Henley Primary school for assistance in setting up an after school childcare club and agreed a contribution of £500. We also supported four children attending Winesham Primary school whose family means are limited to join in a school trip to Derbyshire. We were also able to contribute £500 towards the cost of the safety surfacing for the new adventure playhouse at Winesham Primary school

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, secondary, 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 Winesham 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), David Brow (advisor), Yvonne Maynard, Mary Scholey, Hugh Rowland, Juila Farmer and Charlotte Morrison plus a representative from Suffolk Count Council. The trustees meet quarterly.

Further information on the charity and applications forms can be found on the web site 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 Bowls Club

Since taking on the role of Chairman I have been overwhelmed by the help and encouragement I have received from the Committee and Club members – thank you all for your support. On behalf of WBC, I would also like to express thanks and appreciation to my predecessor, John Mortimer, for all his hard work and loyalty to the Club. I know I have a hard act to follow but be assured I will do my best to keep up his standards!

I must also thank Tony Baker who has taken over the role of Club Secretary, from Owen Williams. I know that Owen has been working with Tony to ensure that the transition is seamless – thank you both. We are all looking forward to the new bowling season which commences with the Green Opening on April 16th. The green is looking magnificent with the two new edgings at the church and club house ends now complete. The two remaining sides will be finished next year. Thank you to Brian, Keith and Richard for all their ingenuity and hard work, who together with a team of willing helpers have tackled this project over the winter months – well done.

I would like to welcome all new members joining us this year and wish you all a very enjoyable bowling season. I look forward to seeing you on the green!

We are fortunate to be able to use the Village Hall Car Park, and the arrangement will be similar to last year. The Hall Managers will have a copy of our Fixture Card, so if the Hall has been hired when we are playing, then they will reserve 7 car spaces for users of the Hall by placing labelled cones in the spaces nearest the road.

Finally, as always, local people are invited to drop in and have a look if they wish to show an interest in playing bowls.

Club Chairman – Ian Bragg

Wednesday Coffee Morning

The Wednesday Morning Coffee Morning 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. It attracts on average up to 30 people a week and provides a valuable opportunity for people in the village to meet each other.

It would be good to have some more people join us so please 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

On August 5th we had a most enjoyable days outing, calling at Taverham Garden Centre for coffee and then on to Cromer for an afternoon performance of "The End of the Pier Show". On the way home we stopped at Aylsham Lodge Hotel for high tea. The weather was kind to us and the whole day was much enjoyed by all who went.

In December we held our annual Christmas Fish and Chip lunch. This event is always very popular and was very well attended. After our meal we were entertained by David Stainer playing his guitar, singing some popular songs and some less known Christmas melodies.

We are now looking forward to our Music in the Paddock afternoon in celebration of the Queens "90th" birthday. "Gentlemen of Jazz" will be entertaining us for the afternoon and we really hope that all the village will support this event to make it a great success. Also that the sun will shine for us!!

Olive Miller (Committee member)

Fit Villages (Pilates)

There are now two Pilates classes running in the Village Hall each for one hour starting at 10.45am or at 12.00noon. The cost is £6.50 per class if paid in advance (or £7.50 drop-in). Beginners are welcome and mats are provided. Further details can be obtained from Kat Bailey on 07804 909083 or by email to katspilates@live.com

Westerfield and District Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has had another successful year with membership just short of 50. You do not have to be an Alan Titchmarsh or Monty Don to be a member, just have a love of gardening and enjoy the company of others with a similar interest. We meet in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month, excluding January and August, starting at 7.15 p.m.

Our programme this year covers topics such as, The Exciting Changes in the Gardens at Somerleyton Hall, The history of Ladybird Nurseries at Snape, Finding the Right Plant Food and The History of the Cottage Garden. We have Will Baddely, The European Bonsai Champion demonstrating how we can create our own Bonsai and the Trimley Herb Co. will no doubt tell us how we can enhance our cooking. A talk by Melanie Collins of Mickfield Hostas will inform us of all aspects of M.H. micro business from holding a National Collection to displaying at Flower Shows. Michael Perry from Thompson and Morgan will flash through 50 Fab Plants in 50 Minutes and our 'old friend' Matt Tanton Brown will entertain us with a quiz at our Christmas Social Evening.

Our annual BBQ will no doubt cause merriment when competitors potato buckets are emptied to reveal 'The crop of the year' or a dismal failure.

For our outings, we are visiting in July, Somerleyton Hall and Gardens, stopping at Henstead Exotic Gardens on route for coffee, and September RHS Wisley, Gardens and Flower Show. In June an evening visit to Ladybird Nurseries has been arranged.

This year we decided to give a donation to a Gardening Charity. We chose 'Beyond the Wall,' which is based at Thornham Magna and caters for 16 – 25 year olds with mixed disabilities. Their choice was a Veg. Trug, which we purchased with the help of Fillpots Nurseries at Colchester who kindly donated the compost and a variety of seeds. They were all gratefully received.

Our reminder/newsletter emails are sent out the weekend before each meeting. These also include information and events around the area and remain popular.

If this all appeals to you why not come along, as a visitor for £4 including refreshments and draw. You never know you may like us and decide to become one of our increasing membership. The programme can be found on the Village Website, Parish Council Newsletter and Intouch Magazine.

Barbara Bell

Westerfield Horse Show

The 2015 show was a very happy one, held in warm sunny weather.

Our new side saddle classes were much appreciated, by some very elegant ladies. Juniors on ponies also competed and were given special rosettes. This year we are increasing the classes to three.

Mountain & Moorland pony classes took up the morning of ring 5 and Hunters, Cobs and a Retrained Race Horse class culminated in a Championship at approximately 1pm before the Gymkhana races started.

Jumping entries were again disappointing, competitors seem to be deserting the country shows for all weather arenas at the Riding Centres.

This year our Charity is The Bridge School Holiday Club. They are in need of more outdoor equipment for children with severe and profound learning difficulties.

Last year we had a bumper cake stall which made £233 and the Tombola £130. We were able to donate £2,300 to St. Elizabeth Hospice.

Many thanks to the generous giving of our sponsors and the people of Westerfield Village. Hope to see some of you on Saturday June 25th.

Sylvia Partridge

Westerfield and Tuddenham with Witnessham Mothers' Union

We have had another good year; membership has stayed constant at 21 with one honorary member.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday each month, apart from January and August when we don't meet.

Our programme has been very varied and interesting:

February	Anthony Darrel-Brown spoke of his work with S.S.A.F.A.
March	Lent Communion Service in church.
April	Shared lunch at Ann and Tom's new home, 'Acer Cottage'.
May	Sheila Harrison spoke on 'Diary of a Norfolk Parson'.
June	Amanda Noller told us about Talitha Koum.
July	Alexander Bass spoke about 'A year in the Wildlife at Minsmere'.
July	Wave of Prayer Service in Church.
September	Holy Communion Service in Church.
October	Veronica Fox told us about her work with children in Ipswich Hospital School.
November	Beryl Mee, the Mothers Union AFIA (<i>Away From It All Holidays</i>) representative told us about holidays booked and paid for by MU for families in need.
December	We had carols and readings followed by delicious tea.

Members have been very generous with providing toiletries for the Women's Refuge and with donations throughout the year.

My thanks to Rev'd Alan for leading our *Communion* and *Wave of Prayer* services, Rev'd Catherine for stepping into the breach when I couldn't make a meeting, to Mary Scholey our treasurer for keeping our finances in order, Daphne Bristo for the beautiful posies she provides for all our birthdays, Claire Lunney

for playing the organ at services, and to all members for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

Mothers Union is a worldwide organisation whose objects are to support Marriage and Family life. We are always looking for new members, please contact me.

Ann Bennett (Branch Leader)

1st Westerfield Scout Group

Beavers

I joined Westerfield Beavers in September 2015 and in my first term the Beavers completed the 'International Badge', which included finding out from Tilly about her amazing trip to Japan for the World Scout Jamboree, we learnt about the country, their flag and how to use chopsticks.

We also worked towards our 'Explore Badge' and 'My Adventure Challenge Award':

Learning the Green Cross Code and how to use a compass, then walking around Westerfield putting our knowledge into practice.

Taking part in a number of outside challenges; shelter building in Rendlesham Forest, blindfold walks and whittling sticks.

Using fires which included learning how to be safe, fire lighting, making charcoal, popping corn and toasting marshmallows.

Tobogganing at Suffolk Ski Slope for our Christmas outing.

Once the light evenings return we will be outside again, learning more skills to complete these badges.

In November three Beavers and myself had a really fun and artistic day at the Deben District Beaver Craft Day. The Beavers made pine cone beavers, leaf stained glass windows and bookmarks, edible caterpillars and lots more... We also enjoyed being part of the Christmas Nativity Service, with the Cubs and Scouts, at Westerfield Church and making decorations to display in the church window. The Beavers were delighted to be given chocolate advent calendars at the end of the service.

We now have 13 Beavers and after Easter we will reach our maximum of 15, with more children on the waiting list.

This term we are letting our imaginations run wild to create art work towards the 'Creative Badge'. So far we have made lanterns and decorated space stained glass windows. We are studying the stars and following Tim Peake's work on The International Space Station for the 'Space Badge'

2016 is Beavers' 30th Birthday, so we are looking forward to two District camps and an outing to Bewilderwood to celebrate.

Jenny Kent (Keo – 1st Westerfield Beaver Leader)

Cubs

The pack has 12 boys and girls aged 8 - 10.5yrs. A few are local to Westerfield, others from Northern Ipswich & surrounding villages. There is 1 Pack Leader, an Assistant Leader in training, a parent assistant and a Young Leader (14-18yrs) completing the service element of their D of E award by giving voluntary service for up to 3 months.

In September we started on our new Scouting programme with some new & more difficult badges to attain! Many of the challenges and badges are to promote adventurous activities and to keep up to date with ever changing technology, diversity, leadership skills etc. Quite a challenge for leaders to organise!.

This year, it is our Cub Centenary, celebrated nationally, so our activities & events will be based around that. We have a district Cub Camp in May at Glemham Hall.

We are planning an orienteering evening, a visit to a re-cycling plant and a hike, as well as our usual activities in the paddock.

Scouts

We started the year with 12 Scouts and finished with 15.

A few of the highlights from the year have been:-

There was the District St Georges day parade in April, which was held in Framlingham, also in April we held a Group camp at Hallowtree camp site (Ipswich) with 11 Scouts and 6 Cubs. Some of the Beavers came along for the Saturday.

October and we had another camp, this time at The Spinney, Boxford. 12 Scouts went along and we also invited the Groups three young leaders. Climbing was the main activity, at Boxford two trees have been adapted for the climbing with hand / foot holds, unfortunately there was light rain which made it a bit harder.

In November we entered 7 Scouts (in two teams) for the District cooking contest held at Kesgrave Scout HQ, this time around we did not come away with the shield (having won for the previous two years).

The Groups annual Carol Service was held at Westerfield Church in December where the scouts carried out a number of roles, two of the Scout, Abi and Libby were presented with their Chief Scouts Gold Award, to achieve this they had to complete all but one of the Challenge badges.

We ended the year with the Christmas outing which was to Lazer-Tag at Martlesham. In February 8 Scouts took part in the Night Hike which is organised by our neighbouring District, always a very popular event

During this year there was also a big change to the Challenge badges with most being replaced by new ones.

Peter Runnacles (Skip) Scout Leader

Westerfield Tennis Club

The tennis club met monthly throughout the summer last year, from May to October, with all planned sessions being held. Consistent with previous years, everyone enjoyed good sociable evening play and we look forward to doing the same in 2016, commencing 11th May. We had no new members last year but welcome hearing from anyone in Westerfield who would be interested in joining us. We meet on the 2nd Monday of each of the summer/autumn months.

Bruce Doick

Westerfield Women's Institute

The W.I has had another very good year which was the 100th anniversary of the W.I. in this country. This was celebrated by a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to which two of our members were invited and they had a wonderful, if windy, day. There was also the Centenary AGM at the Albert Hall which was attended by the Queen, the Princess Royal and the Countess of Wessex.

We had some good speakers which included one of our members teaching us how to stick weave, very interesting talks on the journey of a Suffolk river, the life of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

We had two parties, one for our 91st birthday and another to celebrate Christmas. Our two craft clubs are going strong and produce lovely work. Our lunch club continues to enjoy regular lunches at various local pubs and restaurants.

We have had some very enjoyable outings, one to Southwold Summer Theatre which included a lunch on the way, and also a picnic at Glemham Hall in September with other W.I's which, although very wet, was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

Some of our members joined in the march in October to try and get some toilets installed at the Old Cattle Market Bus Station.

We always welcome new members so 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 way of making new friends.

Lynda May Secretary, Westerfield WI

Reports from County and District Councillors

County Councillor's report for 2015/16

Introduction

Many of you will be aware that because of personal issues and major health problems Peter Bellfield has been unable to attend and carry out his duties this year. I am sure he would have wanted me to begin by expressing his apologies for his absence but it is sad to report that Peter lost his battle with Cancer and passed away on April 23rd.

I have endeavoured to provide support to you as one of the parishes that I have been covering on his behalf in addition to my own County Council Division of Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrew. During the year I was very pleased to be able to help various people and organisations with financial assistance. I have been pleased to provide the following grants from the Locality Budget for the Carlford Division

Westerfield Parish Council	Speedwatch Camera	£1,014.00
Playford Parish Council	Speedwatch Camera	£700.00
Swilland & Witesham Parish Council	Improvements to Witesham Play Area	£3,000.00

Council Tax

Suffolk County Council's share of council tax is to be frozen for a sixth year in a row. This means that Suffolk residents will not pay any more than they did in 2010/11.

The council has made savings in excess of £170 million since the Government's deficit reduction programme began in 2011/2012 and faces the need to make further savings of over £80 million during the next two years. The budget passed for 2016/17 saw a 0% increase in base Council Tax. The Administration decided to implement the 2% National Adult Social Care Levy to support the implementation of the National Living Wage.

Children's Services rated 'Good' by Ofsted

Suffolk County Council's Children's Services has been rated Good by Ofsted following the publication of its inspection report on 15 February 2016. The report praises the work of the council in protecting and looking after children and young people, with some areas of outstanding practice highlighted in the report. The inspection was carried out between 23 November and 17 December 2015.

Suffolk now sits in the top 22% of local authorities in the country. 78 councils have been inspected so far under Ofsted's new framework.

Education attainment in Suffolk

There has been a 4% rise in the number of students getting five or more A*- C grades, including English and Maths. It means that 56% of Suffolk's year 11s got the expected level of attainment. The validated figure for 2014 was 52%. Suffolk's results have increased by 2.6% from last year's provisional results and see Suffolk rise 17 places in the overall league table, going from 124th to 107th

77% of 11-year-olds achieved level 4 or higher in their SAT tests in the three subjects in 2015 – up from 73% in 2014.

This is the third consecutive year the gap between Suffolk and the national figure has closed. Suffolk was 7% points behind the national average in 2012 - the results show Suffolk as the most improved local authority in the entire Eastern region, with a higher percentage rise than the other 10 local authorities in the area.

Third crossing at Lake Lothing in Lowestoft and the Wet Dock crossing in Ipswich

As part of the Chancellor's budget announcements, Suffolk featured strongly with the green light being given for both Lowestoft's third crossing over Lake Lothing and the new Wet Dock crossing in Ipswich.

With this pledge of £70 million the County Council finally has the funding firmly in place to press ahead with the detailed planning required in order to bring about a third crossing over Lake Lothing. This is a massive piece of work and is estimated to cost in the region of £80-100 million, but in addition to the £70 million pledged by central Government, SCC will work to source the remaining money from local funding sources.

In addition to the third crossing in Lowestoft, the go-ahead has also been given for a new wet dock crossing in Ipswich, which will span the waterfront area of the town to connect communities with a new road infrastructure that will also serve a business and innovation centre based on an island in the dock.

Broadband rollout on target

Work on the Broadband rollout continues and the first phase of rollout will be shared onto a map on the SCC website, and the second phase will be added within the next couple of months. To date, 35 cabinets have been enabled and reached over 3,000 premises under the Superfast Extension Programme, towards a target of over 1,000 cabinets, and over 50,000 premises by the end of 2019. For more information and updates please visit www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com

Please feel free to telephone me on 07714 598155 or e-mail on robert.whiting@suffolk.gov.uk for any assistance you may require with the County Council.

District Councillor's report for 2015/16

Introduction

I was delighted to be elected in May 2015 to the newly created Fynn Valley seat, having been a District Councillor for Rushmere St Andrew since May 1999. Many of you will be familiar with how I rejoice in the fact that this is such a lovely Ward taking in Playford, Westerfield, Tuddenham St Martin, Swilland, Witnesham and the village part of Rushmere St Andrew.

In unexpectedly having to cover the County Council responsibilities for these parishes, I have out of necessity spread myself more thinly than I would have liked with regard to District Council matters. However, during the year I was very pleased to be able to help various people and organisations with financial assistance. I have been pleased to provide the following grants from the Locality Budget for the Fynn Valley Ward.

Westerfield Village Hall Trust	Replacement of side cheeks to Dormer windows at the hall	£1500.00
Tuddenham St Martin Village Hall Committee	Replacement noticeboard and improved signage for the village hall	£1200.00
Witnesham Village Hall	Replacement of the electric heating system at the hall	£1000.00
Playford Parish Council	Installation of a remotely controllable system for the heating	£1000.00
Swilland and Witnesham grouped Parish Council	Replacement ropes, scramble net and climbing panel	£800.00

Council Tax

The SCDC Council Tax bill has been increased by 1.99%. This increase will be less than £3 (or about 25p a month) for a Band D property.

East Suffolk

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Cabinets have agreed that officers should develop a business case to explore the benefits of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney formally merging. However, before any merger takes place it

would have to be agreed by both Full Councils, as well as there being public consultation and the Boundary Commission being involved. This would not be implemented before the 2019 elections.

East Suffolk House

The work to build the new Suffolk Coastal headquarters, opposite Melton Railway Station, is progressing well, with the intention of moving into it during the autumn. The move will reduce running costs, saving £8million of tax payers' money over 20 years.

Brown bins

Brown bins will continue to be collected for free in Suffolk Coastal. In 2013/14 Suffolk Coastal were in the top 10% of local authorities in the country (coming 19th out of 352 authorities) with a recycling rate of 57.44%.

Felixstowe

The Seafront Gardens were officially completed in December last year. Work to Martello Tower P has also been finished at Martello Park. Work to create an outdoor events area at the boating lake has now started and is due to be completed during the summer.

New website

The website is currently being updated. The www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk website will incorporate both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney websites onto one platform and aims to be clearer and more accessible through smartphone devices and tablets.

Part Night Street and Footway Lighting

Work to install an 'intelligent lighting system' to all Suffolk Coastal street and footpath lights has now been completed. This will enable part night lighting (switching off the majority of lighting between midnight and 5.30 am), in line with Suffolk County Council and other District and Boroughs in the county.

Further detailed information will be available ahead of implementation during the summer months, as well as a press release and information on the website.

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

Kesgrave and District Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Woodbridge & District Safer Neighbourhood Team have now taken over the Parishes previously covered by the Kesgrave SNT and take this opportunity to clarify the service you can now expect from the team going forward.

Police officers and PCSO's will no longer be 'owning' villages as the roles have changed and we will be dealing more with specific areas of business. Therefore residents and members of your Parish Councils will now need to phone in on the 101 number about matters of concern.

A reminder that Woodbridge Police Station will no longer be open to members of the public. The stations that remain open to the public are Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft and the opening hours will be Monday to Friday 9-5pm and Saturday 10am-6pm.

Please note that the Response Teams will be on duty 24/7, 7 days a week and will deal with emergency calls etc. If the matter is of a less urgent nature dial 101 to ask for advice or to report a problem. There is also the Suffolk Constabulary website for further information and guidance. We at Woodbridge Police Station will no longer be accepting lost property and members of the public can report car accidents etc online.

Staff numbers have been substantially reduced from April 4th 2016 and the number of Parishes for which Woodbridge and District Safer Neighbourhood Team are responsible has increased from 33 to 47.

The SNT now has less rigid borders and staff may be called upon to assist in any SNT in the Southern area. PCSO's will also no longer be working past 6pm. Going forward parking enforcement will be prioritised amongst the following:-

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)	Vulnerable People	Mental Health Issues
Terrorism	The Chronically Excluded	Slavery & Trafficking
Cyber	Crime Child Sex Exploitation	
Safeguarding	Missing Persons (youth)	

This is the direction Suffolk Constabulary are tasking us to follow.

Woodbridge SNT, Suffolk Constabulary
Theatre Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4NE Telephone 101

How to contact the Clerk to the Parish Council

Kathy Broyd, 40 Hall Farm Road, Melton IP12 1PJ

Email – westerfieldpc@aol.com

How to contact your Parish Councillors

Graham Austin, Field View Cottage, 9 Lower Road, IP6 9AS	Tel 250166
Bob Hill, Hawthorns, Main Road	Tel 251787
Rosie Horsfield, Firholm, Main Road	Tel 289718
Yvonne Maynard, Seaton House, Lower Road	Tel 226709
Peter Miller, Longways, Main Road, IP6 9AJ	Tel 212316
Charlotte Morrison, The Slade, Main Road	Tel 250414
Barry Reeve, The Brambles, Church Lane	Tel 251843