

# ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2021/22

Everyone recognises the challenging times which have been faced of late and it is with great credit that residents in Westleton have continued to rally and provide valuable help and support to one another during the Covid crisis. Community spirit is clearly huge and proven with individuals and groups being willing to always go the extra mile. We thank everyone involved.

In turn, we as a Parish Council have done our best to play a part as measures have gradually eased by continuing to hold regular meetings - either virtual online or in person. Our goal as always is to focus on Westleton and to work with local interests to try to safeguard and protect the environment in which we live – including the careful scrutiny of planning applications.

A key issue and concern affecting the village continues to be road safety particularly with the likely onset of the Sizewell 'C' new build and so [as you will hear from the representatives of EDF here tonight] we have recently been working closely with them in an effort to draw up suitable traffic mitigation measures which will stand the test of time for the future. As these plans are firmed up, the intention is that a full public consultation will be carried out with residents to give everyone the chance to have a say and lend their voice.

The Community Bottle Bank has now been permanently moved to a site located in the lay-by off the B1125 Reckford Road and a new base installed. We have also requested an additional litter bin and erected notices to try to deter fly tipping as this has unfortunately become more of a blight of late.

Volunteers on the Common Group and Community Field continue to work very hard to keep these areas well maintained. Both are fabulous local amenities in their own right and are a recognized as a popular wider draw.

As we look ahead, the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee will see a whole series of events taking place over the 5 day holiday period with main emphasis on the Village Green community picnic on Sunday 5th June. We hope that this will be a great 'coming together' celebration.

The precept for the year 2022/23 was agreed at £13,000. This was the first increase for several years and reflects the rising cost of inflation The money goes towards our annualized expenses for the village and growing cost in upkeep and providing services. The Parish Council would like to acknowledge the help of Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council and its representatives Richard Smith and Norman Brooks respectfully.

Many people will be aware, the Barrel Fair Committee have recently decided to 'call time' and no longer stage this annual event. It had become something of a local institution and there were a number of mitigating factors involved in reaching this decision. In 2023 we hope that to supplement the loss it will be possible to hold a more smaller scale village orientated fete. The Committee are due to meet in September to discuss the winding down of funds and handover of assets. It is likely in future that the Parish Council will take on responsibility, amongst other things, for organising/purchase of the Christmas tree and maintenance of the village war memorial.

During 2022/23, Westleton Parish Council is committed to delivering its legal obligations under our regulatory and environmental responsibilities. We hope in the coming year you will continue to see the benefit of our efforts in helping to make Westleton such an enjoyable place to live.

**Paul Holmes**  
**Chairman – Westleton Parish Council**